

Aurora Research Conference

Digital Society & Global Citizenship

Thu-Fri 26 & 27 August 2021

Hybrid: Amsterdam & Online Open Access Conference

<https://vu-live.zoom.us/j/93057030188> Passcode: DigSoc

& SAIL Lab, NU Building 11th floor @VUA

Program Brochure

Foreword by the Conference Chairs

The aim of this Aurora Research Conference is to bring together, provide a forum for interdisciplinary exchange, and increase the visibility of all ongoing research in the universities of the Aurora European Universities Alliance pertaining to important aspects of the **Digital Society and Global Citizenship**.

Within the Aurora European Universities Alliance, the initiative has been taken to establish a Europe-wide research master degree curriculum in the interdisciplinary domain of the Digital Society and Global Citizenship.

The digitalization of our society is still quickly unfolding. It has profound and far-reaching consequences, negative as well as positive, in many sectors of society. They range from social, technological, economic, political, regulatory, power, ethical and philosophical issues to urgent matters of inequality, diversity, good governance, SDGs, democracy and public deliberation, decent livelihoods and social justice. These are hot topics that need --- more than twittered opinion streams --- in-depth scientific study that can inform and fuel reasoned democratic public debate and policy.

Advanced academic education in this domain aims to build a future generation of young people that have the interdisciplinary knowledge, multiple 21st century cross-cutting competences, and a global humanity-oriented attitude needed for true leadership in the digital age. A key component of this is a sound basis in scientific research across and integrating all relevant disciplines.

With 24 talks from 7 different AurorA universities, this interesting conference program gives a good first impression of the richness and diversity of current research on the Digital Society & Global Citizenship.

Jaap Gordijn, Anna Bon, Hans Akkermans

j.gordijn@vu.nl, a.bon@vu.nl, Hans.Akkermans@akmc.nl

Aurora Research Conference

Digital Society & Global Citizenship

Program Thursday 26 August 2021 morning

Chair: Hans Akkermans

08:45 CEST/UTC+2: Welcome and Opening

09:00 – 10:10: research presentations

09:00 Pietro Nunziante (U Naples Federico II, Italy):

The Design Turn: Digital Society Research and Education at U Napoli Federico II

09:30 Victor de Boer (VU Amsterdam, Netherlands):

Knowledge Graphs and Addressing Global Questions of Colonial Cultural Heritage

09:50 Katja Tuma (VU Amsterdam, Netherlands):

Diversity in Threat Analysis and Risk Assessment

10:10-10:25: break

10:25 – 11:15: research presentations

10:25 Jordi Duch (Universitat Rovira i Virgili, Catalunya, Spain):

Understanding Behavioral Patterns with Large-scale Experiments and Citizen Science

10:50 Lucie Viktorová & Klára Seitlová (Palacký University Olomouc, Czech Republic):

Going Digital - Research at the Department of Psychology, Palacký University Olomouc

11:15-11:30: break

11:30 – 12:30: research presentations

11:30 Guglielmo Tamburrini (U Naples Federico II, Italy):

AI and Ethics: Structural, Local, and Global Issues

11:50 Tina van der Linden (VU Amsterdam, Netherlands):

Law Struggling with AI

12:10 Jaap Gordijn (VU Amsterdam, Netherlands):

Digital Innovation Ecosystems that are Decentralized and Fair

12:30-13:30: lunch break

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Aurora Research Conference

Digital Society & Global Citizenship

Program Thursday 26 August 2021 afternoon

Chair: Hans Akkermans

13:30 – 14:50: research presentations

13:30 Adam Jatowt (U Innsbruck, Austria):

Novel Information Retrieval and Knowledge Discovery Approaches for Archival News Collections

13:50 Wouter van Atteveldt (VU Amsterdam, Netherlands):

Social Data Donation for Studying News Avoidance and Distrust

14:10 Ioana Bratu (VU Amsterdam, Netherlands):

Artificial Intelligence and International Space Law

14:30 Prosper Maguchu (VU Amsterdam, Netherlands):

Understanding a Watershed: Deconstructing the Relationship Between Corruption and Human Rights

14:50-15:05: break

15:05 – 16:05: research presentations

15:05 Michael Goedicke (U Duisburg-Essen, Germany):

Some Aspects of Research and Teaching in Digital Society and Global Citizenship @ UDE

15:35 [13:35 Iceland time] Tryggvi Thayer (U Iceland, Reykjavik, Iceland):

Educating for future societies: Affordances of future technologies and their impacts on learning and education

16:05-16:20: break

16:20 – 17:20: research presentations

16:20 Ivano Malavolta (VU Amsterdam, Netherlands):

Network Institute Amsterdam: the hub for interdisciplinary research on the digital society

16:50 Justus Piater (U Innsbruck, Austria):

Digital Science at the University of Innsbruck

Evening: Aurora Dinner

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Aurora Research Conference

Digital Society & Global Citizenship

Program Friday 27 August 2021

08:45 CEST/UTC+2: Welcome and Opening

09:00 – 10:00: Invited Talk

Sally Wyatt (Maastricht University, Netherlands):

Education on the Digital Society: Interdisciplinary Experiences from the Maastricht Bachelor

Chair: Anna Bon

10:00-10:15: break

10:15 – 11:15: research presentations

10:15 Petra Missomelius (U Innsbruck, Austria):

Video Cultures and Digital Online Sharing -Mourning and Commemoration in the Pandemic

10:35 Kees Boersma (VU Amsterdam, Netherlands):

Digital Solutions for Challenges in Crisis Response and Management

10:55 Anna Bon (VU Amsterdam, Netherlands):

Decolonizing Technology and Society – A Perspective from the Global South

11:15-11:30: break

11:30 – 12:30: The Student Voice: Samples of Digital Society Master Research

Vlad Stan: *Automated Speech Recognition for "Small" Languages*

Betül Yildiz: *Is Design Science Ready for Low-Resource Environments?*

Wouter Kok: *Is "Solid" (Social Linked Data) Ready for Low-Resource Environments?*

Femke Gordijn: *The representation of the Other in the digitized Dutch East India Company archives: Can text mining methods reveal new perspectives?*

Chair: Anna Bon

12:30-13:30: lunch break

13:30 – 15:00 Closing Discussion

From Research to International Research Master Education

Chair: Jaap Gordijn

(1) From research to curriculum and course design

(2) Matters of curriculum topical coverage

(3) Matters of interdisciplinary integration

15:00 End of Conference; drinks

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Aurora Research Conference

Digital Society & Global Citizenship

Thu-Fri 26 & 27 August 2021
Hybrid: Amsterdam & Online

Program Brochure

Talk Summaries

(in order of appearance)

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Dr. Pietro Nunziante

University of Naples Federico II, Italy

The Design Turn: Digital Society Research and Education at U Napoli Federico II

Thu 26 August 2021, 09:00 – 09:30 CEST

Abstract. Recent developments in Learning Sciences have seen a growing number of scholars advocating for a “Design Turn” in educators practices. Scholars in this field are looking into the tradition of design research and design thinking to models, methods and processes that would allow to better and more intentionally design learning experiences. Learning experiences are proposed as “processes” that can (and should) be designed, and teachers and educators of all disciplines are invited to become “designers” themselves. An entire new field of collaboration and co-creation between design disciplines, learning science and everyone involved in education is emerging. My talk will focus on three initiatives of Federico II: the F.E.D.E.R.I.C.O. project (Formation Experiences Didactics Competences Evaluation Organization Reflexivity Innovation), the ecosystem of academies, and the development of collaborative design workshops for the shaping of innovative didactics.

Bio. Pietro Nunziante is a tenure track researcher in Industrial Design at the Department of Architecture, University of Naples “Federico II”. He is qualified as associate professor Design and technological architecture. Graduated in Architecture with honors (“Federico II”, Naples), he is Ph.D. in Industrial Design, Figurative and Applied Arts (University of Palermo). He teaches Basic and Digital Design in recently established graduate courses at the University of Naples “Federico II”: Community Design, bachelor degree, and the international Master of Science degree in Design for the Built Environment. The focus of his research is to investigate the relationship between interface design and the social implications of digital innovation.

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Dr. Victor de Boer

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Knowledge Graphs and Addressing Global Questions of Colonial Cultural Heritage

Thu 26 August 2021, 09:30 – 09:50 CEST

Abstract. While Knowledge Graphs (KGs) have proven practically successful in many domains, the associated technologies and applications themselves are often not designed or suited for end users in rural, developing areas. In this talk, I will identify three challenges for KGs to be(come) a truly universal way of sharing knowledge. I will also discuss current work around polyvocality of KGs to represent cultural heritage data.

Bio. Victor de Boer is an assistant professor at the User-Centric Data Science group at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. His research focuses on user-centric design and development of (semantic) web solutions for knowledge sharing. He applies this research in the domains of Cultural Heritage, Digital Humanities and ICT for Development in inter-disciplinary collaborations with domain experts.



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Dr. Katja Tuma

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Diversity in Threat Analysis and Risk Assessment



Thu 26 August 2021, 09:50 – 10:10 CEST



Abstract. Threat analysis and risk assessment (TARA) is performed in organizations to identify and mitigate security risks early-on. Teams of experts manually analyze architectural diagrams, discuss security threats, and make decisions in face of uncertainties. The technical quality of the analysis outcomes is often determined by expert judgement. However, evidence indicates that not all experts are contributing (equally) due to groupthink or other biases. The aim of this interdisciplinary project is to (i) characterize key differentiating factors of diversity in TARA, (ii) experimentally evaluate their effects, (iii) develop diversity interventions for TARA, and (iv) empirically validate them in a realistic environment.



Bio. Katja Tuma is an assistant professor in Foundational and Experimental Security at the VU. She holds a Ph.D. in Computer Science and Engineering from University of Gothenburg. She has worked with threat modeling and risk analysis extensively and is interested in how security-by-design can help secure future software systems.

Find links to papers (and more) on my personal web-site:
<https://katjatuma.github.io>

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Dr. Jordi Duch Gavaldà

Universitat Rovira i Virgili, Catalunya, Spain

Understanding Behavioral Patterns with Large-scale Experiments and Citizen Science

Thu 26 August 2021, 10:25 – 10:50 CEST

Abstract. Experiments to study human behaviour have been traditionally performed in closed academic environments with small samples of volunteers, usually undergraduate students with similar socioeconomic backgrounds. New technologies and participatory science have opened the door to new experimental settings that overcome these limitations. In this direction, I will present a modular framework to conduct highly participatory collective experiments in open and dynamic scenarios, designed to attract a larger and more heterogeneous number of participants while controlling the environment to maintain scientific rigour. I will also present the results of some experiments designed to understand human behavior using this framework.

Bio. Jordi Duch obtained a Computer Engineering degree from University Rovira Virgili and a PhD in the Department of Physics, at Universitat de Barcelona. I am currently a Serra Hunter Associate Professor of Computer Science at URV, where I also act as Adjunct to the rector for ICT.



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Dr. Lucie Viktorová & Dr. Klára Seitlová
Palacký University Olomouc, Czech Republic

Going Digital - Research at the Department of Psychology, Palacký University Olomouc

Thu 26 August 2021, 10:50 – 11:15 CEST

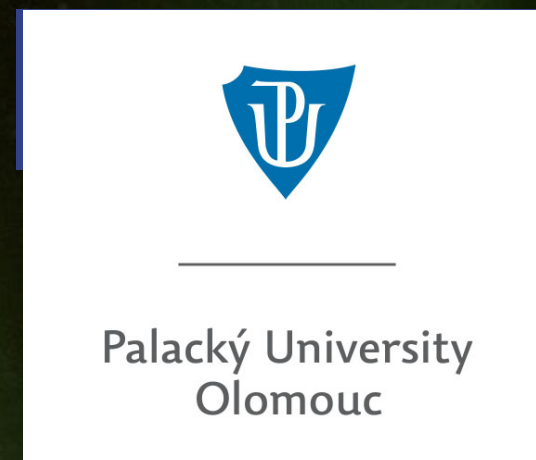
Abstract. "Going digital" concerns numerous aspects of everyday life, from education (especially for the past two years) through teamwork up to health care. In this talk, we would like to present these three topics as a part of ongoing research at our university. We will present some findings as to what to expect when working with/in (semi)virtual teams, how to engage students in online teaching, and, finally, some concerns when working with clients digitally, from the perspective of psychologists.

Bio. Dr. Lucie Viktorová is an assistant professor at the Department of Psychology, Faculty of Arts, Palacký University Olomouc, who mainly teaches research methods and educational psychology. Apart from her interest in the quality of higher education teaching and admission process, she collaborated on various interdisciplinary research involving traffic psychology or e-health.

Bio. Dr. Klára Seitlová is an assistant professor at Faculty of Arts, Palacký University Olomouc. In the long term she is specialising in the area of work and organizational psychology with specialization in the team work and virtual environment (communication via web 2.0; new forms of communication; on-line education). She also works as HR manager.

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Prof. Dr. Guglielmo Tamburrini
University of Naples Federico II, Italy

AI and Ethics: Structural, Local, and Global Issues

Thu 26 August 2021, 11:30 – 11:50 CEST

Abstract. This talk is organized into three parts. The first part reviews distinctive and ethically sensitive traits of contemporary AI technologies: widespread semantic opaqueness of information processing, bias duplication and amplification, infrequent but surprising errors. In the second part, a variety of local applications for AI technologies are examined where these traits raise substantive ethical concerns. These notably include autonomous weapons systems, autonomous vehicles and other real-time systems which must respect hard temporal deadlines in their perception-decision-action cycles. Finally, in the third part, it is shown that AI has increasing – and double-edged – roles to play in connection with ethical issues having a genuinely global dimension: the climate crisis, the preservation of international peace and stability, the protection of democratic participation in political decision-making.

Bio. Guglielmo Tamburrini is Philosophy of Science and Technology Professor at Università di Napoli Federico II in Italy (Dept. of Electrical Engineering and Information Technology). His main research interests include the ethics of human interactions with robotic and AI systems. He was coordinator of the first European project on the ethics of robotics (CA ETHICBOTS, 2005-2008, VI FP). In 2014 he was awarded the Giulio Preti International Prize by the Regional Parliament of Tuscany for his research and teaching on ethical implications of ICT and robotic technologies. He is member of ICRA (International Committee for Robot Arms Control).

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Dr. Tina van der Linden
Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Law Struggling with AI



Thu 26 August 2021, 11:50 – 12:10 CEST



Abstract. Artificial Intelligence (AI) can be risky. Recently, the European Commission proposed a Regulation laying down harmonised rules on AI, using a risk-based approach: prohibiting use of AI that poses unacceptable risks, putting requirements and ex-ante conformity assessment on high-risk AI applications. The definition of AI used in the proposed regulation is very broad, and many applications covered by the definition have been used for decades. Many areas of law, such as administrative law, non-discrimination law, data-protection law, liability and fundamental rights are relevant. How do they inter-relate?



Bio. Tina van der Linden defended her PhD on legal expert systems (a kind of AI avant la lettre) in 1994. She is now an assistant professor in Law and Technology at the VU, teaching courses on the legal challenges posed by AI, robots and blockchain.



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Dr. Jaap Gordijn

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Digital Innovation Ecosystems that are Decentralized and Fair

Thu 26 August 2021, 12:10 – 12:30 CEST

Abstract. Digital middlemen, such as Facebook, Google, WeChat, etc., take very powerful positions. We argue that for the benefit of society, these centralized digital ecosystems should be organized in a fairer way. The promise of blockchain technology is reducing the role of the middleman in innovation ecosystems. We discuss how blockchain can help to build decentralized fair ecosystems.

Bio. Dr. Jaap Gordijn is founder/managing partner of The Value Engineers, a company designing peer-to-peer business models for technologies such as blockchain. He is an associate professor of innovative e-business at VU Amsterdam. He is key developer of the **e3-value** method and tool for designing and evaluating networked business models. Previously, he was a member of Cisco's International Internet Business Solution Group, active as an e-business strategy consultant in the banking, insurance and digital content industries for Fortune 500 companies.

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Prof. Dr. Adam Jatowt
University of Innsbruck, Austria

Novel Information Retrieval and Knowledge Discovery Approaches for Archival News Collections

Thu 26 August 2021, 13:30 – 13:50 CEST

Abstract. News archives offer immense value to our society, helping users to learn details of events that occurred in the past. Currently, information retrieval from temporal news collections and knowledge discovery are difficult for non-professional users due to large data size and unknown context of the past. We propose several novel ways to retrieve useful information from large-scale news archives that rely on finding contemporary-relevant content, extracting potentially interesting content or retrieving analogical entities and events. Finally we discuss open-domain question answering model designed for long-term archival news article collection, with a dedicated module for re-ranking the relevant articles by using their embedded temporal information.

Bio. Adam Jatowt is a Professor at the Computer Science department of the University of Innsbruck. He is also affiliated with the Digital Science Center at the University of Innsbruck. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Tokyo, Japan in 2005 and has worked as an Assistant and Associate Professor at Kyoto University. His research interests include broad topics in natural language processing, information retrieval, digital humanities and digital libraries. Adam has published over 150 research papers in international conferences and journals. He is on the editorial board of IP&M, JASIST, IJDL, JIIS and IEEE JSC journals.

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Dr. Wouter van Atteveldt
Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Social Data Donation for Studying News Avoidance and Distrust

Thu 26 August 2021, 13:50 – 14:10 CEST

Abstract. While overall institutional trust in the Netherlands remains high, there is a growing trust gap between engaged citizens and a growing minority that is distrustful of politics and democracy and has 'tuned out' of mainstream news. The proliferation of digital media contributes to increased inequality between the group of active and engaged citizens and those who distrust politics and journalism and are subsequently more vulnerable to polarization, misinformation, and filter bubbles. We will discuss the social data donation methods to track this and present survey results from the recent election.

Bio. Dr. Wouter van Atteveldt is an Associate Professor of Political Communication at Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam. He is co-founder of the Computational Methods division of the International Communication Association, and Founding Chief Editor of Computational Communication Research. He has published extensively on developing and applying innovative methods for analyzing political communication.

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mr. Ioana Bratu MBA

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Artificial Intelligence and International Space Law



Thu 26 August 2021, 14:10 – 14:30 CEST



Abstract. Space technologies are part of our daily lives most often without even noticing. Our digital societies are increasingly dependent on satellites services in various domains, such as navigation, monitoring climate change, natural disasters or mitigating pollution. Artificial intelligence (AI) is offering new capabilities for space technology but not without legal implications. Therefore, a stringent legal problem concerns liability: who will be liable in case an accident is caused by a space object equipped with AI capabilities or by an AI system operating based on navigation satellite services? Are the provisions of international space law sufficient to prevent a potential liability gap?



Bio. Ioana Bratu is a Lecturer and Researcher at Amsterdam Law & Technology Institute, Law Faculty, VU. She is an elected mentor for UN Space4Women network and Space Generation Advisory Council, a legal expert part of the Global Expert Group on Sustainable Lunar Activities, a member of the European Centre for Space Law and International Institute of Space Law. Before joining VU, she was a corporate lawyer for 10 years, part of international law firms and as a founder of her private practice. She holds an Executive MBA diploma from Vienna University of Economics and Business.

Recent Article: “*Autonomous Space Objects and International Space Law: Navigating the Liability Gap*” open source:

https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3880911

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Dr. Prosper Maguchu

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Understanding a Watershed: Deconstructing the Relationship Between Corruption and Human Rights

Thu 26 August 2021, 14:30 – 14:50 CEST

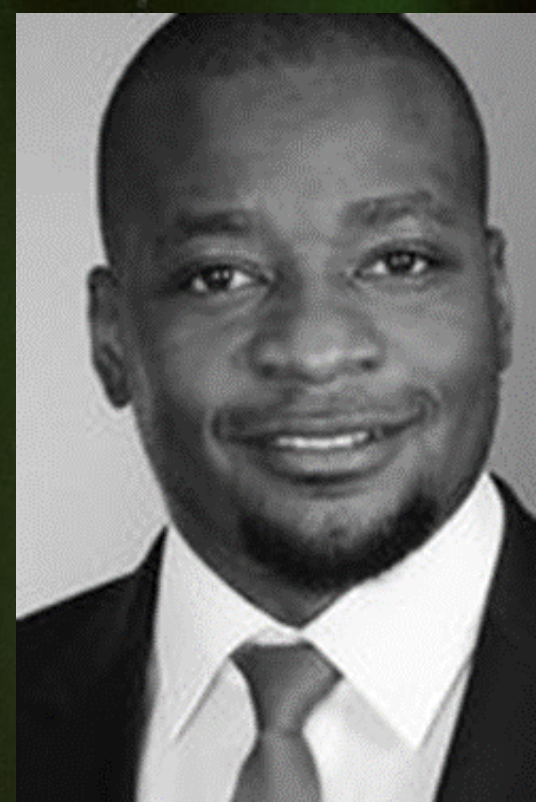
Abstract. This presentation deconstructs the connections between corruption and human rights. In the first part, it unravels some of the mysteries surrounding this debate. It then gives an overview of various theories on the linkages, focusing on the relationship between corruption and specific civil and political rights. For instance, political corruption and government-initiated cyber shutdowns. Part of the aim of this presentation is to suggest a framework that integrates the two fields for the better protection of human rights including emerging digital rights. .

Bio. Prosper Maguchu is Assistant Professor at the faculty of law and project manager at the Centre for International Cooperation at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam where he oversees projects in Governance for Society/ Security and the Rule of Law in the countries of the Great lakes region of Africa. Prosper is an experienced researcher with a demonstrated history of working in the civil society and higher education sector. He started his legal career as a human rights lawyer in Zimbabwe representing victims of state sponsored violence and torture. .

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Prof. Dr. Michael Goedicke
Universität Duisburg-Essen, Germany

Some Aspects of Research and Teaching in Digital Society and Global Citizenship @ UDE

Thu 26 August 2021, 15:05 – 15:35 CEST

Abstract. The challenges for the next decades are to master the upcoming needs of the various types of changes in the society. Computer Science is the heart of “Digital” and we will try to pick certain aspects of a research collaboration in the UDE which explores various aspects of Agency, Affordances and Adaptivity in digital systems design and related domains. This also makes the point of the inter- and transdisciplinary nature of Computer Science. We further explore how this is used in teaching locally inside the university as well across borders by sending our students abroad..

Bio. Michael Goedicke studied computer science at the University of Dortmund receiving his doctorate in 1985 on specification languages for embedded systems. Subsequently, he worked on software architectures and description of software components, receiving his habilitation in 1993. Since 1994, Michael Goedicke has been Professor of Practical Computer Science / Specification of Software Systems at the University of Essen (from 2003 University of Duisburg-Essen). He served as Dean, Vice Dean and Director of Studies and chairs various committees within the University e.g. on ICT within the university but also on research questions in IFIP (International Federation of Information Processing) especially in Technical Committee 2 (Software: Theory and Practice) and is one of the Vice Presidents of the German National Computer Science Society (GI).

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Dr. Tryggvi Thayer
University of Iceland, Reykjavik, Iceland

**Educating for future societies:
Affordances of future technologies and
their impacts on learning and education**

Thu 26 August 2021, 15:35 – 16:05 CEST (13:35 Iceland time)

Abstract. In this presentation I will discuss how Gibson's concept of affordances can be applied in analyses of future technologies to produce informative and useful scenarios of possible futures in education. I contend that futures and foresight work relating to education has largely failed to produce the tools needed by educational decision makers for useful longterm planning. This is in part due to a failure to recognise how novel technologies are perceived by users and how their perceptions ultimately shape the technologies. Gibson's theory of affordances provides a pragmatic lens for holistic explorations of possible perceptions of novel technologies that take into account various social factors, related technologies, and most importantly, perceived utility. The outcomes of some prepared analyses will then be applied to explore possible futures for digital citizenship focusing on educational challenges.

Bio. Tryggvi Thayer is Director of Academic Development at the University of Iceland's School of Education. His research focuses on the future of education, in particular impacts of future technological developments on learning, educational practice, and policy. Dr. Thayer earned his Ph.D. at the University of Minnesota, USA. His dissertation was on the use of foresight in educational policy and planning.

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Dr. Ivano Malavolta

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Network Institute Amsterdam: the hub for interdisciplinary research on the digital society

Thu 26 August 2021, 16:20 – 16:50 CEST

Abstract. The Network Institute studies the interaction between digital technology and society, or what is often called: the Digital Society. To study how digital technology and society interact, we encourage researchers from different backgrounds to work together and challenge their ideas and working routines. Such challenging interdisciplinary collaborations are the core of the Network Institute. With its interdisciplinary focus, extensive size, and well-established organization, the Network Institute is the central player in realizing the VU's Connected World strategic research agenda. Many researchers are benefiting from their Network Institute-based collaborations, and it has introduced interdisciplinary research work to a generation of young scholars.

Bio. Ivano Malavolta is assistant professor at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam and co-director of the Network Institute Amsterdam. His research focuses on data-driven software engineering, with a special interest in energy-efficient software, mobile apps, and robotics. He is a member of ACM, IEEE, VERSEN, Amsterdam Young Academy, and Amsterdam Data Science.



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Prof. Dr. Justus Piater
University of Innsbruck, Austria

Digital Science at the University of Innsbruck



Thu 26 August 2021, 16:50 – 17:20 CEST



Abstract. Growing data processing capacities and progress in analytical methods and Artificial Intelligence are motivating entire branches of science to raise new questions and to develop new approaches. This digital transformation requires progressive, interdisciplinary synergies between the computational sciences and all other scientific disciplines. The Digital Science Center (DiSC) at the University of Innsbruck meets this challenge by integrating and promoting digitalization of scientific research. In this talk I will present some examples of interdisciplinary research by DiSC staff researchers who are experts in specific aspects of digital science.



Bio. Justus Piater is a professor of computer science and heads the interdisciplinary Digital Science Center at the University of Innsbruck. Before joining the University in 2010, he was a visiting researcher at the Max Planck Institute for Biological Cybernetics in Tübingen, Germany and a professor of computer science at the University of Liège, Belgium. His research interests focus on learning and inference in sensorimotor systems.



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Aurora Invited Talk:

Prof. Dr. Sally Wyatt

Maastricht University, The Netherlands

Education on the Digital Society: Interdisciplinary Experiences from the Maastricht Bachelor

Fri 27 August 2021, 09:00-10:00 CEST

Abstract. In this talk, I will present the interdisciplinary BA Digital Society programme at Maastricht University. The first cohort of students will start their final year in September. The programme aims to produce engaged humanities and social science graduates who are also knowledgeable about socio-technical developments. Graduates are able to critically assess, anticipate and shape the social, political and cultural aspects of digital transformations. They develop 'interactional expertise' in order to take on jobs that mediate between technical specialists and other relevant social actors, including policy makers, civil society organisations, cultural institutions and private companies. During the talk, I will outline our approach to interdisciplinarity in the design and delivery of the courses.

More details of the BA can be found here:

<https://www.maastrichtuniversity.nl/education/bachelor/bachelor-digital-society>

Bio. Sally Wyatt is Professor of Digital Cultures at Maastricht University (<https://sallywyatt.nl>). She is also one of the national coordinators of the Dutch Digital Society programme that involves all Dutch universities and includes researchers from across the disciplines (<https://www.thedigitalsociety.info>). Wyatt originally studied economics, but then moved into the more interdisciplinary field of Science and Technology Studies (STS). Wyatt has conducted research about the digital divide and what digital technologies might mean for the work of humanities and social science scholars. She is currently working on a project about the use of artificial intelligence in image-based clinical decision making.

The Aurora Research Conference on *Digital Society & Global Citizenship*, 26-27 August 2021 (hybrid: Amsterdam/online), is part of the Aurora European Universities Alliance project, co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union.

Event link: <https://vu-live.zoom.us/j/93057030188>

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Assoc. Prof. Dr. Petra Missomelius

University of Innsbruck, Austria

Video Cultures and Digital Online Sharing - Mourning and Commemoration in the Pandemic

Fri 27 August 2021, 10:15 – 10:35 CEST

Abstract. The talk focuses on visual practices as part of media-technologically enabled online sharing cultures. A respectable number of amateur productions show that sharing and visual communication led to a new form of widespread audiovisual online expression. This talk examines characteristics of visual online cultures as an expression of media dynamics, as a means used to scaffold interactions in networks of people, and to take up a stance on the visual media industry.

The amateur video invokes Raymond Bellour's notion of 'the double helix' as configurations of industrially produced popular imaginaries and mobile interactivity between visual elements at the same time. This raises questions such as: How can we consider online videos as part of the digital transformation processes, social interactivity, and meaning-making?

This will be demonstrated by a case study in which mourning videos are in focus. Moreover, these have gained importance in the pandemic as digital practices of mourning and commemoration.

Bio. Petra Missomelius is Assoc. Prof. Dr. at the Department of Media, Society and Communication at Innsbruck University. She did her PhD thesis in Media Studies on "Digital media culture. Media configurations and perception", and her habilitation thesis on "Education in the context of transformative media cultures". Her research focuses on emerging (social) knowledge dynamics in digitally formed societies.

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Dr. Kees Boersma

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Digital Solutions for Challenges in Crisis Response and Management

Fri 27 August 2021, 10:35 – 10:55 CEST

Abstract. In my talk I will discuss the use of information systems and (big) data in relation to crisis and disasters management. While the contribution of civil society and local communities is crucial to increase crisis management capacities, to prepare for disruptions, to recover from shocks and stress, and to adapt and grow, there is still much to gain in the way their efforts are connected to formal crisis management actions. I will discuss the opportunities (and challenges) of digital solutions in crisis management aiming at improved interconnectedness.

Bio. Kees Boersma, PhD (f.k.boersma@vu.nl) is Associate Professor at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam in the department of Organization Sciences. His research interest is in crisis management, disaster studies, and innovation management. His current projects include: EU Horizon 2020 "LINKS: Strengthening links between technologies and society for European disaster resilience" (PI), and EU Horizon 2020 COVID-19 "HERoS: Health Emergency Response in Interconnected Systems" (WP leader). He is board member of the ISCRAM (Information Systems for Crisis Response and Management) association and visiting scholar at the Disaster Management Training and Education Centre for Africa (DiMTEC) of the University of the Free State.

Website: <https://research.vu.nl/en/persons/fk-boersma>

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Dr. Anna Bon

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Decolonizing Technology and Society – A Perspective from the Global South

Fri 27 August 2021, 10:55 – 11:15 CEST

Abstract. Despite the large impact of digital technology on the lives and future of *all* people on the planet, many people, especially from the Global South, are not included in the debates about the future of the digital society. This inequality is a systemic problem which has roots in the real world. We refer to this problem as “digital coloniality”. We argue that, to achieve a more equitable and inclusive global digital society, active involvement of stakeholders from poor regions of the world as co-researchers, co-creators and co-designers of technology is required. We briefly discuss a few collaborative, community-oriented technology development projects as examples of trans-disciplinary knowledge production and action research for a more inclusive digital society.

Bio. Anna Bon is researcher and lecturer in Information and Communication Technologies for Development (ICT4D) at VU Amsterdam and Maastricht University, and senior project manager at VU Amsterdam’s International Office (CIS). She directs the interdisciplinary research, education and community service program W4RA (Web alliance for Regreening in Africa, <https://w4ra.org>). Her interdisciplinary research centres around how innovative context-aware technologies can be developed in a co-creative way, serving especially smallholder farmers and communities in Africa’s Sahellian drylands. Her international projects include digital voice-service support for local seeds value networks in West Africa (Mali); ICT4D Community Service Learning in rural Sarawak, Malaysia; Sustainability and Ethics in Digital Development; AI for Sustainable Development, and the Amsterdam Digital Divide. Anna Bon is a Senior Editor of the Electronic Journal for Information Systems in Developing Countries.

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The Student Voice I

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Digital Society & Global Citizenship: Samples of Master Research

Fri 27 August 2021, 11:30-12:30 CEST

Vlad Stan:

Automated Speech Recognition for "Small" Languages

Artificial Intelligence focuses on industrialized countries, where cloud and computing power are massively available. Yet, in low resource environments (a.o. poor electricity, infrastructure, literacy), AI is still under-explored. This research investigates automated speech recognition (ASR) for "rare" languages. A crowdsourcing application collects a simple, small corpus of utterances, which is analysed with AI, as to build voice-based mobile applications for small African languages. As a proof-of-concept, we created a low-resource voice data collection app and implemented a machine learning model to understand simple utterances.

Vlad Stan is a master student Artificial Intelligence at VU

Betül Yildiz:

Is Design Science Ready for Low-Resource Environments?

The advent of context-aware digital commercialization platforms can significantly improve the value chain for staple food seeds in Mali, and make the seed trade more accessible for smallholder farmers. Design science is a research method that guides the design of digital artefact. However, how effective is this methodology for context-aware digital development in low resource environments such as rural Mali?

Betül Yildiz is a master student Information Sciences at VU

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The Student Voice II

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Digital Society & Global Citizenship: Samples of Master Research

Fri 27 August 2021, 11:30-12:30 CEST (continued)

Wouter Kok: Is "Solid" (Social Linked Data) Ready for Low-Resource Environments?

"Solid" is a decentralized technology that aims to give users full control over their personal data on the Web. It has been initiated and is led by Sir Tim Berners-Lee, the inventor of the World Wide Web. In this research, Solid is examined on its adaptability to low-resource environments.

Wouter Kok is a master student Computer Science at VU

Femke Gordijn: The representation of the Other in the digitized Dutch East India Company archives: Can text mining methods reveal new perspectives?

Femke Gordijn is a research master student Colonial and Global History at Leiden University

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