GHISLAINE BODDINGTON
- ## SOMEWHERE ON EARTH: THE GLOBAL TECH PODCAST
- ## OCT 2023 TO JULY 2024 (ongoing into 24/25)

Somewhere on Earth: The Global Tech Podcast is a new weekly podcast (October 2023 to date) from the former BBC World Service Digital Planet team that looks at technology and how it impacts our daily lives. "We tell the untold tech stories and are trying to create a tech for good ecosystem where new ideas and new technologies can find support and evolve. We don't do new toys and gadgets, but we look at new trends, new tech and new ways we use that tech in our everyday lives. We discuss how the ever-evolving digital world is changing our culture and our societies, but we don't shy away from the news of the day, looking at the tech behind the top stories affecting our world."

The host is Gareth Mitchell and Ghislaine Boddington is one of 4 regular studio experts, adding in commentary to items related to our present day human condition in relationship to innovative technologies and future-scaping on the body and technology interfaces.

Ghislaine has co-presented 12 shows to July 24 and interviewed a range of guests including Jimmy Wales, Beattie Wolf, Suki Fuller, Suzie Algre and Amanda Renteria amongst others, discussing internet shutdowns, AI for good, tech loneliness epidemic, AI and cancer detection, AI and governance, cybercrime and ransomware, genealogy and new medicines, autonomous vehicles, robotics, data legacies, digitalising public life, what's your data worth?, password futures etc

The Global Tech Podcast often interviews academics from a range of UK and international universities alongside creative industry experts in knowledge exchange engagement   - approx 3-5k downloads per podcast release

Do we need new laws to control AI? Also the Prix Ars Electronica 2024 winner speaks to SOEP

JUL 16, 2024 EPISODE 41

Somewhere on Earth

Do we need new laws to control AI? Will current legislation be sufficient to control the development of AI? How is AI affecting our human rights? Is AI good enough to draft legal submissions? Does automation bias make us want to trust the technology more than we should? These are just some the of questions SOEP is asking international human rights attorney Susie Alegre. She's just published her latest book "Human Rights, Robot Wrongs" and will navigate us through the impact of AI on human rights and our interaction with machines.

 "Smoke and Mirrors" - the Prix d'Electronica 2024 Beatie Wolfe, pioneering artist and composer, has been awarded the Prix Ars Electronica "Golden Nica" for her work "Smoke and Mirrors". She's used NASA data on methane emission. Probably the most prestigious Media Arts Award in the world Beatie represents 60 years of decades of NASA climate data – in this case rising methane levels, set alongside advertising slogans deployed by Big Oil companies to question climate change during this time. Beatie has also beamed her music into space, weaving her second album into an NFC-enabled jacket. SOEP discusses her piece which reflects the interface between art, music, and technology.

The programme is presented by Gareth Mitchell and the studio expert is Ghislaine Boddington. More on this week's stories: [Human Rights, Robot Wrongs](#) [Beatie Wolfe - Prix Ars Electronica 2024 winner](#)

Detecting cancer at the DNA level with AI

JUN 25, 2024 EPISODE 38

Somewhere on Earth

Detecting cancer at the DNA level with AI⸢SEP⸣New research shows that cancer could be detected in the very building blocks of life – our DNA, possibly leading to a diagnosis when the disease is in its infancy. Dr. Shamith Samarajiwa from Imperial College London is on the show to discuss how AI can be used to detect tiny changes to our DNA called methylation patterns. Genetic factors play a significant role in the development of cancer, making it essential to analyse disruptions in our DNA for accurate diagnosis. However, identifying specific genes affected by cancer is not a straightforward process. The impact of cancer on our DNA may appear random initially, but by studying numerous human genomes and disease cases, researchers can start to identify patterns. This requires analysing billions of individual data points to determine any significant findings. ⸢SEP⸣⸢SEP⸣**Could AI help tackle the loneliness epidemic**⸢SEP⸣Being lonely doesn't necessarily mean you are truly alone. We are currently facing what some refer to as a 'loneliness pandemic'. According to a new book, artificial intelligence is becoming more adept at providing social support and helping people overcome the feelings of low self-esteem and social isolation that often accompany loneliness. "The Psychology of Artificial Intelligence" has just been published and author Tony Prescott, a professor of cognitive robotics at the University of Sheffield in England joins us on the podcast.   ⸢SEP⸣⸢SEP⸣**The programme is presented by Gareth Mitchell and the studio expert is Ghislaine Boddington.** ⸢SEP⸣⸢SEP⸣**More on this week's stories:**⸢SEP⸣[Early detection and diagnosis of cancer with interpretable machine learning to uncover cancer-specific DNA methylation patterns](#)⸢SEP⸣[The Psychology of Artificial Intelligence](#)

Who is behind the big hack attacks?
JUN 18, 2024 EPISODE 37
Somewhere on Earth

Who is behind the big hack attacks?⸢SEP⸣More than 100 organisations around the world are believed to have been hacked in ransomware attacks since 2022 by a single hacker group. The most recent occurrence of a ransomware attack was on a company responsible for analysing blood tests for the UK's National Health Service which prompted some major London hospitals to declare a 'critical incident', with many operations postponed. It is believed that a criminal

organisation known as Qilin, consisting of individuals fluent in Russian, orchestrated this malicious act, by inserting a piece of software into the company's IT system which locks it. Once payment is received then access is restored. Ania Lichtarowicz has been investigating for SOEP.␣**Would tweezers be better than robotic hands?**␣ What if, instead of having hands, we had some kind of bionic device at the end of our arms. Could we adapt to it as naturally as if we'd never had hands in the first place? Researchers in Italy have been addressing that very question using virtual reality. They've devised a set of virtual tweezer hands and invited volunteers to try using them to perform dextrous tasks. Professor Viviana Betti leads Cosync, a lab specialising in neurological research at the Sapienza University of Rome in Italy, and the Laboratory of Neuroscience and Applied Technology at the Santa Lucia Foundation IRCCS, also in Rome.␣␣**The programme is presented by Gareth Mitchell and the studio expert is Ghislaine Boddington.** ␣␣

More on this week's stories:␣[The organization tracking the hackers – Group-IB](#)␣[Rewiring the evolution of the human hand: How the embodiment of a virtual bionic tool improves behaviour](#)

AI for peace – using artificial intelligence to manage conflict and maintain peace

APR 30, 2024 EPISODE 30
Somewhere on Earth

AI for peace – using artificial intelligence to manage conflict and maintain peace␣With numerous ongoing conflicts in places like Sudan, Israel-Iran, Gaza, Ukraine, and Syria, peace can seem scarce in today's world. However, artificial intelligence could play a role is managing wars. A new book titled "AI for Peace" provides a roadmap for using artificial intelligence to promote peace. While machine learning is often portrayed negatively, it has real potential for forecasting and preventing violence, combating hate speech, and addressing the root causes of conflict. Branka Panic, co-author, joins us to discuss how AI can be used to maintain peace.␣␣**World Password Day – make yours secure**␣We're sure you've probably heard it all before, but just in case. As

World Password Day approaches Gareth and Ghislaine take a look at what makes a good, secure password. We also hear from one of our listeners' who works in IT infrastructure for a major global firm and we get his advice on making passwords simple, easy to remember but almost unhackable.⸢SEP⸣⸢SEP⸣**The programme is presented by Gareth Mitchell and the studio expert is Ghislaine Boddington.**

More on this week's stories:⸢SEP⸣[AI for Peace](#)⸢SEP⸣[World Password Day](#)

World Cybercrime Index – Where are the cybercriminals hiding?
APR 23, 2024 EPISODE 29
Somewhere on Earth

World Cybercrime Index – Where are the cybercriminals hiding?⸢SEP⸣Russia leads the list of countries that host cybercrime, followed by Ukraine, China, the USA, Nigeria and Romania, according to a new study by an international team of researchers. The findings come from anonymous questionnaires completed by ninety-two cybercrime experts. The researchers say this survey approach overcomes a major challenge in investigating cybercrime - the anonymity of perpetrators who conceal their identities online. Dr Miranda Bruce, from the University of Oxford and New South Wales in Canberra is lead author and is on show.

What is your data worth and can you use it like money?⸢SEP⸣"It's where the future goes to be born". That's one of the ways to describe Web Summit. It's a series of events around the globe that brings together some of the biggest names in tech. Over 34,000 attendees have just taken part in Web Summit Rio. Our own Angelica Mari sat down with Drumwave CEO and co-founder Andre Vellozo to discuss the infrastructures that will enable us to trade with our own data.⸢SEP⸣⸢SEP⸣**The programme is presented by Gareth Mitchell and the studio expert is Ghislaine Boddington.**⸢SEP⸣⸢SEP⸣

More on this week's stories:⸢SEP⸣[World Cybercrime Index](#)⸢SEP⸣[Drumwave](#)

Tech stories that matter – what should we be reporting on?

APR 11, 2024

Somewhere on Earth

Tech stories that matter – what should we be reporting on?

A little extra episode for our lovely SOEP Subscribers. Just over a year ago the BBC axed its flagship global tech radio show – Digital Planet. A few of the listeners (we did have 1.5million downloads a year BTW) got together in London to reminisce and remember the programme. Here's a short recording from that evening where some of the team discussed what stories they would have been covering if Digital Planet was still on air. Hopefully we're reporting on them here on Somewhere on Earth – if not let us know what we should be doing!␣SEP␣SEP␣This show is presented by Gareth Mitchell with studio experts Ghislaine Boddington and Bill Thompson.

Making America e-smart - Digitising public life in the US

MAR 05, 2024 EPISODE 22

Somewhere on Earth

Digitising public life in the US – making America e-smart␣SEP␣Many governments and local authorities around the world have moved many, if not all their public services online, from filing tax returns to e-passports and food assistance schemes. However, the United States is lagging behind, with many civic services providing lengthy and user-unfriendly systems. CEO of Code for America, the nonprofit social organisation that's bringing about much of this digital change in public life, Amanda Renteria explains why the US needs to make e-access to its public services easier.␣SEP␣SEP␣**Train your brain to overcome tinnitus with an app**␣SEP␣A new app, called MindEar can reduce the impact of tinnitus in just a few weeks. It uses sound, relaxation and cognitive behaviour therapy which can be accessed through a smart phone. It's estimated that up to one in four people may have the condition worldwide and the cause of this

debilitating buzzing or ringing sound is still unknown. Current treatments are expensive and hard to come by. But this new chatbot app helps train your brain's reaction to the sound, tuning out the tinnitus. Scientists from Australia, New Zealand, France and Belgium report the findings in the journal *Frontiers in Audiology and Otology*. The lead author and co-founder of MindEar app, Dr Fabrice Bardy, is on the show. The programme is presented by Gareth Mitchell and the studio expert is Ghislaine Boddington.

More on this week's stories: Code for America Amanda Renteria Cognitive behavioral therapy and telepsychology in tinnitus via an app

Jimmy Wales - The Wiki Guy - answers your questions
FEB 27, 2024 EPISODE 21
Somewhere on Earth

Jimmy Wales - Wikipedia co-founder - answers your questions We speak to the one and only "Wiki Guy" as even he describes himself. Wikipedia and Wikimedia co-founder Jimmy Wales joins Gareth and Ghislaine on the show. He will be talking about his new project called Trust Café and answering your questions on amongst other things Wikipedia's moderation policies and the impact of large language models on the online encyclopaedia. The programme is presented by Gareth Mitchell and the studio expert is Ghislaine Boddington. The programme is presented by Gareth Mitchell and the studio expert is Ghislaine Boddington.

More on this week's stories: Jimmy Wales The Wikimedia Foundation Trust Café

The most hacked place in the world…and many more tech stories of 2023
DEC 26, 2023 EPISODE 12
Somewhere on Earth

The most hacked place in the world…and many more tech stories of 2023

The still gaping gap for women in tech in pay and position - the underdog and the underpaid, to climate tech – the problem or the solution, are just some of the stories discussed in this episode. Intelligence analyst, Agatha Christie fan and Computer Weekly's 2023 Women in Tech winner Suki Fuller joins regular studio experts Ghislaine Boddington and Angelica Mari to take us through some of the big tech stories of the year.⌞SEP⌟⌞SEP⌟**The programme is presented by Gareth Mitchell and the studio experts are Ghislaine Boddington and Angelica Mari.**

The risk of ransomware attacks - are governments taking them seriously?

DEC 19, 2023 EPISODE 11
Somewhere on Earth

The risk of ransomware attacks - are governments taking them seriously?⌞SEP⌟A report out this week by the Joint Committee on the National Security Strategy in the UK claims that because of the British government's failures to tackle ransomware, there is a "high risk" the country faces a "catastrophic ransomware attack at any moment." We discuss whether governments at all levels - national or local – are doing enough to protect themselves against these types of attack, and what happens when defences are breached? Also, how can we protect our data online - top tips from our studio expert.⌞SEP⌟⌞SEP⌟**Keeping our data for future generations - will our archiving stand the test of time?** ⌞SEP⌟IT technology journalist and new media pioneer Bill Thompson joins us to answer a listener's question. Sam Quinn asks "having recently returned from an amazing holiday in Egypt and Jordan, and seeing the 'data' left from people living thousands of years ago, I'd love to hear how data from the current days, held on magnetic media will survive well into the future (given I can't even play VHS tapes any more!)."

The programme is presented by Gareth Mitchell and the studio expert is Ghislaine Boddington.

Saving lives at sea with an autonomous lifeboat

DEC 05, 2023 EPISODE 9

Saving lives at sea with an autonomous lifeboat⌊SEP⌋An autonomous lifeboat is being tested in Scottish waters in a bid to save many more lives at sea. Currently, the main reason for not launching lifeboat rescue missions to distress calls is the risk to the rescuers – not only will those already in danger be probably lost but also those going out to save them. With a crew-less boat this is no longer a risk. The vessel will use an AI detection system to identify victims in the water and a conveyor belt to lift them out of the sea. Sam Mayall, Founder and CEO of Zelim, the company behind the autonomous lifeboat joins us on the show.⌊SEP⌋⌊SEP⌋**Could Icelandic genes lead to new medical treatments?**⌊SEP⌋Genealogy is a national hobby of Iceland, and its people are known for their long-standing passion for it. This tradition was taken further into a digital world and Íslendingabók (The Book of Icelanders), a free online genealogical database was developed. It holds genealogical details of almost entire populations going back to the 9th century when the first Viking and Celtic settlers arrived there. The database is very popular with ordinary Icelanders and is used mostly out of fun and curiosity. It even has an anti-incest feature which shows if people are related to each other when dating. However, the database is also being used by scientists to study the genetics of certain diseases. SOEP's Snezana Curcic has been to Iceland to find out how the Íslendingabók works.⌊SEP⌋⌊SEP⌋⌊SEP⌋**The programme is presented by Gareth Mitchell and the studio expert is Ghislaine Boddington.**

More on this week's stories:⌊SEP⌋⌊SEP⌋Zelim: the future or unmanned search and rescue⌊SEP⌋https://www.zelim.co/⌊SEP⌋⌊SEP⌋deCode Genetics⌊SEP⌋https://www.decode.com/⌊SEP⌋⌊SEP⌋Dr Kari Stefansson, CEO, deCode⌊SEP⌋Kari Stefansson - deCODE genetics | LinkedIn⌊SEP⌋⌊SEP⌋Iceland Genealogy App⌊SEP⌋https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0175wbv⌊SEP⌋⌊SEP⌋Harpa, Reykjavik's Cultural Centre ⌊SEP⌋https://www.harpa.is/en/

A robot that can detect breast cancer?
OCT 31, 2023 EPISODE 1

Somewhere on Earth
[Send us a Text Message.](#)

A new robot to detect breast cancer⎡SEP⎤⎡SEP⎤Imagine going to the supermarket to do your weekly shop and also getting a breast examination at the same time. The screening would be performed not by a human but a robot, designed by engineers at the University of Bristol and the Bristol Robotics Laboratory in the UK. It's called "IRIS" and it looks like a mechanical claw which can apply very specific forces and detect lumps using sensor technology deeper in the breast tissue than ever before - meaning that it could detect cancer at an earlier stage. Dr. Antonia Tzemenaki and lead researcher George Jenkinson are on the Somewhere on Earth podcast to explain how it all works.⎡SEP⎤⎡SEP⎤**Could AI be reducing internet freedom?**⎡SEP⎤⎡SEP⎤Internet freedom is declining globally because certain governments are using developments in AI to restrict content their citizens can access online. According to a report by Freedom House - an American organisation that describes itself as supporting and defending democracy around the world - some governments are using AI to increase online censorship and also fabricating images, audio and text to distribute misinformation. Journalist Emma Woollacott explains which countries are most impacted.⎡SEP⎤⎡SEP⎤The programme is presented by Gareth Mitchell and the studio expert is Ghislaine Boddington.⎡SEP⎤⎡SEP⎤**More on this week's stories:**

- [New robot could help diagnose breast cancer early](#)
- [The Repressive Power of Artificial Intelligence](#)
- [Freedom On The Net Report Highlights Dangers Of AI](#)

Ghislaine Boddington - 30th July 2024