Fireside Chats

Digital Enlightenment Forum would like to invite you to an online 'Fireside Chat'.

What is this about?

We organize a small-size online meeting, lasting about 1 -1.5 hours, for a number of young and promising researchers including PhD and master's level students to have an informal chat with a senior person from the world of policy, politics, industry or academia. The senior person is the host and she or he will kick-off on a theme (see below). This is then followed by an open discussion. The intention is actually not only to exchange about the theme but also to hear about some of professional life experiences of the host. And perhaps – but without obligation - also to hear what is keeping your mind occupied.

What is the intention?

Digital Enlightenment Forum is an informal community of people committed to the evolution of digitisation in society while respecting human values. We bring together a network of experts and professionals to create and stimulate multi-stakeholder discussions to find solution-focused strategies.

Over the years we have been organising events and undertaking commissioned studies. We had celebrities in our midst such as founder of the World Wide Web Sir Tim Berners-Lee, former European Commissioner Viviane Reding, and Internet visionary Andrew Keen. Often our meetings are held in Brussels and we have a reputation of organising high-quality discussions with policymakers.

We believe that it is important that we can talk to each other, learn from each other, benefit from each other's experiences and networks. Of course, we would like to see you being engaged in Digital Enlightenment Forum but there are no strings attached to taking part in our fireside chats.

What can you get out of it?

We think that in a short meeting like this you will hear interesting insights about a theme that is close to your heart. We also think that you can pick up some practical ideas from the experience of the host in her or his life as a politician, policymaker, academic, entrepreneur, etc. Finally, you will meet online some people who are more or less at the same stage of their professional and academic life as you are, and perhaps you want to continue staying in touch with them. Each fireside chat will have some 6-8 participants, in addition to the host. We will make continued contact possible if you are interested. That's it!

We do hope that you join us! **Simply please respond to this email with yes or no**, or I am interested but cannot attend this time.

You can also respond to mdegreef@27plus.com and cc admin@digitalenlightenment.org.

Upcoming fireside chats

22 September 2021 at 15:00 CE(S)T

Dr. Ansgar Koene on **AI Ethics Standards and Regulation for a Trustworthy AI Ecosystem**

Senior Research Fellow, University of Nottingham, Global AI Ethics and Regulatory Leader, Ernst & Young LLP

Dr. Ansgar Koene is Global AI Ethics and Regulatory Leader at EY (Ernst & Young) where he contributes to the work on AI governance, trusted AI frameworks and AI related public policy engagement. As part of this work, he represents EY on the OECD Network for Experts on AI (ONE.AI) and the Business at OECD Committee on Digital Economic Policy (BIAC CDEP).
He is also a Senior Research Fellow at the Horizon Digital Economy Research institute (University of Nottingham) where he contributes to the policy impact and public engagement activities of the institute and the ReEnTrust and UnBias projects.
Ansgar chairs the IEEE Computer Society AI Standards Committee and the IEEE P7003 Standard for Algorithmic Bias Considerations working group, and led the IEEE Ethics Certification Program from AI Systems working group on Bias. Other standards development work includes participation in the ISO/IEC JTC1 SC42 AI and the CEN-CENELEC Focus Group for AI.
He is a trustee for the 5Rgiths foundation for the Rights of Young People Online and is part of the 5Rights Digital Futures Committee.
Ansgar has a multi-disciplinary research background, having worked and published on topics ranging from Policy and Governance of Algorithmic Systems (AI), data-privacy, AI Ethics, AI Standards, bio-inspired Robotics, AI and Computational Neuroscience to experimental Human Behaviour/Perception studies. He holds an MSc in Electrical Engineering and a PhD in Computational Neuroscience.

AI Ethics Standards and Regulation for a Trustworthy AI ecosystem

Algorithmic decision-making technologies (colloquially referred to as "AI") in industry, commerce and public service provision are giving rise to concerns about potential negative impacts on individuals (e.g. algorithmic discrimination bias) and the wider socio-economic fabric of society (e.g. displacement of jobs). With trust in the technology being cited as a key barrier toward moving AI pilot projects into operational use, both in the public and private sector, there is a growing push toward translating AI ethics principles into actionable practice. This talk will review current initiatives towards the development of AI governance frameworks, ethics and oversight related standards and regulations, and discuss the role each of these can play within a wider ecosystem of trustworthiness for the use of AI.

Peter Hagedoorn on **"The Fluid Society"**

Peter Hagedoorn was educated as a physics engineer and has followed a career in which he has worked alternately for the public sector and the business community. He has worked for Shell, the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Bull-Netherlands, RAET, Hagemeyer and Océ. He was also the first chairman of the CIO-Platform Nederland, in which capacity he also became Board member of the European CIO Association. Later he was appointed Secretary General of this organization. Today he writes columns and books about the digital society. https://thefluidsociety.com/home-english/

The Fluid Society

The influence of digitalization on people and society has become so gigantic that we are talking about a massive digital change of society. Every person, rich or poor, every organization, every country, is profoundly affected by digitalization. Thousands of companies are going through digital transformation processes, to adjust their business model to the digital world in which you can only keep up if you operate internationally, through the Internet. No one can do without a smartphone and internet anymore. Social media have a major impact on everyone's life, including politics and elections. **Humanity is therefore moving towards a new phase** of her existence. Towards a world where digital communication and systems determine human thought and action. In which individual compassion and interests, rather than national borders, is the determining factor. In which people can find each other worldwide, regardless of origin, in their common love or interest for art, science, doing business, nature, helping other people or transfer of knowledge, for better or possibly for worse. And where like-minded people can easily find each other through digital tools. We call this the fluid society. Because people no longer think and act primarily on the basis of the place where they happen to live or were born, or the culture in which they grew up, but primarily on the basis of their own wishes for the fulfilment of their lives and how to give shape to these wishes together with others, wherever they may be.

Other governance required. The digital world increasingly demands other forms of control, to curb the negative aspects and allow the positive ones to flourish. How do we rein in cybercriminals, who operate worldwide? How do we prevent superpowers from ending up in a technological or digital race or a struggle for hegemony? How do we curb the power of tech giants? On the other hand, how can the tech giants, perhaps as digital utilities, contribute to a better distribution of wealth worldwide? How can we make education, health care, knowledge, spread better to everyone, so that a more equal playing field will emerge? How are we going to govern the digitizing world now that classical laws and nation-states seem incapable of governing the digital world in a stable way?

Reinard Posch on **COVID – The unexpected Digital Game-Changer**

Reinhard Posch as founder of the Institute of Applied Information Processing and Communications at Graz University of Technology headed the institute from its very beginning and has become emeritus on October 1st 2019.

His research interests include applied information processing with a focus on it security, eGovernment and IoT.

As the CIO for the federal government since 2001 he is primarily involved in the strategic coordination of activities in the field of information and communications technology that concern all levels of government.

As scientific director of the Austrian Secure Information Technology Centre the main efforts are computer security, cryptography, secure hard- and software and eGovernment.

He is chairman of the board of trustees of the non-profit foundation Stiftung Secure Information and Communication Technologies SIC which has been donated by Graz University of Technology. As such he participated in many large scale pilot. One outstanding result in this context is the "Handy-Signatur" a most successful instance of the Austrian Citizen card that was also used as a model for the remote Signature of eIDaS.

He acted also as Chair of the Board of ENISA, the European Network and Security Agency.

He took part in various groups installed by the European Commission to elaborate ICT and security strategies (e.g. „Future Internet Visionaries", RISEPTIS). He was a member of the "Rat der IT Weisen" he is providing advice to the Commissioners Kroes and Sefkovic in the area of IT-Security to assist the implementation of the Digital Agenda. Helping Greece to recover from the economic crisis he worked with the Reichenbach Group to assist implementing innovation in the Greek eGovernment. He also participates as an advisor of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development in the IT advisory board.

Reinhard Posch got awarded the Grand Decoration of Honor in Silver for Services to the Republic of Austria.

COVID – The unexpected Digital Game-Changer *(challenges and avenues for public administrations)*

At least in Europe both on a national and on a coordinated European level we had and have ample programs for the digital transformation and at least until the crisis started we had principles to follow. Just to give a few very important ones:

(a) Security – administration is holding many many information about citizen and companies as well as other entities and has to take responsibility that this information is used the way legislation advises.

(b) There is a big difference between public administrations and private companies. People cannot escape the administration and therefore of prime importance is the principle "ADMINSTRATION CAN ONLY PROCESS AND MANIPULATE DATA THE WAY LAWS EXPLICITELY ALLOWS". In contrary "THE PRIOVATE SECTOR CAN PROCESS AND MANIPULATE DATA AS LONG AS NO LAW IS AGAINST". There is a big gap between these two approaches.

When COVID started it became apparent that administrations in the best case are in the midst of implementing their programs and strategies but **COVID will not wait.** This has led to situations where many were stating that the private sector has tools and programs – why not using them. But these tools follow the principles for the private sector. As an example just take the simple case of videoconferencing which – for COVID reasons – has been used to approach the administration, for teleteaching … Who asked the questions?

·   How can I make sure that this is the right person on the other side – private sector tools do not provide eID the public sector can take the needed liability for – and within short time periods we also noticed quite some abuse.

·   How can the system make sure that inherent personal data is not going just somewhere?
   A further example is the "Green Pass". Initially designed for border control to enable "free movement" it is used like everywhere. And it is potentially transferring sensitive medical and personal information.

·   Why should a restaurant know my name?

·   Why should my employer know that I had COVID?

·   ….

·   Just imagine companies like McDonalds using this to build and maintain customer profiles – eventually profiles of move. Technology would allow to avoid this extensive QR-Code transferring only the information GO or STOP. It is not so much the complexity but much more the "need" to make quick money out of the crisis which drives the scene.

How do we get knowledgeable civil servants able to understand what is behind?
How do we avoid this functionality fist – data protection, security … coming later to stay in the mind as this attitude proves "success"?
Who tells the administration to follow the laws??? – at least when we are back to a new normality.
COVID is an important factor when it comes to principles with digital technology, Big Data, AI, ... and it is doing its job without really involving the society. We must take extreme care that technologies serves both the purpose and the society.

Dr Michal Boni on **Disinformation**

Former Member of European Parliament, former Minister Poland

Minister of Labour and Social Policy in 1991 and a deputy to the Polish Sejm from 1991 to 1993. He was a member of the Cabinet of Poland from 2009 and was Minister of Administration and Digitization from November 2011 to November 2013. He was elected in 2014 and served as a MEP from the Warsaw region until 2019. From 2019 - SWPS University, Warsaw, University for Social Sciences and Humanities, Senior Researcher Associate-Martens Centre, Senator SMEEurope, Advisory Board - Blockchain for Europe

DISINFORMATION

There are many cases of disinformation all over the world. It establishes the political tensions, undermines the democracy, supports the polarisation development, which is very often a key tool for the populistic forms of governance. The fake-news, the conspiracy theories development requires the proper response as some tools and solutions used in the catalogue of the European Code of Practices on disinformation for online platform and some future projected instruments, as for instance the defunding of ads used in the process of dissemination of disinformation (demonetisation of fake news).

But the challenge is regarding to the awareness of people and the critical thinking skills among the societies. It also requires the clear warning system in the internet build by collaborative efforts of all partners: platforms, users, civil society organisations, media fact-checkers, researchers.

It is essential to understand the reasons of so far dissemination of disinformation - related to the sociocultural phenomena (the lack of trust of public institutions and science) and psychological causes (some discomforts, especially increased during the Covid-19 time, or related to the attitude of the extreme individualism - "defending my own liberty I am against vaccination" e.g.).

In the light of the growing disinformation examples during Covid (especially anti vaxx attitudes) and the European institutions works on strengthening the role of Code and its tools for reducing the impact of disinformation - we can discuss about the problem. In addition trying to find the powerful organisers of those manipulative actions.

Robert Hamilton on **Sympathetic Intelligence**

President & Founder, The Center for Sympathetic Intelligence

Robert was a founding member of *The Fat Lady Sings* a well-known Rock Band out of Dublin, Ireland in the early 90s. After touring the world and enjoying significant success, Robert went on to become a full-time Peace Activist, creating the *Peace Together* initiative with his friend Alistair McMordie, also a musician with another well-known Irish band – *Stiff Little Fingers*. Following his years as a peace activist, Robert went on to study Law at University College Dubin, in Ireland where he obtained a bachelor's degree in Common Law. Upon moving to the US, Robert became involved in Education and especially innovative initiatives within Education - he is presently the Director for Mentoring at *iQ4*, an innovative software company in education. He has co-authored several articles on Education with, Dr. James Stellar and Emily Barrett which articles expound the potential role that *Sympathetic Intelligence* can play in Education. As a musician Robert continues to record, most recently with the *Sween*, on two albums; *Days Awake* and *Red Days*.

Sympathetic Intelligence
Robert first contemplated the existence of, defined and coined the term *Sympathetic Intelligence* as a Musician with *The Fat Lady Sings* playing the sweaty rock and roll venues of London and watching audiences behave collectively as one. Intrigued, Robert began musing as to what it was that enabled audiences to become one collective unit, a phenomenon that he called *Epiphanicism*. Over the years he drilled down and discovered what he believes is the source that lies behind this phenomenon - *Sympathetic Intelligence*. As an instructor at the State University of Albany, Robert's successful use of *Sympathetic Intelligence* came to the attention of the College's President – Dr. James Stellar, who encouraged Robert to pursue his passion for the concept further. In 2020 Robert set up *The Center For Sympathetic Intelligence* with colleagues from Albany, and the Center has very rapidly come to the attention of professionals from many other fields beyond Education, not surprisingly including those involved in Artificial Intelligence.

Links:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Fat_Lady_Sings
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peace_Together
https://otia.io/2019/08/09/robert-hamilton-ceo-and-drummer-with-the-fat-lady-sings/
http://otherlobe.com/papers/contributive-pathways/
http://otherlobe.com/papers/ninja-the-art-of-the-modern-instructor/
http://otherlobe.com/papers/sympathetic-intelligence-in-education/

https://music.apple.com/us/album/days-awake/1457216146
https://music.apple.com/us/album/red-days/1559341962

January 2022, date and time tbc

Jeremy Millard

CEO, Third Millennium Governance

Jeremy Millard is CEO of his non-profit consultancy, Third Millennium Governance, and works as a Senior Research Analyst with Copenhagen-based SME City Facilitators providing specialist advice and guidance on urban growth, business development and urban finance mechanisms. Jeremy is also a Visiting Senior Research Fellow at both Bradford University in the UK and Galway University in Ireland, as well as a former Senior Consultant at the Danish Technological Institute and Managing Consultant at Tele Danmark. He has taught at both Aarhus University in Denmark and the Open University in the UK, and is currently teaching modules in social innovation for sustainable development for the ITCILO and the Turin School of Development. He has over 40 years' global experience on governance, technology, open and social innovation, participation and democracy, sustainable and socio-economic development and tackling poverty and exclusion. He also works on the sharing and circular economies, urbanization and nature-based solutions for growth and urban development. Currently he's researching changing forms of work and regional development in the context of 'zoomshock' and is coordinating the European Food-Covid-19 network: https://www.food-covid-19.org. He has taught, presented and published extensively in these and many related fields. Clients include governments, the European Commission, United Nations, OECD and World Bank, as well as many non-profits and companies around the world. He works with partners to develop new business and social innovation models of change at organizational, spatial and societal levels.

Past fireside chats

11 June and 24 June 2020, 15:00 CET and Prof Dr **George Metakides** on **Digital Sovereignty:** The coronavirus pandemic is accelerated the digitization of all sectors of human activity. This is happening in a geopolitical context that enhances what some call a "digital arms race". It is in such a context that we ask what is the meaning and importance of digital sovereignty for Europe, what is the impact of the aforementioned acceleration of digitization and what are some of the new policies/initiatives that could enable Europe to achieve and sustain digital sovereignty.

As befitting a fireside, it is intended to have a free for all, no holds barred....chat!

President of Digital Enlightenment Forum, Visiting Professor, University of Southampton
Born in Thessaloniki, Greece, George Metakides received his Ph.D. in Mathematical Logic from Cornell University in 1971. He pursued an academic career at MIT, Cornell and Rochester University until 1978, when he returned to Greece after being elected to the Chair of Logic at the University of Patras. Since1984 he has held senior positions with responsibility for Research & Development policy, funding and international co-operation in European institutions. He established and headed the department for Basic Research and International Scientific Relations in Information Technologies at the European Commission from 1988 to 1993. He was the Director of the ESPRIT (European Strategic Program for Information Technologies), from 1993 until its completion in 1998, followed by the Information Society Technologies (IST) Program (1998-2002). In 2002 he returned to his professorship at Patras until his retirement in 2012. He has contributed to the establishment of international institutions (including the launch of the World Wide Web consortium in 1993), has received a number of awards and honorary degrees and is a corresponding member of several National Academies. He is currently visiting professor at the University of Southampton, Adjunct Professor at the European University of Cyprus, President of the Digital Enlightenment Forum, and Advisor to several international organizations. He is involved in the analysis of the economic, political and social impact of digitization, related cybersecurity, data protection and regulatory issues and the promotion of international cooperation towards a digital ecosystem respecting shared human values.

26 June 2020, 15:00 CET, **Michal Boni** PhD. on **Digital Rights:** There are many dimensions of the "Digital Rights" problem. Firstly, it is the general accessibility of the Internet, which allow to avoid the threat of being digitally excluded (networks, quality of networks - 5G, rural-urban divide, various territorial divides).

Secondly, it is the threat of being excluded because of the age (generations), gender (still very often phenomenon), skills and competences (digital literacy in the broad sense as a solution).

Thirdly, it is a problem of the equal level playing field of the functioning of all laws and legal systems - offline and online. For instance: anti-discrimination law tools and anti-discrimination law tools in the digital world: algorithms, biases, asymmetry of information - how to tackle those challenges, how to fight with the hate-speech phenomena.

Fourthly, key to understand: how to translate all our rights (key for the "just society") to the digital community, our rights as - citizens, consumers, humans, users of all kind of services, patients in medical e-services (fundamental: who is the owner of the data...).

The question is: if we need to have the special "Digital Rights Charter" or to ensure full respect of all kinds of our rights in all digital areas.

7 October 2020 – 15:00 CET

Dr Michal Boni on **Digital Rights: Dimensions of the Assymetry of Information**

Former Member of European Parliament, former Minister Poland

Minister of Labour and Social Policy in 1991 and a deputy to the Polish Sejm from 1991 to 1993. He was a member of the Cabinet of Poland from 2009 and was Minister of Administration and Digitization from November 2011 to November 2013. He was elected in 2014 and served as a MEP from the Warsaw region until 2019. From 2019 - SWPS University, Warsaw, University for Social Sciences and Humanities, Senior Researcher Associate-Martens Centre, Senator SMEEurope, Advisory Board - Blockchain for Europe

We will continue our discussion on Digital Rights, now focusing on the problem of the Assymetry of Information. The more data we are using, the more quality of data management means. People are playing many roles as consumers, workers, creators, prosumers, citizens - in all those positions they have the legally and culturally expressed rights. It is obvious that they should be properly informed not only about their rights, but also have adequate access to key information about the principles governing the data usage - eg. the significance of the "explainability" rule. It is not so clear when it is related to the AI and algorithms functionalities - how the digital rights of the "digital patients" should look like? How the management of consents done by us as clients, patients, citizens, users should look like and be based on what kind of conditions? How the mechanisms of redress should look like - giving to everyone all needed clear and understandable information and offer the transparent procedures? Data based relationship between business, administration, public services providers - and all kind of users is one of the most important phenomena of our world. It requires the new redefined model of the platform functioning based on legal rule, but also on standards and cultural patterns and customs (current European debates on AI, Data Spaces and Digital Services Act).

Patrice Chazerand on **"Of Mice and Men... and our future Digital Industry"**

Director, Global Digital Foundation

Prior to joining DIGITALEUROPE, Patrice Chazerand was the Secretary-General of the Interactive Software Federation of Europe (ISFE), the trade body of PC and videogames publishers operating in Europe between 2002 and 2009. In this capacity he has established PEGI, the only pan-European system of harmonised rating of digital content dealing with various topics such as internet content, protection of minors, privacy, freedom of expression and intellectual property; competition law as applied to interactive and user-generated content; Net neutrality, etc.

In 1999, Patrice Chazerand set up the Brussels office of Viacom which he ran as Vice President, European Affairs until 2002. During this tenure with Viacom he dealt with audiovisual content creation and distribution on all platforms, anti-piracy, EU audiovisual issues.

From 1989 to 1995, Patrice Chazerand was Director, Public Affairs, at AT&T France, and subsequently Managing Director from 1995 to 1999. He has extensive knowledge of telecom services and networks: regulation, interconnection, universal service, broadband deployment, next gen networks, etc.

Patrice Chazerand spent the first fifteen years of his career with the French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, seven of which were at the Embassy of France in Washington.

"Of Mice and Men... and our future Digital Industry"

The amazing achievements of digital technology and its growing presence at every step of our way have earned it the dubious privilege of being called Big Tech. From the outset, it has been seen as a powerful agent for an easier life in a better society. Lately though, Big Tech has started raising hackles as a result of permissionless, unfettered and uninterrupted intrusiveness in our lives, also due to the potential of the 'attention economy' to crowd humans out of what we do best, i.e. using our brains. This conversation is meant to set the record straight: algorithms, or 'disembodied brains', are no competition to our 'body-minded brains' (Antonio Damasio). It will hopefully rekindle the younger generation's faith that our future lies mostly in their hands, not in the computer mouse – or in microchips for that matter -, even though no one would recommend emulating what Lennie's unchecked endearment would do to mice...

Prof Dr Paul Timmers on The Life of European Commission policymaker

Digital Enlightenment Board member, former Director European Commission, Research Associate Oxford

Paul Timmers is research associate at the University of Oxford/Department of Politics and International Relations and adjunct professor at European University Cyprus. He is also Senior Advisor to the European Policy Center, Chief Adviser to the European Institute of Technology/Health, and Supervisory Board member of the eGovernance Academy in Estonia. He is also CEO of iivii BV, which provides policy advice. Paul Timmers is a former Director at the European Commission for Digital Society, Trust & Cybersecurity. He was responsible for policy, legislation and innovation in cybersecurity, e-privacy, digital health and ageing, e-government / e-ID, and smart cities/mobility/energy. He was member of the Cabinet of European Commissioner Liikanen. For several years, he participated in the European Commission's Impact Assessment Board which scrutinizes policy and legislative proposals.

Paul held various academic positions. He was manager in a large ICT company and co-founder of an ICT start-up, holds a PhD in physics from Nijmegen University in the Netherlands, an MBA from Warwick University in the UK, was awarded an EU fellowship at UNC Chapel Hill and completed executive cybersecurity education at Harvard.

26 November 2020 – 16:00 CET

Dr Elly Plooij-van Gorsel on Policymaking and politics in the European Parliament and the founding of the EIF European Internet Forum

Digital Enlightenment Board member, former Member European Parliament

Dr. Elly Plooij- van Gorsel. After finishing her studies as a cognitive neuropsychologist, she worked 14 years as assistant professor and brain researcher at Leiden University and 8 years in business. From 1994 - 2004, Elly was a Member of the European Parliament and also served a period as Vice-President.

As a scientist and politician, she was involved from the very start in the digitalization of society and concerned about privacy, trust and security for citizens, companies and governmental institutions as well.

In 2000 she was co-founder and first President of the European Internet Forum (EIF). EIF is led and governed by elected Members of the EP from various countries and different political groups to foster an open and inclusive dialogue with digital policy stakeholders to contribute with their work to the development of public policies, economic and societal challenges of the digital revolution.

After leaving the EP, she held various positions as board member and supervisor, as well as advisor to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Defense of the Netherlands. Since 2012, she is on behalf of the Dutch

Government chairing the Strategic Council, that is responsible for the Governance and further development of the Dutch eID Trust framework for citizens and business.

7 December 2020 at 17:00 CE(S)T

Pierre Levy on **How to use digital technologies in order to augment human collective intelligence?**

Pierre Lévy devoted his professional life to the understanding of the cultural and cognitive implications of the digital technologies, to promote their best social uses and to study the phenomenon of human collective intelligence. He has advised several governments, companies and cultural institutions on these subjects. He is fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and received several awards and academic distinctions. Pierre Lévy has been professor at several Universities in France and Canada. He is currently co-founder and CEO of Intlekt Inc. a company that develops and sells an ontology editor and a semantic database based on IEML, a constructed language with a computable semantics
Pierre Lévy has authored 13 books that have been translated in more than a dozen languages and are studied in many universities all over the world.
- *Collective Intelligence* was originally published in French by La Découverte in 1994
- *Becoming Virtual w*as originally published in French by La Découverte in 1995
- His last book *The Semantic Sphere. Computation, Cognition and the Information Economy* was published in 2011 by Wiley.

How to use digital technologies in order to augment human collective intelligence?

My whole professional life was oriented by this very question. I discussed it in my teachings in various disciplines and universities, I tried to answer it theoretically in my books and academic papers, I also advised governments and companies on subjects like cyberculture, on line collaborative learning, synergy in public and private research, etc. I would like to emphasize in this fireside chat the entrepreunarial part of my life adventure. I created a company devoted to collaborative knowledge management (using an innovative visualization software) at the beginning of the 1990's in Paris. I am currently founding a start-up to implement a language (IEML) that makes semantics computable and is destined to become the next addressing layer of the Internet!"

Dr.Thanassis Tiropanis on **The centralisation-decentralisation pendulum on the Internet and the Web - research challenges**

Associate Professor, Electronics and Computer Science - Web and Internet Science, University of Southampton

Thanassis is associate professor with the Web and Internet Science Group, Electronics and Computer Science, University of Southampton and is interested in distributed linked data infrastructures, linked data for higher education, social networks and social machines.

Prior to that he was assistant professor with the Athens Information Technology Institute (AIT) in Greece working on Web technologies and e-learning. Prior to AIT, Thanassis was a research fellow with University College London (UCL) where he worked on network and service management research for telecommunication services.

He holds a PhD in computer science from UCL, and a DipIng in computer engineering and informatics from the University of Patras, Greece.

He is also visiting associate professor at the department of Computer Science at the National University of Singapore and a senior member of IEEE, a chartered IT professional with BCS, a fellow of the Higher Education academy in the UK, a member of the ACM and a member of the Technical Chamber of Greece.

The centralisation-decentralisation pendulum on the Internet and the Web - research challenges

Patterns of transition from centralisation to decentralisation and vice versa have been observed throughout the evolution of the Internet and the Web and they correlate with major shifts in innovation and policy. Technological developments on computer networking, distributed systems, knowledge management and data mining have been key enablers in that process. At the present stage, decentralised data infrastructures have been proposed as an enabler for innovation by letting individuals control access to their data in data sharing ecosystems. Nevertheless, there are technological challenges on security, scalability, and optimisation when processing data on a large, decentralised scale. This fireside chat will discuss those challenges and roadmaps to further explore them. Further, it will discuss the implications of technological affordances and challenges on policymaking.

10 February 2021 at 15:00 CE(S)T

Edward Jones-Imhotep on **How to think about technology**

Associate Professor and Director, Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology, University of Toronto

Edward Jones-Imhotep is an award-winning historian of science and technology. He received his PhD in History of Science from Harvard University and is Director of the University of Toronto's Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology (IHPST).

He is a co-founder of Toronto's TechnoScience Salon, a public forum for humanities-based discussions about science and technology. He has held visiting positions at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (Paris) and currently holds an ongoing visiting professorship at the University of Paris (Panthéon-Assas). He is also a member of the Executive Council of the Society for the History of Technology and a contributing editor for *Technology's Stories*.

His research has been supported by grants from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, the National Science Foundation, the European Science Foundation, the Mellon Foundation, and the Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst (DAAD). His research focuses on social and cultural lives of machines, with a particular focus on their place in the culture, politics, and economics of modern societies.

18 February 2021 – 16:00 CE(S)T

Dr Michal Boni on **The data control issue – in the light of the data governance proposal**

Former Member of European Parliament, former Minister Poland

Minister of Labour and Social Policy in 1991 and a deputy to the Polish Sejm from 1991 to 1993. He was a member of the Cabinet of Poland from 2009 and was Minister of Administration and Digitization from November 2011 to November 2013. He was elected in 2014 and served as a MEP from the Warsaw region until 2019. From 2019 - SWPS University, Warsaw, University for Social

Sciences and Humanities, Senior Researcher Associate-Martens Centre, Senator SMEEurope, Advisory Board - Blockchain for Europe

THE DATA CONTROL ISSUE - IN THE LIGHT OF THE DATA GOVERNANCE PROPOSAL

In the current debates on the data there are some crucial dimensions raised very strongly.

Firstly - the possible shift from the concept of data ownership (discussed many years) into the **data control** challenge, with openness for users and their activity focused on managing their own data. It is the problem of deeper understanding of the **consent** decisions and legal framework for using the tool of "consent", which is described in the GDPR.

Secondly - it is the very important context of this shift: the opportunity for data development for many purposes, especially for public purposes. It requires on the one side - using the consent (be aware and informed about all effects) by subjects, but on the other - establishing the schemes, the transparent procedures for the **data sharing**. It is significant for European works on Data Spaces in many areas (there are of course various kinds of data, personal data are the minor among them). But for instance, the goal: to build the European Health Data Space is in the different framework and mode. Similarly, the data used and sent during all processes ensuring the autonomous car safe driving.

Thirdly - what kind of **conditions** are needed for the data control and data sharing models development: related to the regulatory framework and the trust building. How to join the perspective of the strong data protection objective with the needs to create the **data as** a **common good**, used for public purposes. How to protect data, and how make them useful...

These questions and problems could be the initial points for our Fireside Chat discussion.

8 March 2021 at 15:00 CE(S)T

Patrice Chazerand on **"AI, a bridge too far? In which Pascal makes up for 'Descartes' Error'"**

Director, Global Digital Foundation

Prior to joining DIGITALEUROPE, Patrice Chazerand was the Secretary-General of the Interactive Software Federation of Europe (ISFE), the trade body of PC and videogames publishers operating in Europe between 2002 and 2009. In this capacity he has established PEGI, the only pan-European system of harmonised rating of digital content dealing with various topics such as internet content, protection of minors, privacy, freedom of expression and intellectual property; competition law as applied to interactive and user-generated content; Net neutrality, etc.

In 1999, Patrice Chazerand set up the Brussels office of Viacom which he ran as Vice President, European Affairs until 2002. During this tenure with Viacom he dealt with audiovisual content creation and distribution on all platforms, anti-piracy, EU audiovisual issues.

From 1989 to 1995, Patrice Chazerand was Director, Public Affairs, at AT&T France, and subsequently Managing Director from 1995 to 1999. He has extensive knowledge of telecom services and networks: regulation, interconnection, universal service, broadband deployment, next gen networks, etc.

Patrice Chazerand spent the first fifteen years of his career with the French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, seven of which were at the Embassy of France in Washington.

"AI, a bridge too far? In which Pascal makes up for 'Descartes' Error'"

In a nutshell, I plan to build upon the challenge of keeping online gaming out of the scope of the AVMS Directive - drawing from personal experience, in keeping with the rules of the 'Fireside Chat' game – with a view to argue that this type of advocacy and subtle interaction with policy makers is too challenging to ever be within AI reach. Come February, I hope that I will be on top of the fine line Pascal intended to draw between 'esprit de géométrie' (accessible to bots) and 'esprit de finesse' (forever off-limits).

17 March 2021, 15:00 CET

Prof. Dr. Ernst Hafen on **Genome meets iPhone – Opportunities and challenges of citizen-controlled personal data cooperatives**

Professor of Systems Genetics, Institute of Molecular Systems Biology, ETH Zürich, Zürich, Switzerland

Ernst Hafen, PhD, is a full professor at the Department of Biology of ETH Zürich. As a biologist he is interested in how the genetic instructions in the genome of an organism specify the basis of its form and function. During 30 years of academic research he studied this question in the fruit fly Drosophila, a genetic model organism. With the decreasing costs of genome sequencing and the offering of direct to consumer genetic analysis by companies (e.g. 23andme) he realized that people could directly contribute to answering to this basic biological question. Moreover, with their genome and other health data they could contribute as citizen scientists to a better understanding of personalized health and medicine. After all, humans, in contrast to flies, can talk to their doctor about their symptoms and collect health relevant data with their smartphones. The main problem, however, is that people give their data away for free and have no control over the use of their personal data.

Genome meets iPhone – Opportunities and challenges of citizen-controlled personal data cooperatives

In this talk we will discuss the ethical, economic and health opportunities and challenges of the current health data ecosystems and how citizens in Europe could counteract the current US model of surveillance capitalism or the Chinese model of state surveillance with a system in which citizens are in control of their personal data in the same way they are in control of their personal finances.

30 March 2021 at 15:00 CE(S)T

Prof Dr Jo Pierson on **Artificial Intelligence**

Professor in the Department of Media and Communication Studies at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel

Jo Pierson, Ph.D., is Full Professor in the Department of Media and Communication Studies at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) in Belgium (Faculty of Social Sciences & Solvay Business School) and Principal Investigator at the research centre SMIT (Studies on Media, Innovation and Technology). In this position, he is in charge of the research unit 'Data, Privacy & Empowerment', in close cooperation with imec. He holds the VUB Chair in 'Data Protection on the Ground'. His main research expertise is in online platforms, algorithms, data privacy and user innovation. Since 2016 he is elected member of the International Council and member of the Scholarly Review Committee of the International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR).

Artificial Intelligence

As AI systems increasingly pervade modern society and lead to manifold and diverse consequences, the development of internationally recognized and industry-specific frameworks focusing on legal and ethical principles is crucial. My talk is aimed at (a) understanding how the 7 Key Requirements for Trustworthy AI impact the Media and Technology sector (MTS) and at (b) putting forward guidelines to ensure compliance with the 7 Key Requirements. The talk identifies four application areas of AI MTS, i.e. automating data capture and processing, automating content generation, automating content mediation and automating communication. Subsequently, the 7 Key Requirements are discussed within each of the four identified themes. Ultimately, recommendations are made to ensure that AI development and adoption in Media and Technology sector is compliant with the 7 Key Requirements. Three clusters of recommendations are proposed: (1) addressing data power and positive obligations, (2) empowerment by design and risk assessments and (3) cooperative responsibility and stakeholder engagements. This fits in the broader debate on how to safeguard and promote European public values in technological systems that - due to digital transformation - have become the basis for key sectors in society.

20 April 2021 at 15:00 CE(S)T

Frits Bussemaker, D1G1T4L C0NN3CT0R on **Community Building in the Digital Age**

Bussemaker has a passion for bringing people together in the Digital Age. He has initiated and helped run a number of (international) communities focused on linking Information Technology, Innovation and Impact. He is furthermore a coach and Program Director and supports organizations on business community building.

He is currently the chair of the 'Institute for Accountability in the Digital Age'. An association instigated by UNESCO aimed to help define instruments for, and manage accountability in the Digital Age. Furthermore, he leads the Dutch Government's Innovation Community.

He has been working in the International ICT industry since the 80s. He started with a Dutch Start up and has since then held various marketing and alliance positions with consultancy-, software firms and associations including: CIONET
where he was the Secretary General International Relations a community of over 7000 CIOs where he represented the community with international institutes like the European Commission.

He does (pro deo) work for number of (international) organizations, conferences and communities including: founding member and vice-chair of the outreach committee of the ITU 'AI for Good Global Summit (Geneva) with over 35 UN Agencies involved, YPO's European Impact Summit and iPoort an association to discuss digitization with members of the Dutch parliament. He is a regular speaker and chair at international events. He has an MSc from Delft University.

Community Building in the Digital Age
Bussemaker has been working in the international IT industry for over 30 years. Virtually from the beginning he has been setting up and managing business communities. He will present his personal experience in Business Community Building and discuss why it is becoming more and more relevant in today's society. Examples will cover various organisations ranging from local companies, to associations, European Commission and UN organizations like UNESCO and the ITU.

Jimmyn Parc on **The Digital Transformation of the Korean Music Industry and the Global Emergence of K-Pop**

Visiting Lecturer, Paris School of International Affairs (PSIA) and Researcher, Institute of Communication Research, Seoul National University

Jimmyn Parc is a visiting lecturer at Sciences Po Paris, France and a researcher at Institute of Communication Research, Seoul National University, Korea. He received a Ph.D. in international studies (with focus on international business and strategy) from the Graduate School of International Studies (GSIS), Seoul National University and another Ph.D. in economic history from University of Paris-Sorbonne (Paris IV). He has published numerous academic articles and conducted a number of research projects related to the competitiveness of organizations, industries, and countries. His current research focuses on cultural industries in Asia and Europe, which includes films and music. Currently, they are at critical juncture as they face a changing business and trade environment as well as new challenges from digitization.

The Digital Transformation of the Korean Music Industry and the Global Emergence of K-Pop

There are a number of voices who blame digitization for having a number of negative effects on the music industry including a decline in album sales, copyright infringement, unfair royalty payments, and competition with foreign multinationals. Yet, the global emergence of Korean pop music or K-pop suggests a different narrative, particularly given that its growth was largely unexpected among industry experts. Understanding the key to its international breakthrough can thus produce meaningful lessons for the music industries of other countries for their own further take-off. This constitutes the focus for this lecture.

Prof. Dr. Ulrike Felt on **Trust, Solidarity and Ownership: Why cocreation matters in building successful health data platform**

Head of the Department of Science and Technology Studies, Head of the Research Platform Responsible Research and Innovation in Academic Practice, University of Vienna

Ulrike Felt is Professor of Science and Technology Studies (STS) and head of department at the University of Vienna. She has earned her PhD in Physics in 1983 and then moved into the field of Science and Technology Studies. Her research focuses on governance and public engagement in contemporary technoscientific democracies as well as on shifting research/knowledge cultures. It is often comparative between national context and technological or scientific fields. Much of her recent research has focused on the life science, biomedicine and public health, more specifically on questions health data (infrastructures). Her most recent books include the "Handbook of Science and Technology Studies" (2017, MIT Press) and "Exploring Science Communication. A Science and Technology Studies Approach" (together with Sarah Davies, 2020, SAGE). She is engaged in policy advice both on national and European level. From 2002-2007 she was editor-in-chief of the SSCI ranked journal *Science, Technology, & Human Values.* She is currently president of European Association for the Study of Science and Technology (EASST). In 2019 she was elected member of the Academia Europaea.

Trust, Solidarity and Ownership: Why co-creation matters in building successful health data platform

Well before the corona pandemic hit the world, the digitization of health has been high on policy agendas, promising to become the solution for many of the challenges that Europe's health care systems were facing. While these visions of future digital health solutions are rather promising, it is, however, essential to not overlook the potential challenges encountered in their realization. In my presentation, I want to share experiences from a co-creation process of a citizen health-data platform in a large-scale Horizon 2020 project *Smart4Health*. In particular I will reflect on the insights gained from the co-creation process, i.e. the process of including citizen-users in the design of such a platform, and address issues of trust, the rising call for solidarity in sharing data and providing them for research and the question of ownership when it comes to health data.

27 May 2021 at 15:00 CE(S)T

Prof. Andra Siibak on **The datafied child: data practices and imaginaries in children's lives**

Professor of Media Studies, Institute of Social Studies, University of Tartu

Andra Siibak is a Professor of Media Studies and program director of the Media and Communication doctoral program at the Institute of Social Studies, University of Tartu, Estonia. Her main field of research has to do with the opportunities and risks surrounding internet use, social media usage practices, datafication of childhood, new media audiences and privacy. Most recently Andra completed a book manuscript, co-authored with Giovanna Mascheroni, entitled *Datafied childhoods: data practices and imaginaries in children's lives*, forthcoming in the Digital Formations series of Peter Lang, in autumn 2021.

Andra has gained international experience while filling different academic positions in a variety of cultural contexts, e.g. been a post-doc in Sweden, guest-researcher in Denmark, Fulbright scholar in the US, and a visiting guest-professor in Italy, Latvia and Lithuania. She has engaged in various international research projects and networks (e.g. EU Kids Online) and acted as expert consultant on Estonia for projects initiated by the European Parliament, European Commission, European Council and OECD. Andra has been awarded with the Young Scientist Award by the President of Estonia (2015), the Outstanding Young Person of Estonia (TOYP) award (2017) and Prof. Peeter Tulviste's memorial scholarship (2020).

The datafied child: data practices and imaginaries in children's lives

In the current age of mediatization, the internet and internet-connect objects (IoT) have come to permeate all contexts of socialisation – the home, the school, the peer group - and are implicated in many of the everyday practices in which children engage. The pervasive and intense mediatization of society, the emergence of a data-driven business model (surveillance capitalism), and the normalisation of a culture of surveillance that frames datafication and dataveillance as good practices (of parenting, of teaching and learning, of self-expression etc.), have led to the fact that the "world which the contemporary child is conceived and raised is one that is increasingly monitored, analyzed and manipulated through technological processes" (Willson, 2018: 1). During the fireside chat we will tackle upon the variety of ways how the practices of children themselves, their parents, peers, and teachers are leading to the creation of their data traces and their data selves.

3 June 2021 at 16:00 CE(S)T

Ilias Iakovidis on **Going beyond the dilemma 'Is digitalisation climate solution or pollution?'**

Adviser, DG CONNECT, European Commission

Ilias Iakovidis, PhD, is Adviser on digital aspects of green transition at the European Commission, DG CONNECT.

Ilias contributes to EU wide measures and initiatives that aim to improve the energy and material efficiency of ICT, e.g., making data centres climate neutral, digital devices, circular. He is focused on maximising the benefits of green digital transformation for environment & climate, society and economy. Ilias is working on digitalisation for circular economy (e.g. digital product passport) and on the European Green Digital Coalition. He is fostering cooperation of relevant stakeholders to develop consistent and transparent methods to estimate the net impact of digital solutions on environment/climate, and, green digital transformation in sectors such as energy, transport, construction, agriculture and others.

Before 2017 Ilias was leading the eHealth and ICT for ageing units and contributed to the EU Agenda in eHealth field for over 23 years. Areas he pioneered include Integrated Care; 'Virtual Physiological Human'; Personal Health Systems and Electronic Health Records. Ilias has a PhD in Applied Math (USA) and postdoc in biomedical engineering (Canada).

Going beyond the dilemma 'Is digitalisation climate solution or pollution?'
How to quantify net effect of digitalisation and contribute to positive impact.