



**BABCOCK**  
**UNIVERSITY**

ILISHAN-REMO, OGUN STATE, NIGERIA

# COLLEGE OF POSTGRADUATE STUDIES

## 2022/2023 PhD Thesis Abstract

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**RT:** Arbitration in the 21st Century: The Space for Artificial Intelligence

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**AB:** Technology has become a major pillar of the 21st century. Through technology, Artificial Intelligence (AI), which is the use of computer systems capable of the performance of tasks which primarily were carried out by human intelligence, has permeated Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) methodologies. AI, as a disruptive technology, has impacted almost every sector of human activities. The infiltration of AI in arbitration has resulted in an uproar of agitation against the idea. This agitation arises from the conception that AI has come to take the jobs of arbitrators by replacing human arbitrators with technology. Therefore, there is a need for a synergy between both to facilitate efficiency in arbitral proceedings. This study examined the legal framework in the integration of AI in arbitration.

The study adopted a doctrinal methodology. Primary and secondary sources of information were relied upon. The primary sources included Arbitration and Conciliation Act 1988, Federal Arbitration Act 1925, Arbitration Law 2021, Convention on Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards (New York Convention) 1958, English Arbitration Act 1950 and UNCITRAL Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration 1985. The secondary sources comprised books, scholarly peer reviewed journals, periodicals, articles and manuals. Data from these sources were analyzed and presented thematically.

The study revealed that AI technology is a disruptive element which has impacted society and many sectors of human activities. Also, this study showed that AI arbitrators cannot replace

human arbitrators as against the agitations of those who fear that AI has come to take control of arbitration. Furthermore, it was found that arbitration relies on four major principles which are principle of separability, principle of party autonomy, principle of arbitrability and principle of judicial non-interference, and these principles can function without AI. The study also discovered the salient benefits of AI such as swift dispute resolution and efficient case management. In addition, this study revealed that AI is a viable tool, which can be merged with arbitration for an efficient arbitral experience.

The study concluded that whereas AI cannot take over the jobs or replace the role of human arbitrators, the disruptive nature of AI is a pivotal tool in the advancement and efficiency of arbitration in the 21st century. In addition, the study concluded that the use of AI in arbitration is germane. It is recommended that Lawyers and Arbitrators should embrace AI in arbitral proceedings for maximum performance. Law makers should also be proactive in enacting AI legislation to regulate the conduct and usage of AI to minimize the exploitation of this technology.

**Keywords:** Arbitration, Artificial intelligence, Disruptive technology, Human arbitrator, Legal framework

**Word Count:** 418

**Abbreviations:** *RFN: Researcher's Full Name, RD: Researcher's Department, RS: Researcher's School, RE: Researcher's Email, RAE: Researcher's Alternate Email, RP: Researcher's Phone Contact, RT: Registered Title, MS: Main Supervisor, ME: Main Supervisor's E-mail Address, SP: Main Supervisor's Phone Contact, CS: Co Supervisor, CE: Co-Supervisor's E-mail Address, CP: Co-Supervisor's Phone Contact, AB: Abstract*

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