

Anthropology, AI and the Future of Human Society

6-10 JUNE
2022



Royal Anthropological Institute

with

British Science Fiction Association

Future Anthropologies Network (FAN) of EASA

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Conference committee: Ezri Carlebach, Hanine Habig, Sophie Cowling, David Shankland

Conference Coordinator: Amanda Vinson

IT Provider: NomadIT

Welcome

Message from the President

It with great pleasure that I welcome delegates to our conference Anthropology, AI and the future of Human Society. Our motivations for holding such a conference are many: AI and its associated technological developments may transform society radically, even pose an existential threat. Even as we struggle to cope with climate change and war, we will have to come up with policy, ethical, legal and practical ways to ensure that its beneficial possibilities are harnessed and its harmful consequences limited. There is indeed no sphere of human activity that will potentially remain untouched, whether it is science or the arts, production or consumption; even life and death itself.

Anthropology and anthropologists rightly pride themselves on the great breadth of the subjects that they study. Yet, curiously, this is one area that we seem urgently to need to develop capacity: we know of very few programmes around the world which routinely incorporate discussions on AI in their teaching, and still fewer who work on the future of human society. This is all the more paradoxical as conceptions of the future are of course integral to human life and cosmology wherever we should look.

This brings us onto a further, fascinating implication of considering the future. As what is to come is by definition unpredictable and unknown, even if we can make plausible and convincing speculations, the divisions between anthropology and disciplines or areas of human thought dissolve very quickly. We can think of no area of human inquiry where we can work so easily and harmoniously therefore with literature, arts, and science than in envisaging what is to come. We need not therefore think we are alone in this inquiry, indeed to the contrary we can learn and engage with those thinkers both past and present from anywhere in the world who have imagined the future and learn a great deal from them.

The Royal Anthropological Institute is delighted to be partnering with the British Science Fiction Association and the European Association of Anthropologists' Future Anthropologies Network for this event, and we welcome their members. As always, I should conclude by thanking the staff of the RAI, in particular our Assistant Director of Administration Mrs Amanda Vinson, who has brought the conference programme together ably and efficiently. I wish all delegates a most productive and stimulating meeting.

*Professor Dame Sue Black, Baroness Black of Strome
President, Royal Anthropological Institute*

Message from the Director

I should like to join the President of the RAI in extending a welcome to delegates to our conference, and also thank our two partnership organisations: the Future Anthropologies Network of EASA, and the British Science Fiction Association. I should like to thank also the staff of the RAI, the Anthropology of Policy and Practice Committee of the RAI for its advice throughout, and one of its members in particular, Ezri Carlebach, who has been a fount of thoughtful knowledge.

The conference is to be held virtually, using Zoom with Whova: in practice we have found that this seems to work well from the technical point of view, though we look forward to receiving feedback from delegates. I should add however that there is nevertheless one conference event that is face to face. This is the Myers Lecture to be delivered by Professor Harvey Whitehouse, which will take place in the Grove Lecture Theatre of Magdalen College Oxford, 4.00-5.30pm, Tuesday 7th June. If any delegate would like to attend in person, please sign up via Eventbrite from the events section of the RAI website. Alas, and this is the down-side of face to face events, there is a limit to the Lecture Theatre's capacity. However, the lecture will also be live-streamed so it will also be possible to view it remotely.

When organising the large RAI conferences our aim is not only to bring colleagues and like-minded delegates together to discuss specific issues, but also to think about how anthropology may contribute, and how we can encourage capacity-building in these areas. We hope very much that, during the course of this wonderful programme, we will be able to revisit this with regard to anthropology and the future of human society. Our final session, during which we will open the floor to all delegates for debate, is devoted to this issue, and I am keenly curious as to what conclusions we may arrive at.

To be part of such creative discussions goes to the very heart of why we have the RAI, and why we become involved in its activities. If any delegate is not already a Fellow of the RAI, you would be most welcome to join us, and become part of our intellectual journey! It only remains for me to wish all delegates a most successful and memorable week.

*Dr David Shankland
Director, Royal Anthropological Institute*

Practical information

Whova

The conference will be run on the Whova platform. You can find an attendee guide [here](#) and a speaker guide [here](#). Whova works with Zoom, so the interface should be quite familiar to all. Within the platform there will also be the opportunity to message other attendees, have video meet-ups with people and virtual coffee rooms.

Presenters

If you are presenting, you will be asked to check in to your virtual Zoom panel 30 minutes before its official starting time. You need to have a functioning (external or internal) microphone and camera. You can always quickly test these in a Zoom test meeting <https://zoom.us/test>. For simple viewing of a panel, a mobile device may be enough but we recommend presenters don't enter their panel with a mobile device as this may reduce necessary Zoom controls.

Should you use slides for your presentation, you will need to share them yourself from your own computer, ideally in PowerPoint. Here is how:

- In your meeting, you'll see a selection of meeting controls. Select the green Share Screen icon.
- A new window will pop up where you can select the specific screen you want to share. For privacy reasons, we recommend not sharing the full screen/desktop, but only the software that holds your slides. You select this by clicking on it.
- If your slides contain video or audio files, you should enable 'Share Sound' and/or 'Optimise for video clip'
- Any copyright issues are the responsibility of the presenter, so please consider that before sharing material that is not yours

Tips for connection issues

- Connect via an Ethernet cable if you can, this can make a huge difference.
- If you have to connect via Wi-Fi, then being close to the router really helps, ideally being in the same room.
- Turn off Wi-Fi on other devices. If you have housemates who stream movies, download big files or are also in a Zoom, this reduces your overall speed - you may want to ask them to suspend their activity for the duration of the event.
- Switch off 'enable HD' and 'touch up my appearance' in the video settings
- You can test your internet speed on many websites. Zoom requires internet bandwidth of at least 1.5 Mbps to let you make group calls with video. If you have low bandwidth it can help to switch off your video and only come in via voice.

Accessibility

When registering for the conference please state any accessibility needs/requests in the registration form, so we can follow-up and work toward making conferences more welcoming to scholars with disabilities.

If you need assistance during the conference, please contact info@therai.org.uk in advance. We will do our best to assist delegates.

Best practice

We have set out best practice guidelines for [delegates](#), [convenors](#) and [presenters](#). Please see each page for further details.

Recording policy

The conference operates an opt out system for recording. All panels and plenaries will be recorded as standard. Please see further details [here](#). If any presenter would like to opt out of being featured in the recordings please contact us on info@therai.org.uk, either before or after the conference.

Acceptance letters

Formal acceptance letters (signed pdfs on headed paper) can be downloaded from the login environment (the login link is the head icon on the upper navigation bar). Log in, proceed past your contact details with the "Proceed" button (located under the contact fields) and then scroll through to your panel/paper. There will be an encircled A at the end of the panel/paper title line. Click on this, download the pdf and print your letter. Please note that we do not send such letters by post.

Editing your name and institution in the system ([Cocoa](#))

You can access your data (paper or panel information, personal data details) by logging into [Cocoa](#) from the [login link](#). Make sure your contact details are the way you'd like them to be presented as these are visible on panel pages:

- Your title
- Name
- Institution

Controlling/editing your panel

Panel convenors can use the [login link](#) to edit their proposals. Convenors are requested to administer their panels via this login environment. Convenors should login to state any specific timing requests for their panel (when directed to so by the conference administrator), to add the names of chairs/discussants, and to manage the paper proposals. Co-convenors cannot be added/removed nor can panels be withdrawn through this environment - please email us to do this info@therai.org.uk.

Pre-circulation of papers

The RAI has no rule about this; many convenors are keen, however, to pre-circulate completed papers. To facilitate this, an author can upload a PDF of their paper within the [login](#) environment, which will then show as a downloadable file beneath their abstract on the public page on this site. It is a convenor's decision whether they instruct their presenters to make use of this.

Timing of presentations

Convenors are free to allocate the time in their sessions as they like. Each session slot will be 105 minutes long, accommodating a maximum of five presenters. The RAI norm is to allocate each presenter in a panel a maximum of 15 minutes (for presentation and questions/discussion), but convenors should let you know about this nearer the time of the conference. Roundtable sessions have shorter presentations and more time for discussion. Workshops are more interactive.

Communication between authors/convenors

Convenor/author email addresses are not shown on the panel pages for anti-spam reasons. However, there is an inbuilt secure email messaging system.

Convenor responsibilities

It is the convenors' responsibility to ensure that all panel participants are well briefed and that the panel continues to meet requirements. To that end, convenors should not only communicate their decisions over proposals to paper proposers, but also later in the process, email the panellists to:

- inform them of the speaking order (albeit this is displayed on the public panel page)
- inform them as to how much time they have been allocated
- remind them to register (the registration status can be seen in the login environment)
- inform them of any late changes or additional chairs/discussants, and give any other information related to the panel.
- if panellists withdraw, convenors should inform the organisers.

Our Co-organisers

The British Science Fiction Association



Future Anthropologies Network (FAN)



Our Conference Exhibitors

Berghahn Books



Combined Academic Publishers



Human Relations Area Files
at Yale University



Wiley



Stephen Oram

**Stephen
Oram
(Author)**

Daily timetable

Monday 6 June

10:00-11:30: Welcome and Keynote: Sarah Pink

11:30-12:00: Break and Wiley Special Event: *JRAI* – Meet the Editors and Q&A

12:00-13:45: Session 1

13:45-14:30: Break

14:30-16:15: Session 2

Tuesday 7 June

11:00-12:45: Session 3

12:45-13:30: Break

13:30-15:15: Session 4

15:15-16:00: Break

16:00-17:30: Plenary: Henry Myers Lecture, Harvey Whitehouse

17:30-18:00: Break and Special Event: Introducing the eHRAF Databases for Anthropological Research

18:00-19:30: Indigenous Film Futures Roundtable

Wednesday 8 June

12:00-13:45: Session 5

13:45-14:30: Break

14:30-16:15: Session 6

16:15-17:00: Break and Special Event: Introducing the eHRAF Databases for Anthropological Research

17:00-18:30: Plenary: Gillian Tett

Thursday 9 June

12:00-13:45: Session 7

13:45-14:30: Break

14:30-16:15: Session 8

16:15-17:00: Break

17:00-18:30: Misogynistic Algorithms

Friday 10 June

12:00-13:45: Session 9

13:45-14:30: Break

14:30-16:15: Session 10

16:15-17:00: Break and Jacob Turner, author of *Robot Rules: Regulating Artificial Intelligence*

17:00-18:30: Closing Discussion

Plenaries

A01 Opening and Keynote: Sarah Pink "Anthropology and Emerging Technologies: learning to play in the futures space"

Plenary

Convenor: Prof Sarah Pink (Monash University)

Mon 6th Jun, 10:00-11:30

How can we ethically, responsibly and inclusively investigate and intervene in possible futures? What is the place and role of anthropology as artificial intelligence, automated decision-making and other emerging connected and smart systems and technologies are increasingly part of our present and imagined futures?

A02 Plenary and Henry Myers Lecture: Harvey Whitehouse "Rethinking Ritual: How rituals made our world... and how they could save it"

Plenary

Convenor: Prof Harvey Whitehouse (University of Oxford)

Chair: Dr David Shankland (Royal Anthropological Institute)

Tue 7th Jun, 16:00-17:30

Rituals provide a way of defining the boundaries of social groups and binding their members together. This Myers Lecture attempts to unravel the psychology behind these processes, to explain how ritual behaviour evolved and how different modes of ritual performance have shaped global history over many millennia. Efforts to test the 'ritual modes' theory have used a wide variety of methods ranging from field research, large scale multi-country surveys, and controlled experiments through to mathematical modelling and quantitative analysis of archaeological, ethnographic, and historical datasets. The results of this research point to new ways of addressing cooperation problems in the twenty-first century: from preventing violent extremism and tackling crime to managing global pandemics and motivating action on the climate crisis.

A03 Plenary: Gillian Tett "Why a world drowning in AI needs a second type of AI - anthropology intelligence"

Plenary

Convenor: Dr Gillian Tett (Financial Times)

Chair: Dr David Shankland (Royal Anthropological Institute)

Wed 8th Jun, 17:00-18:30

There is an urgent need for anthropology to embrace the challenges and perils of AI, from a human-centered perspective. A growing number of policy makers and corporate leaders recognize this, in the sense of getting a new-found appreciation for social dynamics and tech. But will anthropologists seize this challenge? And if so, what needs to happen next?

A04 Misogynistic Algorithms

Plenary

Convenor: Prof Kathleen Richardson (De Montfort University)

Thu 9th Jun, 17:00-18:30

In her pioneering ethnographic work among AI engineers and developers in the late 1980s and early '90s, Diana E. Forsythe explored – in terms that might today be considered moderate – the hidden cultural assumptions and gender relations in the field. “Both female bodies and experience,” she wrote, “tend to be treated as inherently anomalous in the male world of high technology”. This anomalous status renders women’s bodies as “hyper-visible” and their experience as invisible to their male colleagues, and, by extension, to the emerging AI systems.

17:00-18:30

Dehumanising Design: how algorithms see the world and the construction of misogyny

Author: Dr Paula Boddington (University of West London)

This talk explores how AI is built upon ways of understanding the world, interpreting and analysing data, and formalising intelligence which can produce and reinforce dehumanising attitudes, and may in particular reproduce misogyny in the form of a reductive and instrumental view of women. The design and use of AI including social media can exacerbate this tendency to misogyny, which spills over into real world practices which reduce women to component parts to be manipulated by technoscience.

TBC

Author: Dr Shirley MacWilliam (Ulster University)

Mothers of AI? Alan Turing on Ada Lovelace

Author: Dr Teresa Heffernan (Saint Mary's University, Halifax)

Alan Turing, intent on birthing his "child machine," objected to Ada Lovelace's assertion that the Analytical Engine could not "originate anything." He proposed that Lovelace had likely never considered the possibilities of speed and storage when she noted the limits of computation. As the daughter of a poet, however, Lovelace more likely recognized the limits of rule-bound machines and valued a decentralized intelligence rooted in imagination, creativity, and language.

Man the toolmaker, woman the tool: AI and the world's actual oldest profession

Author: Dr Kathleen Lowrey (University of Alberta)

In her classic 1986 text *The Creation of Patriarchy*, Gerda Lerner argued that Friedrich Engels had gotten the reason for the “world historical defeat of the female sex” wrong.

A05 Closing Discussion

Plenary

Chair: Dr David Shankland (Royal Anthropological Institute)

Discussants: Mr Ezri Carlebach; Dr Debora Lanzani (Monash); Prof Kathleen Richardson (De Montfort University); Mrs Karen Waltorp (University of Copenhagen)

Fri 10th Jun, 17:00-18:30

Indigenous Film Futures

Indigenous Film Futures is an online exhibition taking place as part of the RAI conference Anthropology, AI and the Future of Human Society. Centering indigenous speculative fiction on film, the exhibition celebrates the work of Indigenous filmmakers and theorists who focus on temporality and the future in their practice. The featured artists explore alternate worlds, speculative futures, Indigenous sciences and non-linear temporalities in ways that reflect on themes of colonization, survivance and ecological sustainability. They refute discourses that weld indigeneity to an a-historicised past and assert a thriving Indigenous life in the present and future. This work deploys futurism to question the notion of a single linear temporality that subsumes all others and fashion strategies of hope and possibilities in the present.

Inspired by leading thinkers and artists Grace Dillon, Loretta Todd and Skawennati amongst many others, this online exhibition encourages visitors to take a multimedia journey through online spaces designed and run by Indigenous creators.

The exhibition will include:

- Short films
- A live online roundtable discussion with Grace Dillon (chair), and filmmakers Nanobah Becker and Kristian Mercado
- A resource list of readings and websites that will help the visitor learn more about Indigenous Futurism

Grace L. Dillon is professor in the Indigenous Nations Studies Program, in the School of Gender, Race, and Nations, at Portland State University and author of *Walking the Clouds, an anthology of Indigenous Science Fiction*.

Key dates:

The exhibition will open on Friday 27 May 2022

The live online roundtable discussion will take place on Tuesday 7 June 6:00-7:30PM BST

F01 Indigenous Film Futures Roundtable

Film

Chair: Prof Grace Dillon (Portland State University)

Tue 7th Jun, 18:00-19:30

A live conversation with filmmakers Nanobah Becker and Kristian Mercado, chaired by Grace L. Dillon (author of *Walking the Clouds*, an anthology of Indigenous Science Fiction), on contemporary indigenous speculative fiction on film.

18:00-19:30

Nanobah Becker: *The Sixth World*

Author: Ms Nanobah Becker

Nanobah Becker (Diné) is an award-winning writer/director whose short films FLAT, CONVERSION, and THE 6th WORLD and video collaborations I LOST MY SHADOW and MY SOUL REMAINER have screened at festivals in the U.S. and internationally including the Sundance Film Festival, Tribeca Film Festival, and imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival and have been acquired by institutions such as the Baltimore Museum of Art. Her newest short film, LANDBACK, WATERBACK, will premiere at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. in July 2022. Nanobah is a citizen of the Navajo Nation and was a dialogue director on the Navajo language dub of FINDING NEMO (NEMO HÁDÉEST'ÍÍ). She has also produced films for fellow indigenous filmmakers such as Blackhorse Lowe's SHIMASÁNÍ and currently calls Tovaangar (Los Angeles) home.

Kristian Mercado: *Nuevo Rico*

Author: Mr Kristian Mercado

Kristian Mercado Figueroa is an award winning Puerto Rican filmmaker living in Spanish Harlem. Mercado's distinct voice addresses issues of identity, family, and systemic oppression across race and class. His work is celebrated for its portrayal of working class struggles, highlighting love and loss. He is the director of *Nuevo Rico*.

Panels

F02 Algorithmus, wat isn dat? (Algoritihm - what is that?)

Film

Convenors: Mr Emilian Franco (Universität der Bundeswehr München); Mr Oliver Kalla

Thu 9th Jun, 14:30-16:15

In the documentary "Algorithmus, wat isn dat?" (algoritihm - what is that?) we look at the influence of algorithms on our daily lives in Germany. In the center stands the question, how our algorithmic future is imagined.

P01a AI and interdisciplinary Futures Anthropology

Panel

Convenors: Prof Sarah Pink (Monash University); Dr Emma Quilty (Monash University); Dr Debora Lanzeni (Monash); Dr Kari Dahlgren (Monash University)

Mon 6th Jun, 12:00-13:45

This panel creates an Interdisciplinary Futures focused AI Anthropology, whereby anthropologists might collaborate and shift the narratives in futures-focused spaces where other disciplines currently dominate.

12:00-13:45

Agencies of Technological Cognitive Ecologies. Working in Co-composition with Artificial Vision.

Author: Mr Andrés Pachón (Universidade de Coimbra (Portugal))

This paper presents a collaborative interdisciplinary project between anthropology and artificial vision programming. It aims to design alternative interfaces that 'model interpretation'—instead of displaying AI outputs—through non-standard co-presence between both human and artificial agencies.

At the “hinge” of future fictions and everyday failings: Ethnographic interventions in AI systems

Authors: Prof Rebecca Carlson (Toyo University); Other Libuše Hannah Veprek (LMU Munich)

AI futures emerge in the “hinge” between techno-ideologies and the everyday failings of algorithmic systems. For anthropologists to engage with these, they must attend to this convergence. In addition, to intervene ethnographically they must build interdisciplinary and participatory collaborations.

AI/nthropology - New Research Methods in Anthropology

Authors: Ms Sonja Schmer-Galunder (Smart Information Flow Technologies); Dr Gwyneth Sutherlin (National Defense University); Dr Adam Russell (University of Maryland)

We propose the idea of an AI/nthropology as a new way to conduct anthropological research. We describe risks and opportunities when using AI to see 'patterns of culture'.

Cryptic Commons: anthropological engagements with data-security, socio-mathematics, and interventions across scientific disciplines

Authors: Dr Astrid Oberborbeck Andersen (Arbejde); Dr Adrienne Mannov (Aarhus University)

We present the Cryptic Commons, a co-created space where cyber-physical systems are objects for transdisciplinary research and public debate. What new tasks do AI and the digital era present for anthropology? How can anthropology critically and caringly engage with these new socio-technical forms?

Sympoietic Futures AI Anthropology

Author: Dr Sonja Trifuljesko (University of Helsinki)

The paper explores the relevance of the concept of sympoiesis for an engaged and interdisciplinary Futures focused AI Anthropology.

P01b AI and interdisciplinary Futures Anthropology

Panel

Convenors: Prof Sarah Pink (Monash University); Dr Emma Quilty (Monash University); Dr Debora Lanzeni (Monash); Dr Kari Dahlgren (Monash University)

Tue 7th Jun, 11:00-12:45

This panel creates an Interdisciplinary Futures focused AI Anthropology, whereby anthropologists might collaborate and shift the narratives in futures-focused spaces where other disciplines currently dominate.

11:00-12:45

The Future of Mind Reading and Neuroanthropology of the Future: AI-assisted neuroimaging and face recognition technologies for dementia diagnosis and care.

Author: Ms N. Elida Delfurth (York University)

This paper explores AI-assisted technologies used in dementia research for diagnosis and care. I investigate these innovations through the lens of Neuroanthropology, Medical Anthropology, STS, Human-Machine Interaction, and Sociotechnical Theory to envision an Anthropology of AI futures.

Community, queer, weird, eerie, alien AI. Opportunities of Cyberdiverse computational ecosystems.

Authors: Mr Salvatore Iaconesi (HER She Loves Data); Dr Oriana Persico (Human ecosystems relazioni srl)

Diverse and possibilistic definitions of what AI and of other computational agents are bring unexpected results and uncharted relational patterns. A series of cases across art and design are explored to represent possible psychological, social, cultural, political advantages of cyberdiversity.

The Sentient Social Network: How can anthropology help big tech to build a more compassionate cyber society?

Author: Mr Matthew Adams (Brunel University)

The rise of social media has often been associated with an increased polarisation of online communities and a decline in mental health. Drawing on three years' research with online communities in the US, UK, and China, I present a vision for a future cyber society that is more compassionate.

Algorithmic Enactments: exploring the making of an early warning algorithm

Authors: Dr Maja Hojer Bruun (Aarhus University); Dr Eva Larsen (Regionshospitalet Horsens)

We explore how an algorithmic system, designed to predict critical illness, is taking shape in a negotiation process between software engineers, project managers, and health professionals. We are particularly interested in the ways professional expertise is articulated, negotiated and transformed.

Negotiating techno-imaginaries in the clinic: the future of “good lives”

Author: Ms Sophie Wagner (University of Bern)

The image of how the semi-automated technology for type 1 diabetes works, and how patients actually experience it, differ to a great extent. It is time to address these incongruencies in the understanding of care and come to terms with how patients and technology co-create knowledge and experience.

P01c AI and interdisciplinary Futures Anthropology

Panel

Convenors: Prof Sarah Pink (Monash University); Dr Emma Quilty (Monash University); Dr Debora Lanzeni (Monash); Dr Kari Dahlgren (Monash University)

Wed 8th Jun, 12:00-13:45

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12:00-13:45

AI nightmares in platforms everyday work life: anthropological interventions in shared visions of dystopian futures

Author: Dr Debora Lanzeni (Monash)

Academics often characterise the rise of platform work through dystopian future visions shaped by government, consultancy and industry agendas. This paper draws on interdisciplinary ethnography to analyse how such visions are implicated in the lives of platform workers with AI.

The Problem with Pod Man

Author: Dr Emma Quilty (Monash University)

This paper will explore the limitations of the transport sector's visions for the future through the figure of Pod Man. Pod Man has been created to draw attention to the pervasive gendered, classist and racially coded ideas about the future users of automated transport.

Reframing AI-Driven Futures of the first and last mile of travel: A design ethnographic approach

Authors: Prof Vaike Fors (Halmstad university); Dr Rachel Charlotte Smith (Aarhus University); Dr Meike Brodersen (Halmstad University)

In this paper we explain our tailored design ethnographic approach in the multi-stakeholder future AI-driven mobilities project AHA II (2018-2022), and demonstrate how it was used to reframe technology-driven visions of efficient and individualised transport rooted in people's everyday lives.

P01d AI and interdisciplinary Futures Anthropology

Panel

Convenors: Prof Sarah Pink (Monash University); Dr Emma Quilty (Monash University); Dr Debora Lanzeni (Monash); Dr Kari Dahlgren (Monash University)

Thu 9th Jun, 12:00-13:45

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Cyborg Cooks: Making Futures in the Kitchen

Author: Dr Katharina Graf (Goethe University Frankfurt)

Rather than interrogate and challenge narratives around the impact of science and technology on everyday cooking practices as imagined by designers and marketers, this paper adopts a reverse perspective and argues that domestic kitchens are ideal places from whence to study how futures are made.

AI and the Western Illusion of Human Nature: Anthropology's fight against Human Reducationism and its Interdisciplinary Future

Author: Prof Veronica Barassi (University of St. Gallen, Switzerland)

AI systems construct stereotypical and biased understandings of human experience and anthropology is best suited to challenge their implicit human reductionism. Although the discipline can play a key role in the future of AI ethics research it will need to design more interdisciplinary projects.

Comfort with Control: Voice assistants and silent control in the home

Authors: Dr Kari Dahlgren (Monash University); Mr Rex Martin (Monash University); Dr Yolande Strengers (Monash University); Dr Larissa Nicholls (Monash University); Prof Sarah Pink (Monash University)

This paper describes three women who variously reject voice assistants in their homes. It shows how their experiences illustrate an incompatibility between forms of control that are embedded into the design of digital voice assistants and 'silent control' operationalised by women in their homes.

Automated Air Futures?: protecting our air, protecting ourselves

Author: Prof Sarah Pink (Monash University)

With bushfire smoke, asthma thunderstorms, allergens, and COVID-19, Australia's air is increasingly feared, while innovations in sensors, air quality analytics advance, and air filter/purifier use grows. But should we be protecting ourselves from our air, or protecting our air from us?

P01e AI and interdisciplinary Futures Anthropology

Panel

Convenors: Prof Sarah Pink (Monash University); Dr Emma Quilty (Monash University); Dr Debora Lanzeni (Monash); Dr Kari Dahlgren (Monash University)

Fri 10th Jun, 12:00-13:45

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12:00-13:45

Rebel robots: generative potential of future tensions lived at present

Authors: Dr Melisa Duque (Monash University); Prof Sarah Pink (Monash University); Dr Shanti Sumartojo (Monash University); Dr Yolande Strengers (Monash University)

This paper examines the frictions that emerge as 'rebellious robots' participate in everyday sites of care. It generates new design anthropological insights and pathways towards understanding socio-material temporalities of care when designing for automated futures.

Reconfiguring Human-Robot Interaction

Authors: Mrs Christina Vestergaard (Aarhus University); Miss malene flensburg Damholdt (Aarhus University); Prof Johanna Seibt (Aarhus University)

Engaging with fields of emerging future technology such as AI and social robots normally dominated by engineers, the paper introduce an interdisciplinary methodology which aim to ensure ethical, conceptual and practical reconfigurations of the research, design, and development of social robotics.

Android Expression: The female form as problematic standard for embodied AI existence

Author: Dr Kristian Hoeck

This paper depicts my attempt at interventionist audiovisual fieldwork amongst Japanese roboticists in which the collaboration around a video production of the female android ERICA shows her gendered expression to be a problematic standard for robotics AI to gain an embodied algorithmic existence.

Pandora's Robot: Cultural Implications of Morally Autonomous Artificial Intelligence

Author: Dr Kerrie Harvey (George Washington University)

Illustrates advantages of a transdisciplinary approach when exploring the technical feasibility, social desirability, and the cultural implications of robotic combat troops, self-driving cars, and other AI technology by deconstructing a webcast of two robots debating the future of humanity.

P02 Social robots, scientists and the Anthropology of the Post-Human: exploring the entanglements of the social robot industry and the shaping of anthropology, beyond the human.

Panel

Convenor: Dr Raluca Bianca Roman (Queen's University Belfast)

Thu 9th Jun, 12:00-13:45

Looking at the development of the social robot industry across the world, this panel seeks to address some of the most fundamental questions concerning human/AI relations connected to understanding of being 'human', of the 'social' and the ensuing development of an anthropology of the post-human.

12:00-13:45

Social Robots as Experimental Systems: Science, Performance, and Artificial Sociality

Author: Mr Frederik Vejlin (Aarhus University)

This paper builds on fieldwork in Japanese robotics laboratories and discussions of sociality and experiments in anthropology and STS to explore the entanglements of experimentation and performativity in the design and development of socially interactive robots.

Sophia Robot: On Being Post-Human

Author: Prof Thomas Riccio (University of Texas at Dallas)

Sophia is examined as a technological incarnation of the goddess and trickster archetype, a harbinger of techno-utopia. Real, imaginal, and symbolic, a subversive player unbound by law, morality, and conscious thought yet shaping an immersive and inclusive narrative in which we are all performers.

Companion or Commodity: the Affective Labor of AI Sex Robots

Author: Ms Maria Ryabova (University of Pittsburgh)

My paper investigates discourses surrounding AI sex robots that frame the relationship between the human and non-human in terms of companionship - creating what I identify as a new kinship term that explicitly situates nonhumans in relation to the affective labor they perform.

Femininity and the Robotic Medium: The Affective Labour of Female Performers on Chinese Live-streaming Platforms

Authors: Miss Siyu Tang (University of Oxford); Ms Annie Felix (University of California - Berkeley)

This paper studies how the performances of the showgirl nvzhubo (female streamer) on Chinese live-streaming platforms, operating under China's paradoxical post-reform neoliberal politics of "freeing up" and "censoring down," tend towards robotic and non-human corporealities.

"Your job is not safe": AI, the Apocalypse, and What it Means to be Human

Author: Ms Alia Shaddad (The American University in Cairo)

Critically unpacking the discourse on AI in Egypt by looking at multiple Egyptian news and media outlets' material that approach AI with apocalyptic and immanent-crisis undertones. This paper problematizes the human/machine dualism in an attempt to rethink what it means to be in the world.

P03a Collaborations and Confrontations during the Cold War and Into the Future

Panel

Convenors: Dr Sergei Alymov (Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology, Russian Academy of Sciences); Prof David Anderson (University of Aberdeen)

Thu 9th Jun, 14:30-16:15

Several "waves" of decolonizing have given us a vision in which the power hierarchies of centre/periphery, "local"/"global", would be flattened. It is time to take stock of our understanding of the various "national" traditions and the imagined future(s) of world anthropology.

14:30-16:15

Witch-Hunting in Ankara, 1948: Folklore Knowledge and Politics of Nationalism in Turkey

Author: Prof Hande Birkalan-Gedik (Goethe Universität)

The Turkish Folk Literature and Folklore Department at Ankara University, the only one in Turkey at the time, was closed due to the racial-nationalist agitation against academics in 1948. Pertev Naili Boratav, the founder of the department, along with several other faculty members, was labelled 'communist.'

Cold War Anthropology from both sides of the Iron Curtain: Soviet Ethnographers and their American and European Colleagues, 1945-1964

Author: Dr Sergei Alymov (Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology, Russian Academy of Sciences)

The paper seeks to widen the concept of Cold War anthropology by considering the history of contacts and dialogue between Soviet and American anthropologists in 1945-1964. Focusing mainly on the Soviet side, it argues that the isolation of Soviet ethnography was never complete, although it was at its peak during late Stalinism.

Socialist solidarity by doing ethnography: Cultural engineers in the GDR and Africa (1960-1990)

Author: Dr Blanka Koffer (Independent Scholar)

This paper deals with the changing transcontinental cooperation of a particular subgroup of cultural engineers: anthropologists or, following the contemporary socialist self-description, ethnographers.

The Transatlantic Republic of Letters of Franz Boas: Re-Imagining the History of Arctic Anthropology

Author: Dr Dmitry Arzyutov (Aberdeen University)

In my paper, I aim to examine the history of relationships between the pioneer of American anthropology Franz Boas and his Russian colleagues and friends of the period between 1897 and 1942.

'A blobologist in Vodkobuzia': Ernest Gellner crossing the Iron Curtain

Author: Dr Petr Skalník

Gellner was originally a refugee in Britain and he had no illusions about the nature of totalitarian regimes in the Soviet Union and „people's democracies“.

From the Run of Rivers, to the Race into Space: A Cold War History of Navigation

Author: Prof David Anderson (University of Aberdeen)

This paper will present an ethnohistorical account of Arctic navigation with a special emphasis on the history of the study of hydrology and orography to the design and refashioning of the traditional Pomor amphibious boat – the koch'.

P03b Collaborations and Confrontations during the Cold War and Into the Future

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14:30-16:15

Troubled Waters off the Northwest Coast (on Collaboration between Franz Boas and Julia Averkieva)

Author: Dr Igor V. Kuznetsov

History of the coexistence of Russian and American anthropologies cannot be described as plain. Once upon a time, Russian anthropologists, focusing on European trends, did not notice their American colleagues who were just taking initial steps. Then, after the crucial political change, scholars in the Soviet Union felt themselves in a besieged fortress, and their ideological speculations, on the contrary, lost all attractiveness to the American audience.

How to be a Good Guest? Lloyd A. Fallers and American Ethnography in Cold War Turkey

Author: Dr Ali Sipahi (Ozyegin University)

Lloyd A Fallers was a leading Chicago University anthropologist specialized in East African legal and political systems. Almost completely forgotten today however is that he later chose Turkey as his second geographical area of study and worked on Turkish political and religious lifeworld from the early 1960s until he died in 1974.

Dear Comrade: The curious Cold War correspondence between V. Gordon Childe and Frederick G. G. Rose in 1956 (Rose Archive)

Author: Dr Valerie Munt (Flinders University)

In 1956 two Australian Marxist scientists briefly communicated with each other from abroad. One was in London, the other had recently arrived behind the Iron Curtain in the GDR.

Area Studies in Soviet Ethnography and American Anthropology

Authors: Dr Anna Soldatova; Dr Andrey Tutorski (Moscow State University)

This paper was co-authored by Andrey Tutorski. In our paper we seek to explore the theoretical and conceptual links between culture area studies in Soviet ethnography and US anthropology. Drawing on the works of Alfred Kroeber and Clark Wissler on the one hand and Sergey Tolstov, Vladimir Nikolsky, Nikolay Cheboksarov and Petr Preobrazhensky on the other hand we integrate their ideas into the intellectual landscape of the 1920-1950s.

(De)Coloniality of the Soviet Ethnohistorical Classifications: The Soviet Ethnographer Boris Dolgikh Classifying Indigenous Peoples and their Folklore

Author: Ms Maria Momzikova

Was the Soviet Union an empire? Terry Martin (2001) considers the Soviet Union a non-classical empire and calls it the "affirmative action empire" which means it did not oppress peripheries but gave them rights and privileges by creating nations.

P04 Speculative fiction in relation to prediction, innovation, and futures and the 'applied' role it can play in the social and technological transformations of AI, and in shaping future history.

Panel

Convenor: Mx Stephen Oram

Fri 10th Jun, 12:00-13:45

Acknowledging the messiness and uncertainty of futurity and the rich aesthetic reality of speculative fiction, the panel will discuss what 'applied' role speculative fiction (such as science fiction) can play in the social and technological transformations of AI, and in shaping future history.

12:00-13:45

What responsibilities does a speculative fiction writer have to the societies of the present and the future?

Author: Mx Stephen Oram

Does speculative fiction influence scientists and technologists in what and how they research, discover and invent? Does its predictions affect the future? If so, does it have a responsibility to be accurate, not sensational? To inspire not demoralise? Or is fiction simply there for entertainment?

Beyond the Plausible and Possible: Cybersalon's use of near-future fiction in their research, policy development and public engagement activities.

Author: Mr Benjamin Greenaway (Cybersalon)

The year-long horizon scanning project, 'Tales from the Cyber Salon' was a series of experimental communication and research workshops, tied to public events. This paper documents the project, details our methodology and shares key outcomes and discoveries in the use of speculative fiction.

Storylistening: why SF matters for public reasoning about AI

Author: Prof Sarah Dillon (University of Cambridge)

SF stories are anticipatory narrative models that enable surrogative reasoning about possible futures and the pathways to those futures. Gathering narrative evidence through storylistening can help inform decision-making around AI technologies by governments, businesses and civil society.

P05a Plastic Data – bioinformation, coloniality and the promise of data futures

Panel

Convenors: Dr EJ Gonzalez-Polledo (Goldsmiths, University of London); Dr Silvia Posocco (Birkbeck, University of London)

Thu 9th Jun, 12:00-13:45

The collection and analysis of bioinformation, or information that derives from biological life processes, increasingly shapes contemporary socialities. This panel takes bioinformation as an ethnographic lens to explore new interfaces between biology and anthropology.

12:00-13:45

Forensic Biodata and Scenes of Extraction: (Re)Biologizing Genocide in Guatemala

Author: Dr Silvia Posocco (Birkbeck, University of London)

Focusing on the making of biodata in forensic collections and databases established in the aftermath of genocidal violence in Guatemala, this paper explores how forensic biomaterials, bioinformation and biodata are tied to processes that (re)biologize genocide and (re)naturalize race and gender.

The biopolitics of space-based data: Collecting big data through the Covid-19 test

Author: Dr Kiheung Kim (Pohang University of Science and Technology)

This article focuses on how the retrieved anonymized data is processed to utilize the shape of complicated networks of controlling covid-19. In particular, the relationship between the testing system and the specific way of controlling the disease is based on space, not individual behaviour.

Data in the Electronic Frontier: Settler Colonial Techno-Infrastructures and Bioinformation in the U.S.

Author: Mrs Sarah Montoya (UCLA)

This paper utilizes Black and Indigenous feminist texts in the field of settler colonial studies to interrogate the establishment of telecommunications infrastructures which (re)produce bioinformation within settler colonial ontological schemas in the United States.

Microbial Extractions: Sequence-based Bioprospecting, Augmented Promises, and Elusive Politics

Author: Prof Ana Delgado (University of Oslo)

Microbes have been receiving increasing attention as key agents of post-oil bioeconomies. The paper examines how the turn to digital sequence data in bioprospecting is augmenting the promises attributed to microbial life forms while at the same time turning them into elusive political entities.

Tracking the trackers: enacting health and illness through the digital detection of early Alzheimer's disease

Authors: Dr Alessia Costa (Wellcome Connecting Science); Dr Richard Milne (Wellcome Connecting Science)

This paper is concerned with ontology, multiplicity and bioinformation journeys. Specifically, it explores how alternative enactments of illness and health emerge, are stabilised and co-ordinated through bioinformation journeys across multiple domains of knowledge and practice.

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A Diet for the Microbial-Self: Personalized Nutrition Between 'Homo-Microbis' and 'Homo-Algorithmicus'

Authors: Dr Rafi Groszlik (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel); Dr Dan M. Kotliar (University of Haifa)

The study of human microbiota has suggested seeing humans as "homo-microbis"—complex biomolecular networks composed of a human host and microbes. Focusing on the microbiome-based personalized nutrition plan, we argue that the homo-microbis is necessarily also a homo-algorithmicus.

The Governance of Rights and Access to Biogenetic Origins in the Age of Biolegality

Author: Dr Chandra Kala Clemente-Martinez (Autonomous University of Barcelona)

This paper aims to reflect on the governance of rights and access to biogenetic information within the field of adoption. This paper uses the framework 'biolegality' to address the interrelationship among law, biology, rights, and personhood.

Collecting bioinformation for a healthy future – an ethnography in a biobank for biomedical research

Author: Dr Brigida Riso (Lisbon School of Medicine)

Biobanks are support infrastructures for biomedical research that store biological samples. This ethnography highlighted the processes of bioinformation construction: besides the cooperative practices sustaining the biobank, power-knowledge relationships are central in defining samples collections.

Entangled embodiments – how models of biological information processing shape technoscientific imaginaries of AI

Author: Mr Ludwig Weh (Fraunhofer IMW)

Shaping social realities of people in digitized environments, AI technology relies on models of biological information processing. This paper explores biological factors omitted in technological abstraction and their potential changes to AI embodiment in a combined bioethics and AI ethics framing.

P06a AI-assisted technology and the market: critical impacts on human societies

Panel

Convenors: Prof Arnold Groh (Technical University of Berlin); Dr Louise Sundararajan

Chairs: Prof Arnold Groh (Technical University of Berlin); Dr Louise Sundararajan

Thu 9th Jun, 12:00-13:45

This interdisciplinary panel investigates the degradation of human values under the joint forces of market and technology. The presentations are going to be discussed against the backdrop of transhumanism, in which machine intelligence has become the defining measure of humanity and its future.

12:00-13:45

Technological Prosthesis: Defending Against Mortality

Authors: Dr David Goodman (Boston College); Dr Matthew Clemente

Treating recent films -- and the depictions of technology therein -- as an access point to particular cultural myths and ideologies, the presenters will consider how our contemporary culture is working at existential questions related to subjectivity and embodiment.

Neoliberal Culture, Psychology, and Religion: Monetizing Existence

Author: Dr Alvin Dueck (Fuller Graduate School of Psychology)

It is proposed that cultural psychology of religion has been colonized by the values and ontology of Western neoliberalism. A neoliberal psychology is often blind to the way it constructs the subject and unwittingly views the neoliberal subject as generally human rather than religious.

Indigenous peoples and technology: an unbalanced relation

Author: Prof Arnold Groh (Technical University of Berlin)

Globalisation destabilises indigenous cultures, from mining in rainforest to the deletion of indigenous identities due to globalising IT impact, although extinguishing these cultures means deleting strategies needed for the survival of humankind.

P06b AI-assisted technology and the market: critical impacts on human societies

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Do not pluck that flower: The forest and cultural identity for the hunter-gatherer tribe (Temiar) of Malaysia

Authors: Dr Rachel Ting (Monash University Malaysia); Dr Louise Sundararajan; Ms Justine Thong (Monash University Malaysia)

Swept by the irreversible tide of modernity, how can the indigenous populations keep their rightful place in the society of humanity? In this paper we explore this question by investigating the impact of religious conversion of a hunter-gatherer tribe (Temiar) in Malaysia.

Gongju Ren “Tool People”: Alienation, Spiritual Lethargy, and Social Work in China

Authors: Dr Jie Yang (Simon Fraser University); Ms Wenlei Huang (Simon Fraser University)

This paper examines the experiences of social workers and their sense of alienation, value degradation, and spiritual lethargy, in their own words, becoming gongju ren “tool people” as a result of China’s emphasis on technological advancement including AI and the market economy.

Whitey in the Cloud: How can anthropologists + technologists prevent human bias in AI programming resulting in a dystopian future for racialised communities?

Author: Dr Toyin Agbetu (University College London)

Does mechanisation inhibit socially just behaviour? This paper suggests the quest for a transhuman future encourages the abdication of our collective moral responsibilities to AI. Without normalising ethical coding practices, processes of racialisation become embedded within technological solutions.

P07a Travelling to Other Worlds and Altered States of Consciousness: Human-Artificial relational interactions and living worlds in the Age of Aquarius

Panel

Convenor: Dr Michelangelo Paganopoulos (Ton Duc Thang University, Vietnam)

Wed 8th Jun, 12:00-13:45

This panel focuses on the creation of artificial "metaverses" as part of the development of artificial-human relational interactions that show the emergence of a new ontological meta-human self-consciousness. What role(s) can Anthropology play as an active agent of change towards the New Age?

12:00-13:45

Consciousness Hacking, Technodelics, and Inside-out Change

Author: Dr Aleena Chia (Goldsmiths, University of London)

This paper examines how 'technodelics'—psychedelics, virtual reality, and neuro-wearables—engineer transcendent experiences at the confluence of New Age spiritualities and conspiracism, and its broader implications for democratic cultures.

Highway Hypnotic: Considering Transcendental Moments in the Truck Simulator Video Games

Author: Mr Christopher Michael Hansen (HMKW Berlin)

This paper builds on a growing body of work that considers video games as sites for spirituality. By using ethnographic research from the r/trucksim Reddit community, this paper considers how Truck Simulator video games produce transcendental moments for players.

The art of existance among self-made Japanese Vtubers: A posthuman revolt of ethical singularities.

Author: Miss Maria Ibari Ortega (Australian National University)

I examine the ethical narratives shaping the moral experimentations of self-made independent Japanese Virtual Youtubers. I draw my digital ethnography on the work of Lacanian theorist Mari Ruti and Julia Kristeva's intimate revolt, to delimitate what I call posthuman revolt of ethical singularities.

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14:30-16:15

The Evolution of Representation from cave painting to terraforming: Metaverse worlds and the New Dialectics of Space

Author: Dr Michelangelo Paganopoulos (Ton Duc Thang University, Vietnam)

This introductory overview sketches the evolution of modes of representation and fields, from ritual and performance towards modern sacred performances, and via Youngblood's concept of "expanded cinema" towards the emergence "metaverse" environments and future potentiality of terraforming planets.

The New Vitruvian - Digital doubles Inscribed within Bounding Boxes

Author: Mrs Avital Meshi (UC Davis)

The New Vitruvian is a performance that examines body-doubles created by AI technology. A performer spends time with a recognition algorithm, allowing it to analyze her body. Mostly, it recognizes her as a 'Person', but there are moments in which she is detected as something other-than-human.

Are Robots Haunted by Electric Ghosts? Artificial Intelligence and the Technological Construction of Life After Death

Author: Dr Leo Ruickbie (University of Northampton)

Technology can already bring back the appearance of the dead, but as machine learning and quantum computing push the boundaries of the possible, will Web 3.0 create Heaven 2.0? This paper will explore the emerging technologies of resurrection and their implications for human and non-human society.

P08a AI as a Form of Governance: Imagination, Practice and Pushback

Panel

Convenors: Dr Maya Avis (Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology); Dr Daniel Marciniak (Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology); Prof Maria Sapignoli (University of Milan)

Wed 8th Jun, 12:00-13:45

This panel looks ethnographically at AI assemblages in security and governance asking about pushback, continuities and transformation when AI is introduced to practice in different contexts.

12:00-13:45

Facial Recognition Technology and Its Contestations: Rethinking Privacy and Data Justice in Migration and Law Enforcement

Author: Dr Francesca Meloni (King's College London)

Criticism of the use of FRT in law enforcement has focused on privacy and data protection rights. Drawing on a landmark legal case, I examine how notions of privacy are mobilised and contested. I argue for the need to rethink privacy in relational terms to open new radical critiques of surveillance.

Algorithmic Fairness in Practice: Judge Discretion and the Sentence Risk Assessment Instrument

Author: Ms Dasha Pruss (University of Pittsburgh)

In July 2020, the Sentence Risk Assessment Instrument was implemented in Pennsylvania courts to evaluate "the relative risk that an offender will reoffend and be a threat to society." Through interviews, I probe how judges interpret and use the tool's recommendations in their sentencing decisions.

Crowdsourced "Cats": The Machine Learning Logics of Chinese Governance

Author: Ms Jamie Wong (MIT)

Drawing on ethnographic research on smart city initiatives in China, I demonstrate how regional governments and startup companies use the logics of machine learning as a heuristic to understand how the state crowdsources policy solutions, as well as their own role within such a system.

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Dehumanising Intelligence: Imagination and Sociality in AI-Driven Governance

Author: Dr James Rose (The University of Melbourne)

The idea of artificial intelligence requires that human imagination and sociality be abstracted out of prediction and decision-making processes undertaken by machines. This paper explains that such abstraction has a de-humanising effect, generating novel risks of harmful governance practices.

Arbitrary AI: an ethnographic reflection on Palestine/Israel and the US

Authors: Dr Maya Avis (Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology); Dr Daniel Marciniak (Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology)

In this article, we examine the role of arbitrariness in relation to how AI is used in the service of state power in the US and Palestine/Israel.

P09a AI in Health and Care: Development, Governance, and Ethics in East Asia

Panel

Convenors: Dr Giulia De Togni (University of Edinburgh); Dr James Wright (The Alan Turing Institute)

Discussants: Dr Yulia Frumer (Johns Hopkins University); Dr Selma Šabanović (Indiana University)

Thu 9th Jun, 12:00-13:45

The Japanese government is vying to lead the world in the development and governance of AI, which it views as a key technology for transforming the future of public and personal health and care. This panel investigates gaps between hype and reality as these aspirations begin to be put into practice.

12:00-13:45

Policy and ethics in Japan's vision for the future of healthcare AI

Author: Dr James Wright (The Alan Turing Institute)

This paper examines the recent development of policy relating to AI in healthcare as well as the ethical principles proposed to govern it, based on analysis of key documents and semi-structured interviews with several of the architects of Japan's AI policies and ethical frameworks.

Robotising Practices of Care: How Our Identities and Care Relationships May Be Affected and Transformed by Care Robots

Author: Dr Giulia De Togni (University of Edinburgh)

How may our identities and care relationships be affected by the use of care robots? How may this vary in different cultural contexts? How might our understandings of the role and value of human care influence the development of care robots? And how might these in turn be influenced?

Professional Women and Elder Care in Contemporary Japan: Anxiety and the Move Toward Technocare

Author: Dr Anne Aronsson (Yale University)

The Japanese government is working on developing robotic care solutions to overcome the labor shortage. This article discusses professional women in Japan and their burden of caring for aging relatives, and how introducing robotic care devices might reduce current anxieties regarding eldercare.

People Supporting Robots Supporting People: Overcoming the Failures of Machine Intelligence in the Delivery of Care in Japan

Author: Dr Shawn Bender (Dickinson College)

The paper, which is based on ethnographic research in Japan, suggests that aspirations for a future of machine-driven care are unwarranted given the human intervention required for care robots to function successfully in the present.

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Closing the Care Gap: Robot for Elderly Care in South Korea

Authors: Ms Heesun Shin (Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST)); Dr Chihyung Jeon (Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology)

Against the backdrop of growing concern over the "care gap" in elderly care, robots are rising as a promising technology in South Korea. However, robots can fill a very specific kind of care gap that is only effective when the human care work is understood as a series of technical tasks.

Population Ageing, Neural Plasticity and Medical Robotics: An Exploration of Robot-assisted Rehabilitation in Contemporary South Korea

Authors: Dr Seonsam Na (Kuri Hanbit Convalescent Hospital); Dr Eunjeong Ma

As the country of 'early adopters', South Korea also actively embraces rehabilitation robots. By investigating how their use is envisaged by stakeholders, this paper examines the interplay of socioeconomic concerns, scientific theory and technological rationality in the era of digital revolution.

Exploring expectations and concerns regarding home-care robots among older people in Japan

Authors: Prof Mayuko Tsujimura (Shiga University of Medical Science); Dr Naonori Kodate (University College Dublin); Prof Sayuri Suwa (Chiba University); Prof Wenwei Yu (Chiba University); Ms Helli Kitinoja (Seinäjoki University of Applied Sciences); Dr Hiroo Ide (The University of Tokyo); Prof Mina Ishimaru (Chiba University); Dr Atsuko Shimamura (Toho University)

This paper reports the findings from a tri-country questionnaire study that was carried out to examine potential home-care robot users' perceptions toward development and implementation of such robots in Japan, Ireland, and Finland. The paper's focus will be placed on older people's views in Japan.

P10a Exclusion by design: technology and the shaping of inequalities

Panel

Convenors: Mr Riccardo De Cristano (University of Bologna); Dr Alexander Paulsson (Lund University); Prof Marc Brightman (Università di Bologna)

Tue 7th Jun, 11:00-12:45

Technology is seen as a neutral process by progressives and conservatives, its advancement is praised as the key to solving any issues. However, the fourth industrial revolution is coupled with unmatched inequalities: this session aims to analyze how emerging technologies can produce injustices.

11:00-12:45

When is Seoul Taxi? : Inventing a new question to raise the timing issue of social inequality designed by MaaS technology in the taxi industry in Seoul, South Korea.

Author: Mr Sung-Hoon Hong (Seoul National University)

MaaS is reshaping the transportation industry. It is a time of opportunity for ICT giants to redesign the system, but in the traditional taxi sector in Seoul, most stakeholders are suffering from unequal distribution of time value under the double torture of technological ignorance and exclusion.

Rethinking education amid Digital divide: A case study on Learners of Higher education in India.

Author: Dr Longshibeni N Kithan (Central University of Karnataka, Kalaburagi, India)

The digital divide becomes a huge issue in education. It has both positive and negative impact to the learners. While virtual learning becomes an imperative, the present paper will analyze the problems that hamper effective learning.

From Outermost to Outer Space: French Guiana's Trajectory from Penal Colony to Launch Site

Author: Ms Karlijn Korpershoek (Jagiellonian University)

This paper explores how French Guiana became the official launch site for the European and French Space Agencies. It traces the transition from penal colony to launch site in less than two decades and demonstrates that space infrastructures are dependent on and reinforce unequal power structures.

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14:30-16:15

Excluding young people's imaginations of alternative futures: Techno-utopianism, infinite growth and education for "sustainable development"

Author: Mr Peter Sutoris (University of York)

A great paradox of our era is that we build supercomputers to help us navigate the future, while suppressing the imaginative potential of millions of human brains through education systems promoting docility and fulfilling blueprints of the future designed by others.

Access is Power: Rural and Indigenous Dependencies in Landscapes of Extraction

Author: Dr Sebastian Braun (Iowa State University)

This paper uses the experience of the Bakken oil boom in North Dakota to demonstrate how exclusive data access creates dependencies which multiply pre-existing power differentials in fast-moving development situations, especially for rural and Indigenous communities.

What web3 calls thinking - from democratisation to inequality in blockchain ideologies

Authors: Dr Johannes Lenhard (University of Cambridge); Dr Amy Winecoff (Princeton University)

While web3 narratives are based on a strong focus on democratisation, decentralisation, transparency and access, first interviews with web3 investors and entrepreneurs show a stark tension between their own goals and these narratives. How can what web3 calls thinking be squared?

On Digital Resources and Processing Resources in Virtual Space

Author: Dr John Dulin (Utah Valley University)

This paper explores the difference between digital and processing resources as sources of stratification in the VR Chat platform. They create different dynamics because the value of digital resources is rooted in exchange value, while the value of processing resources is rooted in use-value.

P11a Immersed in the Story: Narrating about and with New Technologies

Panel

Convenors: Dr Sylvia Martin (The University of Hong Kong); Dr Lisa Messeri (Yale University)

Mon 6th Jun, 14:30-16:15

This panel focuses on the intersection of immersive technologies and storytelling practices. Papers and stories will serve as a reminder that technological development is not cordoned off from humanistic impulses. What kinds of futures are promised, and what solutions are being offered?

14:30-16:15

Imagining the storytelling potential of AI with augmented reality glasses

Author: Mr Rob Eagle (UWE Bristol)

Synthesising findings from two of the author's research projects, this paper imagines a possible near future (neither utopian nor dystopian) in which AI systems enhance and work through AR glasses to provide stories and experiences that shape the way that we relate to each other and our environment.

From Virtual Realities to Civic Realities: Storytelling as Technological and Social Innovation

Author: Dr Lisa Messeri (Yale University)

Virtual reality is a technology both about which and with which stories are told. It thus gets caught between fiction and fact. Ethnographically tracking the narrative method of worldbuilding shows the consequences of this entanglement, by which virtual realities come to shape civic realities.

No-Code Steps to an AI-Assisted Pandemic Memoir

Author: Dr Caitlin McDonald (University of Edinburgh)

This paper describes the methods for creating the multimedia art project Pelican Stairs, using this case study to discuss ramifications for the commodification of machine learning tools for artists in light of prior innovations for creatives like pre-stretched canvases, desktop photo editing, etc.

Imageneering AI: the kinetics of integrating fantastical creatures in Danish businesses

Author: Dr Sunniva Sandbukt (IT University of Copenhagen)

Through the lens of 'imagineering', this paper analyses a case of prototype development by Danish SMEs and AI experts, illustrating how AI is materialised and practically integrated into the SMEs, but also how the fantasy of AI affects the distribution of resources and valuation of forms of labour.

P11b Immersed in the Story: Narrating about and with New Technologies

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Convenors: Dr Sylvia Martin (The University of Hong Kong); Dr Lisa Messeri (Yale University)

Tue 7th Jun, 13:30-15:15

This panel focuses on the intersection of immersive technologies and storytelling practices. Papers and stories will serve as a reminder that technological development is not cordoned off from humanistic impulses. What kinds of futures are promised, and what solutions are being offered?

13:30-15:15

K-POP and Augmented Reality: A case study on how K-POP is utilizing AR

Author: Ms Eshani Bora

AR in K-pop is used in Music videos (MV's), concerts, etc., by giving the audience a sense of 'closeness' through an almost real-time experience. This paper will focus on how K-pop has utilized AR during the COVID-19 pandemic when physical interactions between fans and artists were put on hold.

"Become Human": Auto/Ethnographic Experiences in Science Fiction, Single Player Video Games

Author: Mx Avery Delany (Goldsmiths University)

This paper draws on ongoing fieldwork with video game developers and players, and autoethnographic experiences of science fiction single player video games which feature AI to highlight how ideas about human/non-humanness are co-created, expressed and experienced within and beyond fictional worlds

Siri Survivor: AI-driven Storytelling and Future-Proofing Solutions

Author: Dr Sylvia Martin (The University of Hong Kong)

This paper examines convergences between industry and institutional sectors that develop interactive storytelling systems. Exploring the role of the US state in spinning out survivor narratives across immersive technologies challenges the attendant discourse of solutions.

P12 LIE-DARs: Grounding remote sensing and environmental AI in perspectives of algorithmic injustice and colonial legacies

Panel

Convenors: Dr Lydia Gibson (UCL); Dr Antonia Walford (University College London)

Mon 6th Jun, 12:00-13:45

Grounding remote sensing and environmental AI in their sprawling infrastructures of data practices, actors, political and economic realities, and extractive legacies to better scrutinize their role in existing fieldwork structures and hierarchies, and the violence of data promises and erasures.

12:00-13:45

Grounding the Patchwork Planet: the ambivalences and violences of environmental data infrastructures

Author: Dr Antonia Walford (University College London)

This paper will present the imaginaries that animate trans-national environmental data infrastructures, and how these might be sustained or challenged by how environmental data emerges "on the ground", out of interwoven and localised socio-material, political, historical contexts and configurations.

Awkward data relations: Welfare frontiers, reindeer-satellite relations, and the terrestrial localities of remote sensing infrastructures

Author: Dr Chakad Ojani (Jagiellonian University)

This paper describes uses of satellite data among Sámi reindeer herders in northern Sweden. I discuss these uses in relation to Sweden's ongoing efforts to develop small satellite launch capability and historical constructions of the circumpolar North as a welfare frontier.

Reframing the View from Nowhere as a View from Somewhere: Machine Learning, Remote Sensing and Environmental Science

Author: Mr Erik Ljungberg (KTH Royal Institute of Technology)

In this paper I aim to show how machine learning applied within the domain of remote sensing serves to strengthen the hegemony of the techno-scientific world-making project. I further propose that it is necessary to reverse-engineer the God-trick and to ground the view from nowhere.

GEDI mind tricks? The political economy and quality matrices of satellite LiDAR in small island tropical forests

Author: Dr Lydia Gibson (UCL)

GEDI – a satellite LIDAR designed for measuring forest structure – is said to revolutionise remote sensing and monitoring. This paper considers the political economy of GEDI data products across scientific units and its applicability to small, postcolonial island nations with inaccessible forests

P13a Towards an anthropology of future images: ethics, politics, and creativity

Panel

Convenor: Dr Roger Canals (University of Barcelona)

Discussant: Prof Faye Ginsburg (New York University)

Fri 10th Jun, 12:00-13:45

Most of current "images" do not fit the classic representational paradigm. How can we ethnographically study the relationships that people weave with these new "visual agents"? Can we use emerging visual forms to do, "write" and disseminate anthropology in a more ethical, creative and critical way?

12:00-13:45

The Construction of Images and Truth in Computer Vision

Authors: Dr Ben Hutchinson (Google Research); Dr Emily Denton (Google); Ms Sonja Schmer-Galunder (Smart Information Flow Technologies)

Discourses of AI promise technologies of visual "understanding" trained on "realistic" images. However there is a complicated relationship between images and truth. We argue that the field has a positivist theory of images divorced from anthropology's understanding of technology and reality.

Taking Justice at Face Value: Artificial Face Recognition Technology, CCTV and Criminality in the Indian Capital City

Author: Mx Madhavi Shukla (Jawaharlal Nehru University)

Digital images of the Artificial Facial Recognition Technology enabled CCTVs have rapidly emerged as a popular policing technique in New Delhi since 2019. This paper looks at the legal 'ways of seeing' during the creation of image for a 'good' citizen and how it constitutes 'law by other means.'

Visualizing Smart City Futures

Author: Dr Regev Nathansohn (Sapir Academic College)

Based on observations in meeting points between smart city stakeholders (high-tech entrepreneurs and public sector employees), the paper shows how they function as storytellers who use future scenarios and visualizations to advance their interests.

Beyond the visual: Virtual influencer, images, digital visual anthropology

Author: Dr Piyyarat Panlee (Kasetsart University)

The rise of virtual influencers in social media marketing around the world has entered contemporary consumer life, becoming one of the significant shifts in the post-human world. This paper aims to explore the relationship between virtual influencers and cultural-based studies of images.

Creating the 'perfect look' but preserving the real self: Tracking cosmetic transformations through the iphone.

Author: Dr Alexia Liakounakou (UCL)

The proposed paper looks at the use of the smartphone by Greek women who consume cosmetic injectables, and explores how the phone becomes a tool for tracking transformations, designing the 'perfect look', and preserving the real self.

P13b Towards an anthropology of future images: ethics, politics, and creativity

Panel

Convenor: Dr Roger Canals (University of Barcelona)

Discussant: Prof Faye Ginsburg (New York University)

Fri 10th Jun, 14:30-16:15

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14:30-16:15

Mutating Images: Tracing lines of order in works of art by artificial intelligence

Author: Mr Jolen Martinez (University of Chicago)

By analyzing AI-art as metapictures, how can we learn not only what a viewer "sees", but what the viewer forges alongside imagistic vectors and visual grammars? When are held captive by the ethereal movement of AI, how do we contribute to a dominating image of "algorithmic objectivity?"

Experiments with the ethnographic image: drawing and arts-based practices in digital ethnography

Author: Mx Alexandria Petit-Thorne (York University)

Based on experiments with drawing, painting, and other arts-based methods during digital ethnographic fieldwork, this paper explores how creative methods enable new forms of representation while simultaneously raising new theoretical and ethical concerns and considerations.

Artivism and the use of artistic digital images in anthropological research

Author: Dr Cecilia G. Salinas (Oslo)

In this paper I discuss how the combination of visual art and ethnographic fieldwork can be useful not only to disseminate anthropological research in a creative way, but also to slow down thinking. The researcher cannot not rush assuming the form of the phenomena she studies.

The Future-oriented Anthropologist and the Flow of Images

Author: Mrs Karen Waltoorp (University of Copenhagen)

Building on the insights from the ARTlife research project and Film Collective, this paper considers the imperative to discuss how our insights and the images we co-produce (should) enter into larger media- and knowledge infrastructures and ecologies - and thus the formation of mediated publics.

P14 Controlled Environment Facilities and the Visualisation of Future Human Society

Panel

Convenors: Mr Elie Danziger (Laboratoire d'Anthropologie Sociale (Collège de France - PSL, CNRS, EHESS)); Ms Teresa Castro (Sorbonne Nouvelle); Dr Perig Pitrou (CNRS-PSL)

Thu 9th Jun, 14:30-16:15

This panel seeks to bring forward various case-studies of man-made ecosystems. As the future of humanity is increasingly envisioned at a global scale, anthropology can shed light on the aesthetic and cognitive techniques through which humans craft miniature, controllable living worlds.

14:30-16:15

Autopoietic Efficiency: Cinematic Apparatuses and Post-Industrial Labor Environments

Author: Dr Guilherme Machado (Avignon Université)

As cinematic apparatuses become obligatory passages for labor-related knowledge mediation, screenscripting assumes a role in the development of physical and cognitive interactions in workplaces. This paper shows how cinematic epistemic templates regulate the self-realization of efficiency.

Biosphere 2 & the Architecture of Closed Worlds

Authors: Mr Elie Danziger (Laboratoire d'Anthropologie Sociale (Collège de France - PSL, CNRS, EHESS)); Dr Perig Pitrou (CNRS-PSL)

This paper renders the history and legacy of Biosphere 2 under the lens of the media archaeology leading to and following from such an imaginary of a closed or controllable living world, as well as the role currently played by images themselves in the very architecture of this nature-culture device.

Living in a Loop: A Visual Ethnography of Routines in a Robotic Dairy Farm

Authors: Dr Joffrey Becker (RWTH Aachen University); Dr Severine Lagneaux (CRA-W (Belgique))

Our ethnographic study describes the daily life of a robotic dairy farm after the digitisation of its infrastructure. It resulted in the documentary film Routines which addresses how robotics and computer technologies reconfigure interactions and practices of domestication.

Methods for counting and the reconstitution of the world in ecological science

Author: Ms Meredith Root-Bernstein (CNRS-MNH)

Ecologists use various techniques that extend perception and render discrete a continuous mix of life. They extrapolate from mini worlds to the world, and increasingly from the world to predicted worlds. Self-representation in counting protocols offers alternate metamorphic relations with the world.

P15 Do Androids Menstruate and/or Ejaculate: Imagining the Intersectional Future of Technology, Labour and Interstellar Ethnography

Panel

Convenors: Dr Sandra Fernandez; Dr Alexandru Balasescu (Royal Roads University, Victoria, Canada)

Thu 9th Jun, 14:30-16:15

Space travel is back on the agenda, spearheaded by Jeff Bezos and Elon Musk, and influencing how and which bodies leave the Earth. We invite anthropologists to explore intersectionality and labour embedded in technology, while pondering the methods of our discipline as it migrates into space.

14:30-16:15

Non-binary-coded: challenging popular anthropomorphisms of robotics and AI via non-binary, genderfluid, and intersex perspectives

Author: Mx Edmund Dean (QMUL)

Prior research by the author suggests some non-binary people are highly "possibilist" regarding the present and future capabilities of intelligent robots. I seek further evidence, and test explanations, for this phenomenon. Moreover, I construct a futurism of AI informed by these perspectives.

Extraterrestrial lives: Anthropology beyond the Earth

Author: Ms Cristina Luna-Santos (Instituto Madrileño de Antropología)

The upcoming human settlements outside our planet require a great deal of technological deployment and the collaboration between humans and different types of robots. In this paper I propose an understanding between the different agents and the role of anthropology in their study of space lives.

"Imploded Spaceports, Cosmic Cowboys and the Creation of Intergalactic Britannica" An Extra/ Terrestrial Ethnography of British Outerspace Infrastructure.

Author: Miss Lula Wattam (Goldsmiths)

An exploration of the emerging British Space infrastructure and its extractivist violence on both the terrestrial and extraterrestrial environments. Analysing the colonial heteronormative dynamics that are being enacted and projected onto OuterSpace, and the speculative consequences of this.

P16a Visions of transformation in the Anthropocene: technology, political-moral imagination, and the cascading socio-environmental crises of the twenty-first century

Panel

Convenors: Mr Thomas E. Bell (University of Kent); Ms Ly Löhms (University of Kent); Dr Miguel Alexiades (University of Kent)

Thu 9th Jun, 12:00-13:45

We critically examine modes of envisioning the future in response to the Anthropocene's human-environmental crises. How do technology, justice, responsibility, epistemology, and political agency intersect in visions of transformation? How do such visions problematize the category of the human?

12:00-13:45

The Anthropocene as Problem, Proposal, and Provocation: the U.S. Climate Justice Movement and the (Post-)Humanities

Authors: Mr Thomas E. Bell (University of Kent); Dr Miguel Alexiades (University of Kent)

This paper is an initial concept note that juxtaposes two arenas for reckoning with the Anthropocene's implications: the U.S. climate justice movement and critical scholarship in the (post-)humanities. We explore how 'Anthropocene-reckonings' are imbued with self-other relations of responsibility.

Extinction Rebellion as a movement of ethical and ontological transformation.

Author: Ms Hannah Fitchett (University of St Andrews)

Drawing on ongoing fieldwork with Extinction Rebellion (XR) in London this paper explores XR's aim to build a 'regenerative culture', examining what praxes are considered 'regenerative', when and with whom these praxes are considered inappropriate, and the relationships and ontology they produce.

Who cares? The Mexican Riviera Maya, Harmful Algae Bloom and Contested Responsibilities in the Anthropocene

Author: Dr Laura McAdam-Otto (Goethe University Frankfurt)

In this paper, I demonstrate based on my fieldwork in Mexico how responsibility for anthropogenic environmental change is contested, distributed and negotiated among different actors on the ground, including more-than-human actors.

Intersecting visions of sustainability transformation: the case of climate adaptation in the Mekong Delta, Vietnam

Author: Dr Jacob Weger

This paper considers the tensions and intersections between various visions of sustainability transformation guiding climate change adaptation in the Mekong Delta, as differently situated actors seek to translate their knowledge and interests into planning and practice.

P16b Visions of transformation in the Anthropocene: technology, political-moral imagination, and the cascading socio-environmental crises of the twenty-first century

Panel

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14:30-16:15

Energy platforms and the future of energy citizenship

Author: Dr Sanneke Kloppenburg (Wageningen University)

The emergence of digital platforms for energy provisioning enables new forms of exchange of (green) energy for consumers. Based on interviews, observations and future-envisioning workshops in an Energy Living Lab, we show how platforms enable and complicate the notion of being an energy citizen.

social contexts and cognitive dissonance in crisis communication

Authors: Dr Marina Levi Certelli (IULM University Milan); Mr Luciano Luffarelli (IULM)

This address considers the epidemiology of narratives generated by AI within the social media arena relevant to crisis communications.

P17a Addressing the Humans behind AI and Robotics

Panel

Convenor: Ms Tamara Gupper (Goethe University, Frankfurt am Main)

Mon 6th Jun, 12:00-13:45

This panel addresses the role of the people involved in and responsible for the development of AI and robotics, as well as their perception of the respective technology.

12:00-13:45

Problem Solving in Taipei's Startup Ecosystem

Author: Ms Laura Stahl (London School of Economics and Political Science)

The present research examines the knowledge production processes of start-up founders, entrepreneurs, and venture capitalists in their work of creating and investing in artificial intelligence technologies in Taipei, Taiwan.

Making Robots Social. Epistemic Practices of Social Robotics.

Author: Dr Andreas Bischof (TU Chemnitz)

The paper analyzes the epistemic culture of the field of social robotics. At the core of the interest are three groups of "epistemic practices" of engineers, that alternate in their different abilities to deal with social complexity: Laboratization, Staging, and Proto-Ethnography.

Designing AI for mental health: trajectories, assumptions and practices of humans behind mental health apps in India

Author: Dr Claudia Lang (University of Leipzig)

This paper focuses on humans behind an Indian chatbot-based mental health app. I trace the trajectories of designers, programmers and psychologists, carve out their techno-optimism, socio-technical imaginaries and moral-economic aspirations, and describe sociotechnical becoming.

Computerised automation of mental health treatment displaces rather than replaces the clinical practitioner, what are the implications for treatment?

Author: Mr Eoin Fullam (Birkbeck, University of London)

Automation often appears simply to transfer labour from humans to machines, but automation involves a rearrangement of social conditions. This paper looks at how the clinical practitioner's role becomes blurred with that of technician when working on automated mental health software.

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Hidden Humans in the Loop: Unpacking Societal Challenges in Data Work

Authors: Ms SJ Bennett (The University of Edinburgh); Ms Benedetta Catanzariti (University of Edinburgh)

AI systems require vast amounts of labour to develop and maintain, with data annotation playing a key role in these. This empirical study investigates practitioner perspectives and expectations regarding data annotation, promoting critical reflection around wider machine learning practices.

Small Labels in Big Data: Medical Image Annotation and the Inscription of Expertise in Machine Learning

Author: Mr Wanheng Hu (Cornell University)

This paper examines a critical step in the development of today's AI systems based on machine learning: the annotation of training data by human experts. Focusing on AI in medical imaging in China, it explores how human expertise gets negotiated, transformed, and inscribed in annotation processes.

'We Make AI More Humane': Labour and Expertise of Disabled Data Workers Behind AI in China

Author: Ms Di Wu (MIT)

This is an ethnographic account of disabled workers recruited by an NGO to annotate training data for smart speakers in China. Unpacking the annotation processes from the workers' perspectives, I argue that the social context of disability and disability expertise provide essential resources to AI.

Friction in data labour – prisoners training artificial intelligence

Author: Prof Minna Ruckenstein

In this talk, I use the notion of friction (Tsing 2005) to examine human data labour that keeps AI-based automation running. I will discuss an unconventional case of data labour: Finnish prisoners producing training data for a local artificial intelligence company.

P17c Addressing the Humans behind AI and Robotics

Panel

Convenor: Ms Tamara Gupper (Goethe University, Frankfurt am Main)

Tue 7th Jun, 11:00-12:45

This panel addresses the role of the people involved in and responsible for the development of AI and robotics, as well as their perception of the respective technology.

11:00-12:45

"Pay no attention to the man behind the curtain": Simulated human-machine interaction in AI research as a scientific ritualisation

Author: Dr Guillaume Alevèque (Université de Montpellier)

The "Wizard of Oz technique" used in Natural Language Processing research aims to anticipate technological innovation in IA by simulating a program with a human substitute. Analysing the epistemic specificities of this protocol sheds a new light on ritualisation and non-human interaction in science.

Appropriation of the Senses: the fading away of the corporeal in the human imaginary

Author: Prof Scott deLahunta (Coventry University)

This paper aims to provoke discussion about losing sight of what is corporeally unique to ourselves via persistent appropriation of the senses by robotics & AI. Building "bodies" that can "sense" things, this field seems to claim embodied intelligence as its own. Contrasts will be made with dance.

Philosopher-Engineers and Robot-Kings: The Uncanny Future of Robot Ethics

Authors: Ms Alice Fox (Virginia Tech); Other Ben Beiter (Virginia Tech)

A dialogue between a roboticist and a robot-ethicist who are in search of the in-between space of human and machine, humanities and engineering, the impact of technology and the work that makes it a reality.

Socio-Technological Imaginary on GitHub: The constant battle for the greater good

Author: Mr Emilian Franco (Universität der Bundeswehr München)

Developers on GitHub, the largest open source software platform (OSS) in the world, have a big influence on the algorithmic present and how the "coded" future will look like. Therefore, a closer look on their beliefs and futuristic imaginaries may tell us a lot about emerging futures in the making.

P18a Technopolitics, biopolitics and algorithmic governance: Cultures of resistance and countercultures of disbelief during the SARS-CovII pandemic

Panel

Convenors: Ms Ana-Maria Cirstea (Durham University, UK); Dr Elisabeth Kirtsoglou (Durham University)

Tue 7th Jun, 11:00-12:45

The panel explores how novel forms of biopolitical governance during the SARS-COVII pandemic were facilitated by AI and new technologies of control and surveillance, giving rise to cultures of resistance and countercultures of disbelief, mistrust and conspiracy.

11:00-12:45

Algorithmic Disorder: The Indonesian State, Political Trolling, and Black Box in Algorithms

Author: Mr Pradipa P. Rasidi (EngageMedia)

This paper aims to tie the studies of computational propaganda to studies of privatized violence in Global South. Tying the notion of "state of disorder" and "algorithmic blackbox", I propose "algorithmic disorder" by examining mobilization of cybertroops in Indonesia by political/economic actors.

The Threat of a Pandemic & beyond:

Following Aarogya Setu - India's Contact Tracing App

Author: Ms Gitika Saksena (SOAS University of London)

Taking India's contact tracing app Aarogya Setu as its field, this paper situates the research within Brian Massumi's conceptualization of Ontopower. The paper reflects on the app's materialisation within ever-shifting assemblages of knowledge practices, algorithms, and everyday negotiations.

Politics and affects of vaccine hesitancy in post-austerity Greece.

Author: Dr Letizia Bonanno (University of Kent)

The paper explores the role that affects and emotions play during socio-political and economic turmoil, and how they often inform people's attitude towards state-led public health campaigns.

'The Romanian likes to be free': Ethnographic intersections between technology, Covid-19 vaccines and political resistance among Romanians in London

Author: Ms Ana-Maria Cirstea (Durham University, UK)

Drawing on ethnographic research from the Covid-19 pandemic, this paper looks at how encounters with technology intersected with conspiracy narratives about the Covid-19 vaccine among Romanians in London. It then explores the uncomfortable political subjectivities informed by these intersections.

P18b Technopolitics, biopolitics and algorithmic governance: Cultures of resistance and countercultures of disbelief during the SARS-CovII pandemic

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13:30-15:15

Disagreeing with Others during the pandemic: reflexive marxism in the service of de-pathologising, but critical analysis

Author: Prof Dimitrios Theodossopoulos (University of Kent)

Those disagreements about the truth and nature of Covid that I examine here serve as a test to evaluate the rationality of local arguments, their contested status as either conspiratorial or alienated consciousness, and the position of the anthropological author in the auto-reflexive dialectic.

Our Intense Biopolitical Moment': eschatological narratives and counter-cultures of resistance to technopolitical governance.

Author: Dr Elisabeth Kirtsoglou (Durham University)

My paper examines religious prophesies and eschatological narratives during the Covid-19 pandemic and demonstrates how prophesies acquired an important role in formulating idiosyncratic - but often exclusionist - narratives of resistance to biopolitical and technopolitical governmentalities.

Emerging Digital Citizenship Regimes: Postpandemic Technopolitical Democracies

Author: Dr Igor Calzada (Cardiff University)

This paper argues that post-COVID-19 datafication processes matters insofar as these emerging digital citizenship regimes have resulted in nation-state space rescaling, challenging its heretofore privileged position as the only natural platform for the monopoly of technopolitical and sensory power.

P19a The promises and challenges of the AI and digital environment for Indigenous peoples' sovereign futures

Panel

Convenors: Dr Annick Thomassin (The Australian National University); Prof Karen Soldatic (Western Sydney University); Dr Kim Spurway (Western Sydney University); Dr Janet Hunt (Australian National University); Miss Alicia Johnson (Sydney University)

Tue 7th Jun, 11:00-12:45

Indigenous knowledge applications, digital mapping and storytelling platforms have become important tools for Indigenous groups to reinscribe their philosophies and lifeways in the landscape. This panel explores the opportunities and challenges linked with such technologies for Indigenous futures.

11:00-12:45

Indigenous Data Sovereignty in the digital world of 'big data'

Author: Ms Frances Morphy (The Australian National University)

Digital technologies are a double-edged sword for indigenous peoples. This paper discusses the global Indigenous Data Sovereignty movement, which aims to combat the deployment of 'big data' as a technology of power and reclaim governance over it for purposes of self-determination.

'Yuṭa dhāwu Yolṅuwu ga bulu Däpakiwu' — Articulating difference in the collaborative mapping of named places

Authors: Dr Bree Blakeman (Australian National University); Prof Howard Morphy (Australian National University)

We focus on processes involved in the articulation between different ontologies. In mapping Yolṅu names in a way that reflects how they remember, what might that 'map' look like? We consider what products might fit the dynamic trajectory of Yolṅu society in its articulation with the state.

E-Governance: A Tool for Indigenous Digital Sovereignty or Digital-Colonisation?

Author: Dr Diane Smith (ANU)

The fast-growing field of Electronic or E-Governance appears to offer potentially powerful digital tools for First Nations to enact self-determined governance. But it also has the power to undermine self-determined Indigenous participation and voice, and perpetuate unequal power relations. The paper addresses the question of how E-Governance can be governed by First Nations in self-determined ways.

P19b The promises and challenges of the AI and digital environment for Indigenous peoples' sovereign futures

Panel

Convenors: Dr Annick Thomassin (The Australian National University); Prof Karen Soldatic (Western Sydney University); Dr Kim Spurway (Western Sydney University); Dr Janet Hunt (Australian National University); Miss Alicia Johnson (Sydney University)

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13:30-15:15

Digital mapping and storytelling to support environmental custodianship resurgence in Walbanga land and sea Country

Authors: Dr Annick Thomassin (The Australian National University); Mr Jordan Nye (ANU); Dr Janet Hunt (Australian National University); Prof Karen Soldatic (Western Sydney University); Dr Kim Spurway (Western Sydney University)

This paper explores some of the opportunities and challenges emerging from the use of digitisation and mapping for the actualisation of Indigenous cultural projects for the Walbanga people of the Yuin nation living on Country on the south coast of New South Wales, Australia.

Harnessing the power of Google's Cloud to envisioning Indigenous Sovereign Futures

Author: Dr Brian Thom (University of Victoria)

Indigenous communities and their academic partners have been using machine learning applications like Google Earth Engine to map out the past, and shape the futures of their territories. I interrogate where and how these machine learning visions align with Indigenous interests & future sovereignties

Co-creating a digital archive of cocopah's intangible cultural heritage

Author: Dr Alejandra Navarro-Smith (ITESO)

Using digital media, an anthropologist and Visual Arts and Animation students from Mexico and Italy, have engaged through videocalls with a group of cocopah people living in Baja California, Mexico, in order to co-create a digital archive of the cocopah intangible cultural heritage.

P20a Digitalization and the Reconstitution of the Social and Political Realities of Human Being

Panel

Convenors: Prof Kirsten Bell (University of Roehampton); Prof Bruce Kapferer (UCL University of Bergen); Dr Marina Gold (University of Zurich)

Mon 6th Jun, 12:00-13:45

The panel will address the methodological implications of anthropology in the digital age – an era of radical transformations in the imagination and formation of socio-political realities and potentially the very nature of human being itself.

12:00-13:45

AI and the Reinvention of the Social

Author: Prof Bruce Kapferer (UCL University of Bergen)

Do digitally and AI mediated social realities demand anthropological and sociological reconceptualization? Human social being is being remastered, is evolving in innovative ways, with major methodological implications for established anthropological conceptual and descriptive understanding.

New Subjects: Digital Governance, Freedom, Expropriation

Author: Prof Donald Nonini (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill)

This paper sets out the cultural and social processes by which Western subjects captured by a new mode of digital governance and a new mode of expropriation are being constructed and organized by post-neoliberal corporate states. Examples of these processes are given.

Surveillance and propaganda. The digital construction of Xinjiang and the formation of political subjectivities in the Uyghur diaspora.

Author: Dr Rune Steenberg (Palacky University in Olomouc)

Youtube videos narrating Xinjiang abound. The region is being re-created online in polarised utopian and dystopian versions respectively. In these digital worlds, the political subjectivities of thousands of diaspora Uyghurs are being shaped. This paper tracks this dynamic between screen and person.

The Rise of the Non-Player Characters and the Non-Human Others: New Risks and Opportunities for Anthropology from Artificial Intelligence and the Metaverse

Author: Dr Beth Singler (Homerton College, University of Cambridge)

Drawing on ethnographic fieldwork into people's narratives, images, hopes, and fears about Artificial intelligence, this paper will lay out some of the historical precedents, risks, and opportunities for future anthropological research in the Metaverse and beyond.

P20b Digitalization and the Reconstitution of the Social and Political Realities of Human Being

Panel

Convenors: Prof Kirsten Bell (University of Roehampton); Prof Bruce Kapferer (UCL University of Bergen); Dr Marina Gold (University of Zurich)

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A.I. Stands for Alien Imagination

Author: Dr Roland Kapferer

If this is the era of 'cruel optimism' as Lauren Berlant has noted then cruel optimism for anthropologists is the attachment to concepts like 'the social' in the compromised condition of their possibility. A.I. illuminates the attachment to problematic subjects and objects in advance of their loss.

Property Relations: Aristotle's slave ontology, cyborgs, pornography, 'robotics' & 'artificial intelligence'

Author: Prof Kathleen Richardson (De Montfort University)

The industry and practice of 'Artificial Intelligence' and 'robotics' presents a dangerous operationalization of Aristotle's slave ontology - the fiction of woman, man and property merged into one to create a 'living piece of property'. This talk will explore these themes.

'Invented Intimacies': The Cybernization of Intimacies in Cyberspace

Author: Miss Fuyu Yang (Goldsmiths, University of London)

This paper examines how intimacies be invented in cyberspace and how the discourse of enjoyment and its intermediary representation operate in cyberspace and affect everyday life, through the understanding of the characteristics of structured thought.

P20c Digitalization and the Reconstitution of the Social and Political Realities of Human Being

Panel

Convenors: Prof Kirsten Bell (University of Roehampton); Prof Bruce Kapferer (UCL University of Bergen); Dr Marina Gold (University of Zurich)

Wed 8th Jun, 14:30-16:15

The panel will address the methodological implications of anthropology in the digital age – an era of radical transformations in the imagination and formation of socio-political realities and potentially the very nature of human being itself.

14:30-16:15

Slow Digitalization and the Social in Germany

Author: Dr Vita Peacock (King's College London)

The slow pace of digitalization in Germany is the subject of humour and hand-wringing by its lively 'digital civil society'. This paper contends that it is precisely its negotiated nature that allows the possibility for alternative digitalization, in which these associations play a vital role.

Peer, Community, Crowd: Social Dynamics on the Bitcoin Blockchain

Author: Dr Matan Shapiro (King's College London)

This talk focuses on the tension between 'communities' and 'crowds' in the world of blockchain enthusiasts, with empirical material from fieldwork in the Bitcoin embassy in Tel Aviv. Digitalization here emerges as a social dynamic that is simultaneously expansive and reductive.

Digital solidarity and the remaking of the political subject

Author: Dr Marina Gold (University of Zurich)

Digitalization has penetrated the humanitarian sphere. The redefinition of the concept and structures of solidarity in the west do not only reveal the transformations of the nation state into a corporate state formation, but they also point to a new political corporate subject.

An Ontological Crisis: Transformations of Language in the Digital Age

Author: Dr Lee Drummond (Center for Peripheral Studies)

The essay proposes that new forms of individual self-expression made possible by the Internet such as Twitter and Tik Tok have precipitated an ontological crisis between those forms and an increasingly regulatory and censorial State.

P20d Digitalization and the Reconstitution of the Social and Political Realities of Human Being

Panel

Convenors: Prof Kirsten Bell (University of Roehampton); Prof Bruce Kapferer (UCL University of Bergen); Dr Marina Gold (University of Zurich)

Thu 9th Jun, 14:30-16:15

The panel will address the methodological implications of anthropology in the digital age – an era of radical transformations in the imagination and formation of socio-political realities and potentially the very nature of human being itself.

14:30-16:15

AI companions and the Future of the Social

Author: Mr Fartein Nilsen (University of Bergen)

This paper draws on a pilot study using digital ethnographic methods to study online communities centered around interactions with AI social chatbots. How might such artificial companions be contributing to a reimagining, not only of the social, but also of the human being itself?

Virality, the digital and the social

Author: Prof Kirsten Bell (University of Roehampton)

Virality is a core metaphor for how we have collectively imagined the processes of digitalization. In this paper I consider what it means to conceptualise human sociality in terms of virality, focusing on the interchanges between the AIDS pandemic, processes of digitalization, and covid itself.

Social media, patient campaigning, and the (re)constitution of racialised community?

Author: Dr Ros Williams (University of Sheffield)

Exploring campaigns from racially minoritised cancer patients seeking stem cell donors through analysis of an ethnographic and digital methods study, this paper explores how new digital media—and social media platforms in particular—may (re)constitute the very concept of a racialised community.

INTANGIBLE COLLECTIONISM AND MUSEUMIFICATION OF SOCIAL MEDIA IN THE ERA OF POSTMATERIALISM

Author: Ms Irene Marti Gil (Louisiana State University)

The rise of a digital world has brought millennials new ways of satiating the human desire for amassing and displaying capital. Intangible assets in the form of collective and personal experiences are prestige-markers to be collected and curated in modern exhibition cabinets—social media platforms.

P21a AI in healthcare : the politics and ethics of data mining in the Global South

Panel

Convenors: Dr Dominique Somda (HUMA-UCT); Dr Azza Mustafa Ahmed (HUMA - Institute for Humanities in Africa, UCT)

Mon 6th Jun, 12:00-13:45

This panel focuses on AI in healthcare in the context of the Global South. We want to invite contributors to explore data collections by and for AI powered machines in hospitals and beyond, and the expected and unforeseen consequences of their extraction.

12:00-13:45

Dataveillance: An Anthropological Perspective about Self-tracking as a Practice of Mental Healthcare

Author: Miss Milena Geisa dos Santos Martins (Universidade Federal Rural do Rio de Janeiro (UFRRJ))

There are more than 10.000 apps for mental health were available. In Brazil, Cíngulo Guided Therapy has more than 1 million downloads. I chose it as my research object and I intend to identify: why people have started to use digital therapy for mental care and discover what there are behind its uses.

How data driven technologies are transforming the healthcare landscape in Africa: The case of digitalising Rwanda's Community-Based Health Insurance

Author: Dr Azza Mustafa Ahmed (HUMA - Institute for Humanities in Africa, UCT)

This paper is about how healthcare provision in Rwanda is transforming upon the introduction of data driven technologies. It is focusing on digitalising Rwanda's Community-Based Health Insurance (CBHI) by looking at how data and its technologies are taken up, enacted, and reproduced.

Burlesque crossroad visions: imagining global health data

Author: Dr Leah Junck (University of Cape Town)

Conceptualisations of AI-driven healthcare 'solutions' in former colonial contexts are tied up with burlesque visions of a historical crossroads. These caricatured visions of development stand in sharp contrast to the nuanced ways in which data and coded technologies may be understood and embodied.

Ethical decision-making in the development of Data-driven healthcare technologies

Authors: Ms Bianca Jansky (Ethics of Medicine, University of Augsburg); Mr Ayush Shukla (Technical University of Munich)

In this presentation we analyse developers' norms and values in the context of data-driven healthcare development. Empirically we are focussing on in-depth interviews of developers in the Indian, German, and the US healthcare context.

P21b AI in healthcare : the politics and ethics of data mining in the Global South

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'Big brother is watching you': The social context and development of theory for using digital adherence tools including AI for chronic conditions in Tanzania

Authors: Dr Marion Sumari-de Boer (Kilimanjaro Clinical Research Institute); Mr Kennedy Ngowi (Kilimanjaro Clinical Research Institute); Mr Alan Mtenga (Kilimanjaro Clinical Research Institute); Ms Perry Msoka (Kilimanjaro Clinical Research Institute); Prof Anita Hardon (Amsterdam Institute for Social Science Research, University of Amsterdam); Ms Martina Mariki (Moshi Cooperative University); Ms Rehema Maro (Kilimanjaro Clinical Research Institute)

Personalized learning digital adherence tools make use of data from individuals taking medication. The question is, how do individuals feel about use of data and how is security of data in the global south. We would like to develop a theoretical framework to understand acceptability of such DATs.

What are the data for? Medical privacy and the secret lives of data in the e-health era in Benin.

Author: Dr Dominique Somda (HUMA-UCT)

The paper explores the hopes and fears of medical professionals as healthcare centers digitize their processes in compliance with the new regulations on data protection. Interpreting, circulating, and archiving data through digital instruments and platforms create new tensions.

P22 Artificial? Naturally! Climate Change, AI, and the Quantification of Nature

Panel

Convenors: Dr Alexandru Balasescu (Royal Roads University, Victoria, Canada); Dr Sandra Fernandez

Mon 6th Jun, 14:30-16:15

Two opposite tendencies shape our world: the fetishism of technology as both ultimate saviour and existential threat, and the "return" to nature facing Climate Change. This panel explores tensions and contradictions in the way we define nature, and how it is re-shaped in AI discourse and practices.

14:30-16:15

Knowing Nature

Author: Dr Alexandru Balasescu (Royal Roads University, Victoria, Canada)

We want to believe that AI can somehow give us mastery over nature by simply measuring and managing it. But how did we come to think that nature is separated from us, measurable, and manageable? This paper will explore the implications of relating to the environment as a quantifiable category.

Can Anthropology Both Critique and Contribute to the Design of Artificial Intelligence? Reimagining Theories of Quantification in Political Ecology and Ethnography of Conservation Biology.

Author: Mr Matt Lukacz (Columbia University)

This paper argues that the implementation of technologies such as AI in conservation practice requires a collaboration between conservation practitioners, digital innovators, and ethnographers. To make this point, I draw on the studies of collaboration from the literature on critical data studies.

P23a Programming anthropology: coding and culture in the age of AI

Panel

Convenor: Dr Gui Heurich (UCL)

Fri 10th Jun, 12:00-13:45

This panel will explore the intersections between anthropology and computer programming by looking, on the one hand, at ethnographies of data, algorithms, and coding, and on the other hand, by exploring how anthropologists themselves have used or could incorporate programming in their research.

Coding as a Methodological Approach for Researching Programming Processes

Author: Ms Tamara Gupper (Goethe University, Frankfurt am Main)

This paper addresses the participation in coding as an ethnographic and autoethnographic approach for researching programming processes.

Pedagogies of abstraction: learning, coding and outsourcing in Cluj

Author: Dr Oana Mateescu (Babes-Bolyai University)

This paper explores two Romanian sites - an informal coding school and a start-up of front-end programming automation - as pedagogical levers for the recalibration of abstraction, dwelling on the uneven cognitive formatting of humans and machines in an outsourcing-based coding economy.

Engineering the unconscious: nudges, generative adversarial networks, and the imponderabilia of everyday life

Author: Dr Deepak Prince (GITAM Hyderabad)

This paper explores the intersection between humans and machines by comparing the logic of nudging users towards making preferred choices on web-interfaces, and a class of deep-learning AI frameworks called Generative adversarial networks, that fool a trained neural network into making poor choices

The Metapragmatic Function of Machine Learning Algorithms

Author: Mr Joseph Wilson (University of Toronto)

One of the perspectives that can give anthropologists insight into the workings of AI is to treat the coding that creates machine learning algorithms as a linguistic or semiotic process. Coding can be seen as a self-reflexive form of 'semiotic labor' performed by both humans and machines.

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Algorithms as inscriptions: an ethnography of teaching practices in an AI master's degree

Author: Mr Guillaume Le Lay (Algorithmic Society Chair of the Multidisciplinary Institute of Artificial Intelligence (MIAI) - Université Grenoble Alpes)

By observing AI training courses ethnographically, I aim to understand how students develop their mastery of the specific inscriptions (Latour 1985) of AI. I will argue that diagrams (Mackenzie 2017) are at the core of the pedagogical practices of these courses.

Towards an idiographic data practice for computational anthropology

Author: Dr Anders Munk (Aalborg University)

In this paper, I lay out the contours of an idiographic data practice for computational anthropology. Expanding on a recent engagement with AI-related controversies on Wikipedia I try to make clear how coding and computation in an online fieldwork setting can be distinctively non-nomothetic.

Natural Histories of Machine Intelligence: Methodological approaches for an ethnography of algorithms

Author: Dr Emanuel Moss (Cornell Tech)

In this paper I ask how the objects of machine intelligence reveal the "dialogicality" of the social worlds from which they are drawn. I develop a method to subject these objects to ethnographic scrutiny, to reveal the means through which machine intelligence constructs its objects of knowledge.

Ethnographic Data Science: New Approaches to Comparative Research

Authors: Prof Michael Fischer (University of Kent); Dr Francine Barone (HRAF at Yale University); Dr Sridhar Ravula (Yale University)

We discuss issues arising from applying natural language processing and data science methods to search and analyse the collection of ethnography curated by the Human Relations Area Files, Yale University. In particular we examine how comparative research might be better enabled and pitfalls avoided.

P24 Digitalization of health: a panel on AI, big-data and applications used in health governance

Panel

Convenor: Dr Roanne van Voorst (University of Amsterdam)

Mon 6th Jun, 12:00-13:45

This panel offers case-evidenced insights into the worldwide, increasing trend of digitalization of health.

Experience of design and hospital-wide implementation of a decision support system for treating diabetes in hospitalized patients.

Author: Dr Irit Hochberg (Technion - Israel Institute of Technology)

We herein describe the design and implementation of a computerized decision support system which simply and efficiently increased compliance with diabetes inpatient treatment by medical staff.

The autocorrection of the self. A case study of a digital mental health app in the context of self-tracking and self-monitoring.

Author: Ms Marras Lycklama a Nijeholt (University of Amsterdam)

This paper takes the case of a digital mental health application (Mindstrong Health) to analyze and theorize usage, perceptions of its self-tracking and self-monitoring audience; and reflects on its effective impact on users' mental health.

Steganographia: Photographic Ontologies of Data Stored in DNA

Author: Ms Megan Ratliff (Virginia Commonwealth University)

Steganographia engages with the current state of digital data stored in synthetic DNA by utilizing analogue and digital photographic processes as a means of materializing this emerging technology.

How big-data and AI decisionmaking is impacting decisionmaking of medical experts

Author: Dr Roanne van Voorst (University of Amsterdam)

Within the literary discussion on ethical AI, Several scholars have concluded that what is lacking is on-the-ground empirical evidence that shows how so-called 'responsible' big data-systems and AI unfolds in daily work practice. This paper aims to contribute by providing ethnographic data from two contrasting cases in the realm of public health.

A Western-Eastern collaboration on responsible AI innovation in the homecare of people with dementia

Author: Mr Dirk Lukkien (Vilans, Expertise center for long-term care)

In the European-Taiwanese project Horizon AAL (HAAL), an AI-based dashboard is being developed that can act as a decision support tool for caregivers by providing insight into the health and well-being of community-dwelling people with dementia and helping them to assess the care and support needs of their clients. In the dashboard, the data from a number of interoperable AAL (Active and Assisted Living) solutions are gathered and analysed in order to provide insights and predictions about the health and well-being of the PwD.

P25 Alien Encounters and Indigenous Futurisms in Sci-fi film and TV

Panel

Convenors: Dr Leonie Stevens (Monash University); Prof Lynette Russell (Monash University); Dr David Haworth (Monash University)

Tue 7th Jun, 11:00-12:45

An interdisciplinary exploration of how Indigenous Futurisms informs and subverts traditional sci-fi representations of first encounters between peoples, cultures, languages, and technologies.

11:00-12:45

The Future is Native: the role of colonialism, Indigenism, and the future on Star Trek Next Generation (and beyond).

Author: Prof Lynette Russell (Monash University)

STNG's motifs of colonialism, dispossession, and Indigenous rights intersect and presents an (often) unconscious critique of settler colonialism and imperialism. Although written by the colonising victors STNG nonetheless offers a counter reading of the potential for Indigenous futures and agencies.

Not so long ago, in this galaxy: the shifting relationship between global Indigenous peoples and Star Wars.

Author: Dr David Haworth (Monash University)

Star Wars has appropriated from and stereotyped Indigenous cultures. Yet its major themes — anti-imperialism and the bond between living things — resonate with many Indigenous artists. Recently, Star Wars has engaged with Indigenous Futurisms by incorporating Indigenous authorship and perspectives.

Life, but not as we know it: Invasion and Resistance in Star Trek Discovery's Mycelian Network

Author: Dr Leonie Stevens (Monash University)

This paper examines metaphorical representations of alien invasion and Indigenous resistance, focusing on extractive (as opposed to settler) colonialism, the outsiders' inability to recognise Indigenous life and culture, and the agency of non-human(oid) life.

P26a Education and Mobility Today: Integrating Digital and Visual Technology with Physical Learning

Panel

Convenors: Prof Giovanna Guslini (Formerly of the Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research); Dr Mary Hallin (University of Nebraska at Omaha); Mrs Mina Rad (World Cultural Diversity)

Tue 7th Jun, 11:00-12:45

This panel will explore both physical (in person) and virtual modes of learning, how today's educational models of mobility for both young people and adults are changing, and the tools that best document different experiences around the world. We will examine how new information and communication technologies (e.g. Internet, Zoom, Google Meet) can facilitate cross-border collaboration and enhance inter-institutional, intercultural and knowledge exchange at all educational levels. This panel is also interested in comparing different forms of documentation, written, oral, visual, knowledge exchange and exploring what is the best form/method to use for respective cultures. e.g. video might be best for countries in the South where documentation may primarily be oral rather than written. We will also examine the advantages and disadvantages of physical learning and virtual exchange, taking into account experiences which existed before the COVID-19 pandemic and were reshaped by the pandemic and now take on a different meaning. Although physical mobility seems to remain the main goal of everybody, in case of temporarily restricted physical mobility, a blended or entirely virtual mobility has now become the new norm and brings new perspectives of international exchanges. Given the above considerations, we welcome papers that discuss physical and virtual mobility and look at how today's educational patterns of mobility are changing, for both young people and adults.

11:00-12:45

Virtual classrooms: fractured communication or innovative teaching pedagogy, experiences through the Covid-19 pandemic.

Author: Dr Soumendra Patnaik (University of Delhi)

85% university students in India faced learning loss during Covid, according to a survey by TeamLease 'Covid-19 Learning Loss in Higher Education' (Indian Express, 14th Feb2022).

Covid-19 Protocols and Research and Teaching in Social Anthropology

Author: Dr Mbeleck Mandenge (Catholic University of Cameroon [CATUC])

The questions I will explore are 1) How can we conduct ethnography in the context of restrictive protocols in the era of the Covid-19 Pandemic? and 2) How do we teach/share our findings during the COVID-19 pandemic? Covid-19 protocols are about behaviour modification as an approach to stemming the spread of the disease.

Technology, Hybridity, and Educational Mobility: A Case Study of Face-to-Face Rock Music Camps during COVID-19

Author: Dr Kayla Rush (Dublin City University)

By June 2021, students in Ireland had been learning almost exclusively online for well over a year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, face-to-face summer camps were in high demand. At the same time, summer camps could not return entirely to 'business as usual', given that a high number of pandemic-related restrictions remained in place, including a state ruling midway through the summer camp season that all summer camps must be held entirely outdoors.

The importance of the SIPA content database in education in Portugal

Authors: Dr Aurora Brochado (ID+); Dr Pedro Brochado (Fluc)

Not only in times of pandemic, the use of new technologies may manifest itself as a facilitating means and for education in Portugal. The SIPA digital platform - Integrated System of Architectural Heritage - is an information and documentation system on Portuguese architectural, urban and landscape heritage of Portuguese origin or matrix managed by the Directorate General of Cultural Heritage (DGPC).

Adult Refugee Education in Northern Ireland: Physical Learning and the Persistence of the Digital Divide

Author: Ms Morgan Nicole Mattingly (Queen's University Belfast)

The education of refugees and asylum seekers globally is a constantly moving target as new journeys are undertaken in the hopes of better opportunities, less precarity, and safety from persecution. It is often assumed that once in a distant resettlement country refugees and asylum seekers will have their educational needs met; however, they are caught between definitions of refugee rights, national and devolved policies, and educational fulfilment in everyday life.

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13:30-15:15

The Possibilities and Limitations of Binational Virtual Professionals Development: Schooling the Students That Mexico and the United States Share

Authors: Dr Edmund Hamann (University of Nebraska-Lincoln); Dr Theresa Catalano (University of Nebraska-Lincoln (USA)); Dr Victor Zúñiga (Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León)

This paper describes and reflects upon a series of virtual binational professional development efforts intended to help Mexican educators become more ready to support the 500,000+ students in Mexican schools who were born in the US and/or had school experience there before coming to Mexico.

East and West Cooperation in Promoting Sports Medicine Programs at the Lvyin(Green-shade) School

Authors: Dr Ga Wu (Yunnan Academy of Social Sciences); Ms Rui Wang (Lvyin School)

Due to special reasons of environmental and just getting out of poverty condition, students from Liangshan need active nutritional -medicine and sports -medicine programs.

Education and Global Knowledge Exchange: Benefits of Integrating Physical and Virtual Modalities

Author: Dr Mary Hallin (University of Nebraska at Omaha)

Before the COVID-19 pandemic educational learning and international conferences occurred primarily in person. Physical presence was necessary for educational learning and interaction among students. International conferences were held in person with participants flying to the location of the conference to participate and interact with other colleagues

International Exchanges in Schools, AI and the Possible Role of Anthropology in Future Education in Italy, Europe and Beyond

Author: Prof Giovanna Guslini (Formerly of the Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research)

In this presentation I will explore the role technology played in digital cultural exchanges. It will examine distance learning projects during the first phase of COVID-19 and then later in the pandemic. Prior to the pandemic, the use of technology had been experimental, but the pandemic facilitated the use of technology by schools to explore cultures in other countries. The technology allow for digital cultural exchange to occur.

P27a Life Itself. Anthropology and Anticipation.

Panel

Convenors: Dr Jamie Brassett; Dr John O'Reilly (University of the Arts London)

Chairs: Dr Jamie Brassett; Dr John O'Reilly (University of the Arts London)

Mon 6th Jun, 14:30-16:15

Anticipation Studies posits modelling the future to create the present as a characteristic of what it means to be a living thing. This panel will explore this approach in relation to anthropology, mainly, with important interventions from other disciplines.

14:30-16:15

The Andean and Global Timeline

Author: Other María del Pilar Fortuné Oliveira

The following work is a product of the fusion of Anthropology and Art, consisting of a series of 15 collage-plates, created to understand in a single glance, the evolution of the planet and humanity as a Unit. It allows us to see our present and project ourselves into the future.

The Ancient as Modern: Use of Indigenous Totems to Reshape Narratives for Technology of the Future

Author: Ms Grace Andrews

Can we anticipate the possible future by better understanding the indigenous frameworks of the past? By adopting an ancient lens, we can fill gaps in the historical records with the narratives, totems, and systems of peoples often forgotten by modernity and technology to model the future accurately.

Contested futures – critical notions in cultural-reflexive anticipation practice

Authors: Mr Ludwig Weh (Fraunhofer IMW); Ms Marguerite Coetzee (Omniology)

Presenting examples of anticipation practice in sustainable futures and African futurism, this paper contributes to a wider, more diverse and contested futures discourse rooted in anthropological theory, for a more conscious and deliberate development and application of related futures methodology.

Anticipation as a quality: the historic futures of mobile infrastructure

Author: Miss Natalia Orrego Tapia (Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile)

This work is about anticipation as a key quality of mobile infrastructure. The scales and processes that overlap between 5G, including the 5G rollout and 6G development, create a peculiar timescape. How to understand an infrastructure that tends to be configured by its historic overlapping futures?

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Thoughtless futures: temporal affordances and the accidental anticipatory in daily life

Author: Mr Adam Cowart (Carnegie Mellon University)

This paper explores the ways in which we engage with the emergent future intuitively. Using the human-centered framework Thoughtless Acts, the author proposes a temporal extrapolation of the framework to explore the thoughtless ways in which we engage with the future in our daily lives.

Anticipatory anthropology and stakeholders' engagement. Insights from climate change sensitive action-based scenarios

Authors: Dr Fabrice Roubelat (University of Poitiers - Unesco chair Foresight and international strategic intelligence - Cerege); Dr Anne Marchais-Roubelat (CNAM-LIRSA)

From the perspective of anticipatory anthropology, this paper explores stakeholders' engagement in the context of climate change adaptation strategies. We discuss outcomes from action-based scenarios research on the engagement of corporate stakeholders and on the role of personas in scenario design.

Claiming Space for the Alkebulan-Africana Diasporan Avatar and creating the Astro Virtual Equalitarian Nation (AVEN)

Authors: Prof Lonny Avi Brooks (California State University, East Bay); Mr Ahmed Best (AfroRithm Futures Group)

How do we claim Black space in Virtual Reality (VR), in the metaverse? By focusing our attention on the power of the avatar, the graphical representation of a user's character persona in VR and its interaction within intentional communities created in VR: with affordances & powers for liberation.

Anticipation and the Work of Conversational UX

Author: Dr Elizabeth Rodwell (University of Houston)

This paper exists at the intersection of anticipation theory and ethnographic praxis, and presents ongoing fieldwork in the field of conversational UX design, where the "ontology of anticipation" is complicated by the market-driven nature of voice assistant design development.

P28a Blockchain Imaginaries: Techno-utopianism, dystopias, and the future-imagining of Web 3.0

Panel

Convenors: Dr Julie Valk (King's College London); Prof Alexandru Preda (King's College London); Dr Ruowen Xu (King's College London)

Mon 6th Jun, 12:00-13:45

This panel explores 'blockchain imaginaries', namely the narratives around the possibilities presented by blockchain technology, and invites papers dealing with blockchain firms, NFTs, cryptocurrencies, blockchain games, metaverse narratives, Web 3.0, digital worlds and identities.

12:00-13:45

"Have Fun Staying Poor": Imagined Financial Futures Constructed Around Bitcoin Ownership

Author: Ms Ashleigh Jackson (University of Sussex)

In this paper, I track the emergence and circulation of the "have fun staying poor" (HFSP) meme during my 15 months of ethnographic research among a diverse network of Bitcoin investors, advocates, miners and developers to illuminate the imaginaries that animate people's engagements with the asset.

'Blockchain Oracles and Crypto Cassandras:' Towards a Conceptualisation of the Techno-Financial Imaginary

Authors: Dr Julie Valk (King's College London); Dr Ruowen Xu (King's College London); Prof Alexandru Preda (King's College London)

This paper puts forward the concept of the 'techno-financial imaginary'. We argue that the growth of blockchain technology, and the ways in which the blockchain is imagined to improve life for the better, need be understood as an 'imaginary' which is both technological and financial in nature.

Bitcoin: A fully automated, precarious capitalism

Author: Mr Martin Tremcinsky (Faculty of social science, Charles University, Prague)

The text argues that the Bitcoin architecture allows for the extraction of value from the processes of social reproduction. To analyze this process, it uses insights from the Marxist structuralist anthropology of kinship.

Projects for blockchain: common futures imaginaries and the mundane

Author: Ms Ines Faria (University of Lisbon)

Based on ethnographic and netnographic research this paper explores narratives of blockchain projects, and how they are consolidated, or changed, throughout time. It deals with the tension between dreamt common futures and mundane financial, regulatory and everyday life realities.

P28b Blockchain Imaginaries: Techno-utopianism, dystopias, and the future-imagining of Web 3.0

Panel

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14:30-16:15

'Bitcoin Bros' & Big Emotions - "If I get a lobotomy will it make me a less emotional trader?"

Author: Ms Anna Rohmann (Goldsmiths, University of London)

Cryptocurrencies lead to the 'bitcoin bro'-investor figure. Narratives around them centre rational behaviour when they are in fact highly affective. In their attempts to navigate this contrast, investors use different strategies, which is explored through an anthropological lens.

Making Art, Making Value Online: NFTs, Blockchains and Online Art Economies

Author: Ms Heidi Cooke (Oxford University)

Non-Fungible Tokens (NFTs) have emerged in recent years as tokens which can be tied to digital assets in order to trace, authenticate and sell online media. This paper presents a review of these tokens from an art and economic perspective in anthropology.

Metaverse: Diminishing Lines between Real and Virtual Worlds

Authors: Mr Mohd Sameen Chishti (IILM); Mr Abhishek Dwivedi (South Asian University)

The metaverse will start blurring the barriers between the actual and virtual worlds. Transparency in governance and financial management between the actual and virtual worlds is a prerequisite for a fusion of two worlds which can be realized by leveraging blockchain and its related technologies.

Governance of Things: AI & DAOs in Politics - Utopia or Dystopia?

Author: Prof Andreas Wägener (Hochschule Hof - iisys)

Existing digital technologies - AI, blockchain/DLT, DAOs - already enable completely autonomous decision-making systems. What would these look like if applied to politics? How could they be embedded in social systems? And how should we walk on the fine line between utopia and dystopia?

P29 Human/Machine Dynamics

Panel

Convenors: Mr Josh Redmond (University of Exeter); Mr Liam Berrisford (University of Exeter); Ms Maria Schewenius (Stockholm Resilience Centre)

Wed 8th Jun, 12:00-13:45

Machine/human interaction is now ubiquitous in our daily lives, from the most intimate to the most impersonal. This panel will explore the current dynamics of this interaction, and seek to imagine how our lives will change artificial intelligence, virtual reality, and robotics continue to advance.

12:00-13:45

Sex, Intimacy and AI - A Way Beyond to Cyberspace and New Sexual Desires

Author: Mr Satyabrata Sahoo (IGNOU)

In this modernized world, sexual pleasure is becoming one of the important needs. With gender related laws limits our species exploitation, AI paved a new way to imitate, simulate our sexual needs and redefine us. Here, I attempt to shed light on how AI transforms our sexual life.

Living with Sambo: form, function and ethics of an elderly care robot

Author: Ms Aishwarya Karnik (National Institute of Design)

This project proposes a care robot for an independent elderly. This robot, Sambo, is shape-shifting and provides support to the elderly living alone in their homes. This project also focuses on defining the ethics of different stakeholders involved in creating this robot.

The Artificial City: Collaborative human/machine design of urban spaces for mitigating local effects of projected climate change

Authors: Mr Josh Redmond (University of Exeter); Mr Liam Berrisford (University of Exeter); Mr Christopher Kerry (University of Exeter); Ms Maria Schewenius (Stockholm Resilience Centre)

Cities are vulnerable to heat as the climate changes. AI systems can analyse environmental data and feed generative models; designing cities to reduce heat. This paper will present machine designed urban areas intended to reduce heat, comparing their thermal performance and form to human cities.

P30a Becoming Gods: Techno-scientific and Other Deifications

Panel

Convenors: Dr Gareth Breen (UCL); Dr Nicholas Lackenby (University College London)

Discussant: Dr Jon Bialecki (University of California, San Diego)

Thu 9th Jun, 14:30-16:15

Recent popular techno-scientific visions of humanity's future have suggested that with increased capacities for prolonging, transforming and creating life we are on the verge of evolving into 'Homo Deus'. But are we being too quick to assume that becoming gods has the same significance for everyone?

14:30-16:15

Kill the Law, Save the World

Author: Mr Jacob Boss (Indiana University Bloomington)

Cyberpunk resistance to 'homo deus' is jurispthic, law-destroying. Distinct from theological calls for humility and creatureliness, the liberatory cyberpunk telos of 'no gods, no masters' attacks both the nomos of technocrats and the networks of material dependencies they propagate.

On ambivalence, and against purification, in the pursuit of godliness.

Author: Dr Timothy Carroll (UCL)

This paper examines the often ambivalent attitudes found in Orthodox Christianity toward technology and its role within the pursuit of theosis.

The Fountain of Perpetual Youth is Within: The Metaphysical Origins of Contemporary Immortality Narratives

Author: Dr Jeremy Cohen (McMaster University)

The history of transhumanism is often situated in the computer sciences and science-fiction. I compare 19th and early 20th century metaphysical traditions to contemporary immortalist movements, revealing similar techno-scientific narratives and practices, including a telos of human perfectibility.

P30b Becoming Gods: Techno-scientific and Other Deifications

Panel

Convenors: Dr Gareth Breen (UCL); Dr Nicholas Lackenby (University College London)

Discussant: Dr Jon Bialecki (University of California, San Diego)

Fri 10th Jun, 14:30-16:15

Recent popular techno-scientific visions of humanity's future have suggested that with increased capacities for prolonging, transforming and creating life we are on the verge of evolving into 'Homo Deus'. But are we being too quick to assume that becoming gods has the same significance for everyone?

14:30-16:15

Theosis: the Russian Orthodox temporal ontology of transcendence, transhumanism, and space exploration technologies

Author: Ms Jenia Gorbanenko (University College London)

In Russian Orthodoxy, the possibility of transcendence is built into the fabric of the creation by God. It is not something that one only begins to access with the development of new technologies. This paper examines this proposition in relation to their approaches to space exploration technologies.

Spectres of Leach: Reflections on Homo Deus from 1967 and why these insights matter now.

Author: Dr Nicholas Jones

Edmund Leach challenged humans in his 1967 BBC Reith lectures to understand their divinity. This problem haunts the present because it remains unresolved. This paper asserts the need to confront this problem and find consensus.

Transhumanism and Transfiguration: A Historical-Anthropological Comparison

Author: Dr Márcio Vilar (Goethe University Frankfurt)

By drawing on related literature and through an exercise in symmetrical anthropology, I discuss whether and how transhumanism (broadly understood as future making projects which aim at radically changing the human condition through high technology) can be seen as a modern form of transfiguration.

P31 The lived experiences of artificial intelligence in Canadian Indigenous communities.

Panel

Convenor: Dr Reg Urbanowski (University of Manitoba)

Mon 6th Jun, 14:30-16:15

The session will be presented by three Indigenous women who will discuss the impact that artificial intelligence has had on community life in their communities. They will talk from a lived experience perspective and review technology and artificial intelligence's positive and negative aspects.

14:30-16:15

AI and the impacts on our FN community & Society

Author: Ms Maureen Brown (Opaskwayak Cree Nation)

Our First Nation Identity is based on the common consciousness that is derived from our teachings through ceremony. Our society understands the responsibility of building a world that is sustainable and safe, it is our duty.

As Chief Seattle stated, "We do not inherit the earth from our parents, we borrow it from our children."

The Impact of Technology: Technology can be good, but it can also be harmful

Author: Ms Mary Maytwayashing (Lake Manitoba Treaty 2 First Nation)

Before pre-contact, Indigenous people lived in their homelands for thousands of years in North America. Indigenous people thrived and prospered while they lived in their natural world. They survived and lived in harmony with nature. Indigenous people have always respected their world, the earth, the land, and the universe. They always held a special reverence and connection and relationship to the land. Indigenous people view the universe, the sun, the moon, the stars, the animals, and the water as their relatives.

How does internet technology create opportunities for First Nations living on Manitoba reserves?

Author: Ms Debra Beach Ducharme (Ongomiizwin Indigenous Institute of Health and Healing, University of Manitoba)

Despite the challenges we hear about in the news about the dire circumstances in First Nations communities and life on reserves, internet technology helps families' access information that may contribute to their wellbeing spiritually, physically, emotionally and cognitively. First Nations throughout history have adapted to almost every situation they have encountered since the arrival of Europeans to North America. The loss of traditional food sources, economy and way of life has negatively impacted First Nations' traditional way of life. In addition to these changes, diseases, residential schools, the Indian Act, and policies of ethnocide almost wiped out the entire population. Fortunately, First Nations are resilient and continue to adapt to the ever-changing environment and challenges of the 21st century, including adapting to a newly technological society. Many First Nations have adjusted to these new technologies and continue to revive and recover to a new way of being. Internet technology has provided First Nations with tools of accessibility including access to social platforms such as Facebook where they routinely share information, ideas and events on a daily basis about themselves, their families, or issues and successes they want to share with the public at large.

P32a Visions of the future of human-machine creative symbiosis

Panel

Convenors: Dr Kory Mathewson (DeepMind); Dr Piotr Mirowski (DeepMind); Ms Luba Elliott (elluba.com); Dr S. M. Ali Eslami (DeepMind)
Wed 8th Jun, 12:00-13:45

In this era of human-machine symbiosis, we explore what it means to live, think, and feel alongside machine enhancements to our cognition, physicality, and creativity.

12:00-13:45

The Robot in the Temple of Humanism

Author: Dr Gunter Lösel

Noah Harari characterized humanism as a modern religion. I will follow this thesis and examine the degree, in which humanism is being challenged by machines and “artificial intelligence”.

The Brave New World of Creative Machines

Author: Prof Arthur Miller (University College London)

From human-machine interaction to fully creative machines: What will this mean for the future of ‘humans’?

Performing the human: new theatrical perspectives, between AI and robotics

Author: Dr Ester Fuoco (SantaGiulia Fine Arts Academy)

How can an android actor empathically involve the spectator? How can language written by a machine be human? Through the notions of performativity, agency, entanglement and intra-action it will be discuss how to motivate a non-human contribution to a theatrical dramaturgy.

Envisioning a Future of Inclusion, Equality, and Diversity: the role of LGBTQ+, BIPOC, and PWD communities in human-machine co-creativity.

Author: Mr Diogo Henriques (Aarhus University)

The ongoing study critically overviews AI-generated artworks, specifically focusing on creatives from BIPOC, LGBTQ+ and PWD communities. It argues that future visions of human-machine creative symbiosis should promote inclusion, equality and diversity, to overcome our anxieties and cultural biases.

P32b Visions of the future of human-machine creative symbiosis

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'Idiocy' in expanding human-machine encounters within the everyday.

Author: Miss Maria Tsilogianni (Coventry University)

Disputing intelligence as traditionally pertaining to the tech industry, I research idiotic machinic agents imbued with curious intelligences in order to reconfigure the human-machine encounter. The open-ended absurdity of idiocy might facilitate creative interactions beyond automated functionality.

Sympoetics: the co-mingling of creative literary agents

Author: Dr Rebekah Cupitt (Birkbeck, University of London)

This paper presents an example of a co-mingling of creative agents, where the creative process is an entanglement of human and human-machine logics. I argue that framing creative processes as sympoetics productively decentres human agents and expands the possible futures of human-AI creativity.

Driving Change: First reflections on an art-science collaboration exploring AI human relations in a self-driving car

Authors: Dr Rebecca Rouse (University of Skövde); Dr Maurice Lamb (University of Skövde)

This presentation shares early reflections on a collaborative project combining both cognitive science and philosophy approaches with theater and immersive experience design to yield new insights into how humans and AI systems relate in the context of a self-driving car.

Artist Guided Neural Networks - automated creativity or tools for extending minds?

Authors: Prof Varvara Guljaeva (Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (Guangzhou)); Mr Mar Canet Sola (Tallinn university)

Technology, like AI, is present in the generation and the distribution of culture. How do artists exploit neural networks for creative purposes and what impact have these algorithms on contemporary practices?

P33 What can anthropology offer to the study of 'a metaverse with Chinese characteristics'?

Panel

Convenor: Mr Matthew Adams (Brunel University)

Tue 7th Jun, 13:30-15:15

The ‘legitimate operator’ in Chinese cyberspace is one nudged towards a coherent form centred on one’s legal identity. The opportunities for self-construal are thus continuous with one’s offline identity in ways they may not be elsewhere, and anthropology is uniquely positioned to study this.

13:30-15:15

What can anthropology offer to the study of 'a metaverse with Chinese characteristics'?

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A next generation internet: How Chinese tech companies imagine the metaverse

Author: Dr Gabriele de Seta (University of Bergen)

By early 2022, all the major Chinese tech companies have jumped on the metaverse ('yuanyuzhou' in Chinese) bandwagon. This presentation draws on the author's ongoing research on the Chinese AI industry to discuss how different metaverse imaginaries are articulated by tech companies and the public.

P34 Towards an algorithmic anthropology: What can AI add to the anthropologist's toolkit?

Panel

Convenor: Mr Matthew Adams (Brunel University)

Fri 10th Jun, 14:30-16:15

Can a machine learn participant observation? Could we soon see anthropologist-AI hybrids, or autonomous anthropological programmes, who will chart the new social landscapes of the metaverse? This panel will discuss the possible affordances of AI for anthropological fieldwork.

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Towards an algorithmic anthropology: What can AI add to the anthropologist's toolkit?

Author: Mr Matthew Adams (Brunel University)

Can a machine learn participant observation? Could we soon see anthropologist-AI hybrids, or autonomous anthropological programmes, who will chart the new social landscapes of the metaverse? This paper will discuss the possible affordances of AI for anthropological fieldwork.

Pervasive AI as ethnographer

Author: Dr Kevin Walker (Coventry University)

Considered as performance instead of science, AI embedded in small devices provides partial perspectives and incomplete knowledge, shifting attention from functionality to actors and actions, thus suited to ethnographic study. Conversely AI becomes a participant-observer of human cultures itself.

Latent space ethnography: Re-imagining artificial intelligence as both object of study and research method

Authors: Dr Matti Pohjonen (University of Helsinki); Dr Gabriele de Seta (University of Bergen); Mr Aleksi Knuutila (University of Jyväskylä)

This paper proposes a new form of digital anthropological research called "latent space ethnography", which explores the latent spaces of AI systems to better understand the emerging entanglements between datasets, AI algorithms and the social, political, and cultural dynamics embedded in them.

"Broken Whispers": Isolating the Local in a Global Hashtag (#challengeaccepted) using ML classification

Author: Ms Janani Ilamparithi

Hashtag brings with it a multiplicity of meanings with respect to socio-cultural and political factors of the 'local'. This enables anthropological research to develop a multi-sited research design that spans regions and time, aided by ML classification to study on a 'global' social media dataset.

P35a 'The future belongs to us': The data justice turn and the transformation of AI ethics

Panel

Convenors: Dr David Leslie (The Alan Turing Institute); Dr James Wright (The Alan Turing Institute)

Tue 7th Jun, 11:00-12:45

This panel will look at how data justice movements and perspectives, particularly those that look beyond Western Europe and North America, are reshaping global debates on AI ethics and transforming its future from the ground up.

11:00-12:45

The Deep History of Data Justice

Authors: Dr David Leslie (The Alan Turing Institute); Miss Rosamund Powell (The Alan Turing Institute)

Here we argue for the importance of the deep history of data justice. Where the horizons of data justice research are widened beyond datafication processes, researchers can better bring into focus how long-term legacies of inequality, discrimination and oppression are drawn into present data work.

Transformational stories of data justice

Authors: Ms Antonella Perini (The Alan Turing Institute); Ms Morgan Briggs (The Alan Turing Institute); Ms Smera Jayadeva (Alan Turing Institute)

Initiatives and organisations across the globe are interrogating the sociotechnical structures and practices that underline data injustices. This paper explores the trends identified in over 100 case studies of data justice advocacy and activist work as well as associated challenges to data justice.

"War and the concept of data justice"

Author: Prof Thompson Chengeta (Liverpool John Moores University)

This paper argues that when conceptualising the notion of data justice, we should consider the impact of war on data justice. Often, data justice is conceptualised as a peace-time idea yet it equally applies in armed conflict where the law of war impacts the interpretation of data justice.

Harnessing Plurality of Knowledge to Advance Environmental Data Justice

Author: Dr Mhairi Aitken (The Alan Turing Institute)

Environmental Data Justice interrogates and challenges dominant power structures to address inequitable impacts of innovation. This paper draws on scholarship from Science and Technology Studies to explore the role of knowledge and power in environmental data justice.

P35b 'The future belongs to us': The data justice turn and the transformation of AI ethics

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Convenors: Dr David Leslie (The Alan Turing Institute); Dr James Wright (The Alan Turing Institute)

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13:30-15:15

Pluriversal Data Justice: The struggle for epistemic inclusion and emancipation in data and digital infrastructures.

Authors: Dr Michael Katell (The Alan Turing Institute); Dr David Leslie (The Alan Turing Institute)

The historically powerful wield authority in data innovation ecosystems under the assumption that they are best positioned to solve the world's many problems. We argue for a 'pluriversal data justice' that advances diverse forms of knowledge and experience in pursuit of collective well-being.

Tensions in global human rights and transnational data infrastructures

Authors: Ms Holli Sargeant (University of Cambridge); Dr Jat Singh (University of Cambridge)

Much tech-related human rights discourse concerns particular technologies and their use. However, the rights issues underlying digital infrastructures are less-considered. This paper explores the tensions between human rights with the global, yet regionally-bound, nature of digital infrastructures.

An investigation of Bias and Prejudice Embedded in Auto-writing AI

Author: Dr Yuwei Lin (University of Roehampton)

Algorithms can now automatically generate data-driven narratives, but these so-called Natural Language Generation (NLG) tools are not neutral. Based on autoethnography, this paper will discuss socio-technical issues linked with GPT3 when the tool is used to generate politically sensitive narratives.

“War and the concept of data justice”

Author: Prof Thompson Chengeta (Liverpool John Moores University)

This paper argues that when conceptualising the notion of data justice, we should consider the impact of war on data justice. Often, data justice is conceptualised as a peace-time idea yet it equally applies in armed conflict where the law of war impacts the interpretation of data justice.

P36 Co-production of knowledge, open science and anthropologies of the future

Panel

Convenors: Dr Lucilla Barchetta (University Cà Foscari of Venice); Dr Adrienne Mannov (Aarhus University)

Fri 10th Jun, 14:30-16:15

The panel explores open data platforms as fieldwork sites to prompt a dialogue about pitfalls and possibilities in anthropological working within multidisciplinary, research consortia and digital media dedicated to the study and anticipation of environmental emergencies and health threats.

14:30-16:15

Designing Machine Learning Systems Anthropologically: Building Relatable Machine Learning

Author: Mr Stephen Paff

As an anthropologist and data scientist, I discuss strategies to employ anthropology design techniques to machine learning algorithms, designing mechanisms to help users relate to and engage with complex machine learning models and foster positive social implications over the long run.

On doing “Being open scientists”

Author: Dr Goetz Hoeppe (University of Waterloo)

How does acquiring membership in the “culture of open science” (if there is one) guide scientists’ work on preparing data sets for future uses? This critical anthropological view considers scientists as ethnographers of what is, to them, an as yet unknown domain in which they seek to become actors.

Infrastructural blues: Studying-while-caring for open environmental data stewardship

Author: Dr Luis Felipe R. Murillo (University of Notre Dame)

When it comes to the question of climate crisis research, current debates are increasingly thematizing the needs and the challenges of collaborative, transdisciplinary work. Geophysical characterizations of climate change are increasingly deemed insufficient to respond to the challenges that vulnerable communities face worldwide.

P37 The Digital Architecture of Kinship in Hybrid Spaces of Togetherness: Are Anthropologists critical to the 'cultural and not technical' digital dilemma?

Panel

Convenor: Ms Bee Farrell (University of Kent)

Tue 7th Jun, 13:30-15:15

Hybrid machine/biological interfaces are filled with dichotomies of realities-simulations of togetherness. Internetworked spaces of affinity nurture emotional bonds through prosumer practices, digital activism and digital nomadism. But are these spaces meeting human or machine-made objectives?

13:30-15:15

Spiel, Kunst, Computation, Consciousness: Beyond the Creator Economy

Author: Mr Arian Bagheri Pour Fallah

This paper asserts the replacement of 'art' and 'artist' with 'creation (content)' and 'creator' to be of significant anthropological relevance. Among others, it considers differentiating between deterministic and algorithmic systems, Kant's notions of 'Spiel (game-toy)' and 'Kunst (art-artifice).'

Pandemic Kitchens: A study of online commensality and the acceleration of digitised togetherness

Author: Ms Bee Farrell (University of Kent)

Shaped by the architecture of algorithms and machine intelligence, the virtualised kitchen space of a promised togetherness began with enthusiasm but over the extended time of the pandemic grew weary.

Who's watching? Theorising an anthropological approach to digital value in the household via a case study of shared streaming service subscriptions

Author: Ms Linda Ma (ReD Associates)

How do households and families assign value to digital goods? Streaming services (e.g. Netflix, Spotify) despite their artificial scarcity, come to be valued as the locus of household consumption and kinship reproduction. This paper details ways in which digital value(s), too, are socially shaped.

P38 AI and Creativity

Panel

Convenor: Dr Oded Ben-Tal (Kingston University)

Fri 10th Jun, 12:00-13:45

Applications of machine learning to creative tasks produce surprisingly good results. The plausibility of outputs produced by machines in tasks such as painting pictures, writing poems, or composing music raises interesting questions about the nature of creativity. The popular narrative is often framed in human-vis-machine terms. Yet AI, like previous technological innovations, opens new possibilities for creative/artistic/cultural practices. This panel brings together work across different media that integrates AI with human creativity to discover new modes of making art and engaging with it.

12:00-13:45

Set in Stone: the creative implications of debiasing AI

Author: Mx J. Rosenbaum (RMIT)

Set in Stone is an artistic project resulting from my inquiries into training bias out of image generation algorithms. Conceptually, the work subverts static generative binary stone faces with color, an explosion of self-expression taking root over the homogeneity of the binary marble statuary.

Saṅkhyā Stories: A series of short machine learning fables

Author: Mr Debashis Sinha (Ryerson University)

A series of short videos in production, reimagining the gods and stories from the Hindu pantheon. Inspired by the massively popular comic book series Amar Chitra Katha, this series uses machine learning generated video and sound to create short works that re-imagine our storytelling.

Music(?) Artificial ‘Intelligence’

Author: Dr Oded Ben-Tal (Kingston University)

Applications of machine learning to creative tasks produce surprisingly good results. The plausibility of outputs produced by machines in tasks such as painting pictures, writing poems, or composing music raises interesting questions about the nature of creativity. My contribution to the symposium will start from the FolkRNN project: a collaborative research-creation project exploring the use of machine learning as a creative tool. Together with my colleague Dr. Bob Sturm, we applied machine learning to a data set of traditional Irish music which we then used to generate new tunes in that traditional style (surreptitiously released as an album) but also to compose music that has little to do with the tradition.

Architectural and Anthropological Creative Machines: The Uncanny and Generative Interiority of Project ‘3D-GAN-Housing’

Author: Dr Immanuel Koh (Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD))

Architectural anthropology presupposes the space of the artificial as a human-machine creative symbiosis. This complex coupling between embodied living in and disembodied designing of buildings is explored via the uncanny 3D-printed housing forms as imagined by 3D generative adversarial networks.

Design anthropology, algorithmic bias, and new possibilities: Co-designing an art recommendation algorithm

Author: Mr Matt Artz (Drew University)

This paper details how design anthropology was used to imagine new possibilities and co-design a patent-pending recommendation algorithm for the art industry.

P42a Managed by the machine: AI and the new politics of supply chains

Panel

Convenors: Dr Matthew Archer (Graduate Institute for International and Development Studies); Mr Filipe Calvao (Graduate Institute of Geneva)

Discussant: Dr Nanna Bonde Thylstrup

Wed 8th Jun, 12:00-13:45

Supply chains are being reconfigured through big data and intelligent machines. Reflecting ethnographically on the growing role of artificial intelligence in newly digitized means of production, this panel explores the co-emergence of datafication and algorithmic governance in global supply chains.

12:00-13:45

Understanding labour experiences to design better autonomous systems: sensors in the cockpit

Authors: Dr Fabio Mattioli (The University of Melbourne); Dr Johanne Trippas (University of Melbourne); Dr Fraser Allison (University of Melbourne); Dr Harriette Richards (University of Melbourne)

Over the last decade, Aerotech have been experimenting with automated decision-making tools and digital assistants that can support the flying crew and. We argue that pilots look at AI technologies and their sensing capabilities with an hopeful skepticism—which reflects their labour experiences.

From KYC to KYD: Thinking through the Powers of RegTech, Compliance and the Private Intelligence Industry

Author: Dr Tereza Østbø Kuldova (OsloMet - Oslo Metropolitan University)

Grounded in digital ethnography of the RegTech and compliance industry, as well as interviews with compliance officers and other experts, this paper aims to open up a critical discussion of the increasing and yet often expertly hidden power of compliance, now enhanced by data analytics.

Re-configuring aquaculture sustainability assurance in the digital age

Authors: Mr Sake Kruk (Wageningen University); Dr Hilde Toonen (Wageningen University); Prof Simon Bush

We explore how digital technologies are put to use to (re)organize the rules, procedures and practices of sustainability assurance in aquaculture. We identify shifts in the ways in which trust in sustainable production is institutionalized in the aquaculture sector.

Reconsidering “Embodied Liminalities”: Exoskeletal Devices between De-Skilling and Re-Skilling

Author: Dr Denisa Butmaru (University of Konstanz)

Focusing on the implementation of powered exoskeletons in working sectors and their potential of digital surveillance, this contribution aims to deconstruct narratives built around increase of productivity at the expense of destroying workers’ bodies and of de-skilling them.

P42b Managed by the machine: AI and the new politics of supply chains

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Logistical Automation and the Politics of Boredom

Author: Mr Nicholas Anderman (University of California, Berkeley)

This paper explores experiences of boredom among automated crane operators at the Port of Los Angeles. It seeks to link the boredom felt by longshoremen who labor alongside AI-driven machines to the temporal acceleration experienced by the beneficiaries of consumer capitalism, i.e. all of us.

Unpacking the construction of labor risk in supply chain management

Author: Mr Gabriel Grill (University of Michigan)

Supply chain risk management technologies promise through the combination of data sources and new algorithmic methods to aid in anticipating disruptions such as labor strikes. I unpack and problematize data and algorithms used within such systems and how they co-construct labor risks.

Imprecision farming? How agricultural supply chains are re-cast around the 'precise inaccuracies' of digital farming technologies

Authors: Mr Louis Thiemann (International Institute of Social Studies, The Hague); Dr Oane Visser (International Institute of Social Studies (ISS)); Dr Sarah Ruth Sippel

Our research examines digital agriculture's (in)accuracies and their repercussions. We argue that over-reliance on big data and algorithms can lead to 'precision traps': Decision-making in and about agriculture that is governed by the needs of AI.

P43a Lateral Ethnographies: Exploratory Knowledge Production, Speculative Fictions, and Alternative Future-Making

Panel

Convenors: Dr Cristiana Strava (Leiden University); Mr Federico De Musso (Leiden University)

Fri 10th Jun, 12:00-13:45

This panel aims to showcase submissions addressing alternative ways of thinking about knowledge production, in anthropology and related disciplines, in relation to speculative, creative and lateral visions of the future and their intersection with various global crises.

12:00-13:45

Future visions and already available alternatives: design and anthropology in the classroom

Authors: Dr Eeva Berglund (Aalto University); Dr Idil Gaziulusoy (aalto university)

We discuss our efforts to nurture collaborative learning in futures-oriented design through our joint teaching. Drawing on our experiences in the classroom, we focus specifically on how futures-oriented design pedagogy can converse with anthropologically rooted ideas of what is humanly possible.

Activism and Care as Knowledge Production: Embedded Ethnography in Social Movements During Times of Crisis

Author: Other Maya Bhardwaj (University of Pretoria)

This paper explores activist queer of color ethnographies during COVID-19 and BLM uprisings. It argues that centering queer systems of care and collective knowledge-production within social movements reveals critical queer BIPOC modes of activism that sustain the margins through times of crisis.

Crippled collaborations: Science fiction and the access to dis/ability worlds

Author: Dr Leonie Dronkert (University of Amsterdam)

Building on the ideas of interdependent Crip methodology, this multi-modal paper shows how the coproduction of a science-fiction film by a filmmaker with mild intellectual disabilities and a PhD researcher in medical anthropology opened up a space where different kinds of knowing could flourish.

Around the table, a world of one's own: Tabletop roleplaying games and the collective narrative creation of a future after climate collapse

Author: Ms Kellynn Wee (University College London)

My research on roleplaying games investigates collective narrative practices and contingency in Singapore. Collaborating with a producer to develop a solarpunk game set in a post-climate collapse Asia, I show how games enable people to explore alternative ways of thinking about the future.

P43b Lateral Ethnographies: Exploratory Knowledge Production, Speculative Fictions, and Alternative Future-Making

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Drawing Focus. Comics as ethnographic explorations.

Author: Mr Federico De Musso (Leiden University)

Addressing the drawing of a comic about covid-19, the paper explores the multimodal possibilities of speculative narratives for knowledge dissemination. While comics is a heuristic tool for ethnographic analysis, they are also part of the information politics that surrounded the pandemic.

Martenochtitlan: Imagining Mexico in Outer Space

Author: Dr Anne Johnson (Universidad Iberoamericana)

In this paper, I reflect upon Mexican imaginaries of outer space, taking as a starting point a speculative assemblage of iconographic, mythological, ritual and architectural fragments known as "Martenochtitlan", produced collectively by a diverse group of Mexican space enthusiasts.

AI and Exploratory Future Production--whose futures are being reproduced through speculative technologies?

Author: Other Ana Carolina de Assis Nunes (Oregon State University)

In this presentation, I explore Artificial intelligence (AI) as a form of future-making. Using ethnofiction as a genre of ethnography, my presentation offers a glimpse into the politics of AI research and asks what future is being reproduced through datasets used to train artificial intelligence?

Future Memory Work: Unsettling temporal Othering through speculative research practices

Author: Mrs Anne Chahine (Aarhus University)

This paper introduces 'future memory work' as a conceptional framework and speculative practice to unsettle temporal hierarchies that lead to Othering through time as part of the anthropological project, proactively making use of how the future shapes the way we (re)construct the past in the now.

P44a Futurology: anthropological containment and delivery

Panel

Convenor: Dr Jonathan Skinner (University of Surrey)

Discussant: Dr Ian Yeoman (Victoria University of Wellington)

Fri 10th Jun, 12:00-13:45

Whether planning, modelling, forecasting or predicting, the future is always under consideration. This panel looks to the structuring and disciplining of this practice by anthropology and futurology.

12:00-13:45

Microbes and Microchips: emergent technologies, emerging futures

Authors: Mr Eric Orlowski (University College London); Ms Katherine Pfeiffer (UCL)

In this paper, we explore how futures may be solidified through emerging technologies. Through two ethnographic studies - human augmentation in Sweden and biodesign in the UK – we question the role of "objects of the future" in shifting imaginaries of the future from the virtual to the real.

Alternative Religions and a Future of Digital Societies

Author: Dr Pavel Horák (The Czech Academy of Sciences, Institute of Ethnology)

We will experience a major rise of alternative religions focusing on nature, the body, and the environment in the future decades. The rise will reflect digital revolution and transformation it bring to Euro-American societies. The paper considers future research for anthropology and related fields.

Pricing the future of politics: prediction markets, gambling, and the evacuation of causal narrative

Author: Dr Anthony Pickles (University of East Anglia)

Prediction markets are the result of bets, most often on political outcomes. This paper presents ongoing ethnographic research into how market speculation refracts political understanding for those who participate in prediction markets and extends the market into speculative futures.

P44b Futurology: anthropological containment and delivery

Panel

Convenor: Dr Jonathan Skinner (University of Surrey)

Discussant: Dr Ian Yeoman (Victoria University of Wellington)

Fri 10th Jun, 14:30-16:15

Whether planning, modelling, forecasting or predicting, the future is always under consideration. This panel looks to the structuring and disciplining of this practice by anthropology and futurology.

14:30-16:15

Figurations of Singapore: Crafting Futures as Political Project

Author: Ms Yong Han Poh (Oxford University)

How are different futures mobilised by the state to achieve specific ends, and what processes can be observed from the production, circulation, and reception of futures? I hope to unpack the political project of crafting futures by studying the history and evolution of futurology in Singapore.

From Antiquity to Apocalypse: End of time alterity between Old and New worlds

Author: Dr Jonathan Skinner (University of Surrey)

This paper explores futurology and the alterity of time by looking at the attraction of "the end of time". It does so by juxtaposing interest in Antiquity with interest in the Apocalypse.

The will to ... what?

Authors: Dr Brendan Whitty (University of East Anglia); Dr Ben Eyre (Università di Bologna)

How can anthropologists position themselves, if distancing themselves from the 'will to improve' risks irrelevance? After reviewing a number of alternative research programmes, we turn attention to aid workers' and ethnographers' differing engagements with the will to improve.

P45 Priorities for AI ethics, law and governance

Panel

Convenor: Ms Laura Musgrave (Sparck and Ronin Institute)

Tue 7th Jun, 13:30-15:15

What should the priorities be in approaching AI ethics, law and governance? This panel proposes a discussion of how we define those priorities in a space which crucially relies on multidisciplinary collaboration.

Sensor technologies and data collection: City of Melbourne response

Author: Mx Tegan Kop (Smart City Incubator)

As the use of sensor technologies and data collection become an increasing part of the urban realm —through their presence in public spaces, their uses in city operations and business practices, and their outcomes for local communities—it's increasingly important for city custodians like local governments to develop methods to ensure their design, testing, installation, use and maintenance are transparent, safe and effective for the people who live in and use cities.

'Revenge Pornography' and the Canadian Criminal Justice System: Case Studies in Online Sexual Violence and the Challenges and Opportunities for Feminist Theory and Practice

Author: Prof Heather Barnick (The University of Prince Edward Island)

Criminal justice systems around the world are struggling to keep pace with new forms of sexual violence enabled by the internet and mobile digital devices. Image-based sexual abuse, like "revenge pornography", has proven to be particularly challenging. Where and how might feminists intervene?

Do efforts from Public Policy and Planning to incorporate democratic participation and public oversight have lessons for AI governance?

Author: Ms Lina Moe (Rutgers University)

This paper will explore how the conflicted approaches to public policy may offer lessons for analyzing AI governance. The evolution of policy approaches from expert-centric paradigms to include more democratic, participatory, and diffuse planning processes may forecast debates in AI governance.

Power of framing priorities for AI governance, ethics and regulation

Author: Dr Inga Ulnicane (De Montfort University)

This contribution examines the role that power plays in framing priorities in governance, ethics and regulation of Artificial Intelligence (AI). In particular, it explores, firstly, the distribution of power in setting priorities in AI policy and secondly, its influence on the priorities chosen.

P46 Looking forward, counterfactually: Visions of the might yet be/maybe not of marginalised people and their states

Panel

Convenors: Dr Anthony Howarth (Independent Scholar); Miss Freya Hope (University of Oxford)

Discussant: Prof Kath Weston (University of Edinburgh)

Thu 9th Jun, 12:00-13:45

The marginalised are often denied a place in the futurist visions of late-liberal political economies. Extending a nascent 'counterfactual ethnography' we explore the might yet be/maybe not visions the marginalised employ and defy in order to survive, as well as how these are broken and re-routed.

Living Counterfactually: New Travellers' Experiments in Alterity

Author: Miss Freya Hope (University of Oxford)

New Travellers, a UK mobile alternative community, are a counterfactual group both as an 'embodied counterfactual' (Gideon Archi 2020) and because in anthropological terms they may not actually exist. Due to this, exploring their lives may elicit what it takes to 'live differently' (Weston 2021).

Limits of a Researcher's Predictions: Fate of a 'None' Category

Author: Ms Karvileena Deka

This paper focuses on the 'counterfactual concept' of a community traditionally studied by the researcher presented through the photo elicitation method. It explores the deciding factor of the community whether they are assigned or not with a reserved caste category.

Chaos and Connective Patterning: A Speculative Ethnography of Irish Traveller Counterfactuality

Author: Dr Anthony Howarth (Independent Scholar)

As with life itself, fieldwork and subsequent ethnography are each in their own way processes of imposing order on chaos. But what role does counterfactuality play in patterning chaos? This paper explores the counterfactuality of Irish Travellers as a means for them to pattern social relationships.

P48a Informed Environments

Panel

Convenors: Dr Hannah Knox (University College London); Miss Emilie Glazer (UCL)

Discussant: Prof Kim Fortun (University of California Irvine)

Tue 7th Jun, 13:30-15:15

This panel explores the role of digital infrastructures in framing, shaping and constituting environmental relations in the anthropocene. We explore how models, maps, databases, archives, sensors, images and algorithms are implicated in the conduct of contemporary environmental politics.

Streams of surveillance, or the flows of water, chemical compositions, and the consequences of safety in the city of Jerusalem

Author: Miss Emilie Glazer (UCL)

Sensors and streams of data reveal compositions of water flows under the streets of Jerusalem. They also reveal how safety intertwines with surveillance. What follows carries stories of transformed relations with water, where justice intervenes in the intimate spaces of imagination, affect, care.

Digitally infrastructuring soils: contested visions of the underground

Author: Ms Virginia Vargolskaia (University of Vienna)

The presentation explores how new ways of "seeing" are emerging at the interface of root science and computer vision, where artificial neural networks promise open software and faster image segmentation.

From Industrial Excess to Infrastructural Convergence: District Heating and Facebook's Data Storage

Author: Other Caroline Anna Salling (IT University of Copenhagen)

This paper explores 'industrial excess' through the convergence of two infrastructures: a district heating network and a Facebook datacenter. It points to how the use of server hot air to phase out of coal as fuel in a Danish city positions datacenters as industrial solution in the Anthropocene.

P48b Informed Environments

Panel

Convenors: Dr Hannah Knox (University College London); Miss Emilie Glazer (UCL)

Discussant: Prof Kim Fortun (University of California Irvine)

Wed 8th Jun, 12:00-13:45

This panel explores the role of digital infrastructures in framing, shaping and constituting environmental relations in the anthropocene. We explore how models, maps, databases, archives, sensors, images and algorithms are implicated in the conduct of contemporary environmental politics.

12:00-13:45

Informing Air Pollution in Copenhagen: Overflows and Concerned Groups

Authors: Mr Rasmus Haarlov (IT University of Copenhagen); Prof Steffen Dalsgaard (IT University of Copenhagen)

The paper explores how the arrival in Copenhagen of Google's Project Air View has re-invigorated debates over responsibility for air pollution. We discuss how groups of citizens, corporate, and municipal actors deploy informational tools to justify positions of politicisation.

Information Ontologies and Environmental Collapse: Environmental Approaches to Archiving

Author: Mr Colin Morgan

Against the abstraction of information from physical data servers, how might information workers might think more about the physicality of their labor?

Enabling net-zero futures: The afterlife of knowledge infrastructures in post-Paris offsetting

Authors: Dr Kamilla Karhunmaa (University of Helsinki); Dr Mira Käkönen (Tampere University)

This paper examines the paucities and continuities in the knowledge infrastructure that enables carbon offsetting after the Paris climate agreement. We show how the knowledge infrastructure of offsetting has an afterlife that perpetuates problematic commensurabilities, (in)visibilities and harms.

Sensing ecologies of digital water

Authors: Mr Jonas Falzarano Jessen (Aalborg University); Dr Astrid Oberborbeck Andersen (Arbejde)

We explore how notions of automation and control alter the ecology of sensing practices within the Danish water industry. How do more-than-human networks of sensemaking (in)form the future history of water? And how is ethnographic sensemaking transformed when making sense of water is dated?

P48c Informed Environments

Panel

Convenors: Dr Hannah Knox (University College London); Miss Emilie Glazer (UCL)

Discussant: Prof Kim Fortun (University of California Irvine)

Wed 8th Jun, 14:30-16:15

This panel explores the role of digital infrastructures in framing, shaping and constituting environmental relations in the anthropocene. We explore how models, maps, databases, archives, sensors, images and algorithms are implicated in the conduct of contemporary environmental politics.

14:30-16:15

Bears and facial recognition beyond the human

Author: Dr Emily Wanderer (University of Pittsburgh)

This paper examines the development of facial recognition for bears, analyzing how bear facial recognition it was identified as a tractable technological problem, the consequences of its deployment for ecological research, and production of species divides in facial recognition technology.

SMART Conservation? Exploring the Datafication of Protected Area Management and Algorithmic Ontopower in Belize

Authors: Dr James Stinson (York University); Dr Rebecca Zarger (University of South Florida); Ms Tienieke Dykstra (York University); Mr Lee Mccloughlin (Florida International University)

This paper presents an analysis of the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) in Belize, and explores what happens when protected area management is increasingly "datafied" and decisions made not by humans but algorithms and artificial intelligence.

The haptic quality of urban sensing: from the nudge to the algorithmic touch manifold.

Author: Dr Lucia Jalon Oyarzun (EPFL)

A study on environmentality's haptic quality through a series of minor spatial ethnographies of how urban sensors and other environmental devices nudge bodies and shape a soft enclosure and interface informing their encounter with the world, modulating its behaviours and practices within it.

P50a Is that AI judging us? Is that OK? A multi-disciplinary panel unpicks the future impact of AI on law and human justice.

Panel

Convenor: Ms Cari Hyde-Vaamonde (King's College London)

Mon 6th Jun, 12:00-13:45

Involving AI in justice decisions represents a serious challenge, which will impact society as a whole. This panel includes voices from law, technology and the arts in an attempt to break down barriers between disciplines, focusing on the impact of AI on the way in which people experience justice.

12:00-13:45

Decision-making about decision-making: talks and regulations about automation and artificial intelligence systems in the Brazilian Judicial System.

Author: Ms Camila Balsa (Federal University of Paraná - Brazil)

In Brazil, the use of AI in justice recently increased. Now, different professionals are debating, and effectively making material changes. This paper will address lectures, courses, and regulations created from these discussions.

The single justice procedure, online pleas & automatic online conviction - how courts in England & Wales are dehumanising the court process

Author: Ms Penelope Gibbs (Transform Justice)

Most criminal defendants in England and Wales don't meet anyone concerned with their case, in person or virtually. The single justice procedure processes "low level" offences online/on paper. Online pleas & convictions will soon follow. Are these fair & do they facilitate effective participation?

Hey AI, Are You Still Deciding or Are You Already Judging? The Value of Human Decisions as Such in Jurisdiction From an Ethical and a Legal Perspective

Authors: Ms Elisabeth Paar (University of Vienna); Ms Laura Crompton (University of Vienna)

There seems to be a widely shared intuition that human decision as such has value. Is this intuition justified, and could it persist even if AI outperformed humans on every measurable level? This talk aims to explore these questions with regard to the judge from an ethical and a legal perspective.

Dura Lex, sed CompLex: the multi-faceted nature of legal complexity. How can physicists help?

Author: Dr Pierpaolo Vivo

Asked to define 'legal complexity', a prominent legal scholar answered by saying: "I know it when I read it". Can we do better? What are typical features of and possible remedies to the multi-faceted nature of how normed societies work? Complexity science, a modern branch of physics, can help!

P50b Is that AI judging us? Is that OK? A multi-disciplinary panel unpicks the future impact of AI on law and human justice.

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14:30-16:15

Exploring the mechanics of algorithms through gaming technology and art works

Author: Mx Vivienne Griffin (Queen's University Belfast)

As a visual artist working with emerging technology I'm interested in how we engage with algorithms in our everyday lives, the benefits and the pitfalls.

Towards an anthropology of grace in relation to machine learning

Author: Mr W Douglass R Potts (Australian Technology Ltd.)

If a driver swerves to miss a pedestrian, who is responsible if the computer control of the cornering radius does not allow the vehicle to use the utmost potential of the tyre traction? What legislation governs the control system? Can grace, anthropology and engineering mesh to manage these issues?

Judged by the machines: How do we understand the impact AI could have on the legitimacy of the justice system?

Author: Ms Cari Hyde-Vaamonde (King's College London)

Pressure on courts means reform is inevitable, but if new technology is introduced without both a common language and shared goals between tech and other disciplines, the public's sense of legitimacy in the system is at risk. This paper explores the impact, and how collaboration might be achieved.

P51a Past, Future, Responsibility: Towards More Engaged Histories of Anthropology

Convenors: Dr Fabiana Dimpflmeier ('Gabriele d'Annunzio' University of Chieti-Pescara); Prof Hande Birkalan-Gedik (Goethe Universität)

Chair: Dr John Tresch (University of London)

Wed 8th Jun, 12:00-13:45

The panel invites historians of anthropology, as "responsible intellectuals", to reflect on how, and when, and using which kind of approaches and methodologies is necessary and desirable today to practice histories of anthropology that are also aimed at thinking about the future of human society.

12:00-13:45

A history not desired: anthropology and folklore studies in Greece

Author: Dr Georgios Agelopoulos (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki)

This paper is an attempt to incorporate the history of Greek folklore studies into the history of Greek anthropology by focusing not on accounts of the past but on the promises for the future provided by both disciplines during their early stages of development.

Anthropology drawing on phenomenology and semiotics - a case of development of Polish theory and methodology of ethnological/anthropological research.

Author: Prof Marcin Brocki (Jagiellonian University)

In the history of Polish anthropology phenomenology and semiotics have been permanently effective methodological tools for the discipline in such different areas as economic exclusion, through research on populist nationalism, to the study of the history of anthropology itself.

Present-Day Anthropological Engagement and Engaged History of Anthropology

Author: Prof Michał Buchowski (Adam Mickiewicz University)

A view on the history and current state of the art of Polish anthropology seen in a comparative perspective is given. This case study illustrates the point that in contemporary accounts of the discipline's history not only the "objective" findings' quality but also ethical engagement is decisive.

P51b Past, Future, Responsibility: Towards More Engaged Histories of Anthropology

Panel

Convenors: Dr Fabiana Dimpflmeier ('Gabriele d'Annunzio' University of Chieti-Pescara); Prof Hande Birkalan-Gedik (Goethe Universität)

Chair: Prof Jeremy MacClancy (Oxford Brookes University)

Wed 8th Jun, 14:30-16:15

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14:30-16:15

'No Visitors Beyond This Point': How to Write Histories of Anthropology in an Age of Participation/Exclusion?

Author: Dr Ildiko Kristof (Institute of Ethnology Hungarian Academy of Sciences Research Centre for the Humanities)

Based on a double experience of conducting fieldwork and writing historical studies (in Native American, Arctic, and Oceanian topics), I will discuss aspects of methodology in an attempt to achieve socially more engaged ways of writing the history of anthropology in one's own country (Hungary).

"The past is never dead. It's not even past" (from William Faulkner, Requiem for a Nun), As Applied to the History of Anthropology

Author: Dr Rosemary Zumwalt (Agnes Scott College)

In his speech on race in America, Former President Obama paraphrased a quote from Faulkner: "The past isn't dead and buried. In fact, it isn't even past." How do we as historians of anthropology learn from the past and help shape the future? and how do we do this responsibly and ethically?

Digital returns: histories of anthropology and archives of the future in A'uwẽ lands

Author: Dr Rosanna Dent (New Jersey Institute of Technology -- Rutgers Newark)

What returns can history of anthropology offer to communities who have repeatedly been subjects of inquiry? Examining A'uwẽ-Xavante Elders' perspectives, the challenges they pose to temporalities of history, and a collaborative digital archive project, this paper explores possible futures.

P52 The Art and Politics of AI: Value Creation in the Digital Era

Panel

Convenor: Ms Valentine Goddard (AI Impact Alliance)

Thu 9th Jun, 12:00-13:45

The ethics of Artificial Intelligence (AI) are political and navigate between well-intended hopes for the future and the troubled waters of power. This panel explores emerging currents in interdisciplinary machine learning design and best practices in the inter-arts of AI ethics, a creative path between art and law, where art interventions lead to a democratic governance of AI. These currents are intended to foster engagement in the envisioning of our collective futures, and lead towards equitable and sustainable value creation in digital economies and democracies.

12:00-13:45

AI: Art Intelligence

Author: Mr Bolinas Frank

AI will have the ability to use all equivalents of human senses to imagine alternative futures and then present that knowledge in the form of art to humans in order to facilitate the understanding of those possible future realities.

Beyond Human: Material Ecology and Post-anthropocene AI

Author: Ms Jana Thompson (NYU)

Based on work of Solomon and Baio (2020) and Oxman (2022), I want to propose a symbiotic material intelligence approach to artificial intelligence beyond the cyborg on how we can move forward with embodiment and non-human intelligences as design materials for future AI projects and systems.

Collective Desire for Possibility: Desire Lines and Content Moderation AI

Authors: Dr Gillian Russell (SLAT SFU); Mr Prem Sylvester (Simon Fraser University); Mr Zeerak Talat (University of Sheffield)

We examine the role of machine learning in content moderation on social media and how it elides or otherwise ignores the collective desires of those who use such sites. Against this, we develop the notion of 'desire lines' as creative practices that record collective agency in these digital spaces.

Robot Rights and Human Wrongs, a fanzine

Author: Dr Freyja van den Boom

This paper argues for the use of art as a qualitative method in legal research on the challenges posed by AI because it can 'connect us with those who are similar and dissimilar, open up new ways of seeing and experiencing, and illuminate that which otherwise remains in darkness.' Patricia Leavy

P53a The concept of Tradition: its survival, transformation and virtual world refashioning

Panel

Convenors: Dr Tamara Dragadze (RAI); Prof Lia Melikishvili (Georgian Academy of Sciences)

Mon 6th Jun, 12:00-13:45

Countries such as Georgia with strong traditions when isolated within the Soviet Union now have access to uncensored media of all sorts and access to the internet and increasingly so in rural areas.

12:00-13:45

The concept of Tradition: its survival, transformation and virtual world refashioning

Authors: Dr Tamara Dragadze (RAI); Prof Lia Melikishvili (Georgian Academy of Sciences)

Countries such as Georgia with strong traditions when isolated within the Soviet Union now have access to uncensored media of all sorts and access to the internet and increasingly so in rural areas.

Social Media as a Means of Saving Interrupted Georgian-Ossetian Tradition (The Case of Sajvareoba Festival in Racha)

Authors: Dr Natia Jalabadze (TSU, Ivane Javakhishvili Institute of History and Ethnology); Dr Lavrenti Janiashvili (Iv. Javakhishvili Institute of History and Ethnology)

The article argues that social media and internet technologies can be a resource for saving joint Georgian-Ossetian religious practices that were interrupted due to the 2008 August war.

In Between Past and Present-Ethno-Psychological Reflections on Tradition

Author: Dr Nino Ghambashidze (V. Sarajishvili Tbilisi State Conservatoire, Georgian Association for Analytical Psychology)

As the nature of tradition is to be gradually transformed under the leading process of society's needs, abrupt change of tradition may cause difficulties especially from the point of view of mentality and psychological development.

The present paper discusses the mentioned process.

The paper deals with the trends and innovative approaches to the development of intangible cultural heritage using the modern virtual world, including digital technologies and social networks.

Author: Prof Temur Tunadze (Tbel Abuseridze Teaching University Cultural Heritage Protection Agency of Adjara)

In post-Soviet Georgia traditional cultural heritage has covered many aspects of human life thanks to the digital world. In parallel with the growing dependence of state institutions on cultural heritage, as well as the development of the tourism sector, the traditional culture of weaving and embroidery, which has been partially forgotten, is being reincarnated in modern Georgia.

P53b The concept of Tradition: its survival, transformation and virtual world refashioning

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14:30-16:15

An Ingush Woman in a Changing World

Author: Dr Makka Албогачиева (Peter the Great Museum of Anthropology and Ethnography (the Kunstkamera))

Paper short abstract: On the example of the lifestyle of Ingush women living in various cities and villages of the republic and beyond, the article examines the processes of transformation of the traditional system in Ingushetia and their consequences.

Traditions emerge out of repetition or can even be invented

Author: Dr Petr Skalník

My research in Slovakia, Czechia, Poland showed that various actions such as annual walks, cycle competitions, memorials, football tournaments become traditional even though they may be artificially created. The same happens with renewals of previously suppressed activities such as religious customs

The Impact of the Internet in the Transformation of Japanese Traditional Childbirth Rites

Author: Dr Hiya Mukherjee (Nagoya University, Japan)

The aim of this paper is to examine how certain Japanese traditional rituals and customs related to childbirth are changing and surviving in modern times by the influence of Internet websites and social media. It is to be remembered that even if the lifestyle of Japanese people has been westernized by the influence of America and Europe, still Japanese people are well known all over the world in preserving their rich cultural heritage, age-old traditional values, etiquette and customs that have been handed down from one generation to another. However, rapid modernization, urbanization, advancement of scientific knowledge and technology and most importantly the heavy influence of social media as well as various Internet websites have brought so many changes in the practice of age-old traditional childbirth rituals in Japan.

Close without saving? How local traditions may withstand a digital demise

Author: Dr Francine Barone (HRAF at Yale University)

Is the Internet responsible for eroding cultural traditions, or is it just a red herring? A comparison of an endangered urban ritual and new social media activity in Catalonia, Spain, reveals that the lifespan of a tradition is surprisingly not platform-dependent, which bodes well for the future.

P54 What can socio-cultural anthropology contribute toward a serious ex ante evaluation of policy and strategy, programme and project, promising and planning for a better future to come?

Panel

Convenor: Prof Raymond Apthorpe (Royal Anthropological Institute)

Thu 9th Jun, 12:00-13:45

By comparison with the plethora of theoretical and practical guidance for ex post policy evaluation of the actual track-records which have been achieved (or not), despite important exceptions such as environmental social impact analysis it remains that publicly available such guidance for serious ex ante evaluation, forecasting, predicting, of promised and planned futures is largely non-existent. What could a socio-cultural anthropological sensibility contribute to such ex ante evaluation?

12:00-13:45

Reimagining futures and policy strategy in Singapore

Author: Mrs Suzannah Kewley

The island nation of Singapore has soared to become one of the world's strongest and most resilient economies, while achieving massive social gains. We look at the innovative methods used to create social policy, which engage anthropologists to analyse and prepare for multiple possible futures.

The Fictions of Process - A phenomenological perspective on the improvement of ex ante evaluation

Author: Dr Amanda Lynn (Mandolin Associates)

While anthropological contribution can focus on social-cultural factors influencing ex ante evaluation of policy, strategy, programme or project, it also has a significant role to play in "calling out" flawed methods utilised to develop policy in applied settings.

Predictive Care: Anticipating Violence in an Emergency Psychiatric Setting

Authors: Dr Laura Sikstrom (Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH)); Dr Katrina Hui (CAMH); Dr Marta Maslej

This paper investigates an emergent medical and technical innovation we call "Predictive Care." Drawing on pilot data from a computational ethnography we examine how the imagined potential of Predictive Care "makes live" new social arrangements and forms of "care" in medicine.

R01 Imagined Futures

Roundtable

Convenor: Mr Ezri Carlebach

Tue 7th Jun, 11:00-12:45

Science fiction – SF to fans, sci-fi to critics - is the cultural form most often associated with imagined futures. Under the broader banner of speculative fiction, SF sits alongside concepts such as foresight, anticipation and envisioning, which have grown in prominence since the middle of the last century as methodologies within strategic studies, policy and academia.

11:00-12:45

Roundtable participant: Max Saunders

Author: Prof Max Saunders (University of Birmingham)

Max Saunders is Interdisciplinary Professor of Modern Literature and Culture at the University of Birmingham. He was Director of the Arts and Humanities Research Institute at King's College London.

Roundtable participant: Anne Charnock

Author: Ms Anne Charnock

Anne Charnock's writing career began in journalism. Her reports appeared in New Scientist, The Guardian and the International Herald Tribune. She has written four near-future novels with recurrent themes of climate catastrophe and human reproductive technologies.

Roundtable participant: Christine Aicardi

Author: Dr Christine Aicardi (King's College London)

I am a Senior Research Fellow in Science and Technology Studies at King's College London, Department of Global Health & Social Medicine. I have extensive experience collaborating in multidisciplinary teams to facilitate responsible research and innovation practices in the development of future technologies.

Roundtable participant: Stephen Oram

Author: Mx Stephen Oram

Stephen Oram writes near-future fiction. His collections have been praised by publications as diverse as The Morning Star and The Financial Times. He is published in many anthologies and has two published novels.

R02 Critical Research-Creation Engagements with Artificial Intelligence: New Works from the Making Culture Lab and CriticalMediaArtsStudio (cMAS)

Roundtable

Convenors: Dr Kate Hennessy (Simon Fraser University); Dr Gabriela Aceves Sepulveda (Simon Fraser University)

Discussants: Mr Tylar Campbell (Simon Fraser University); Dr Steve DiPaola (Simon Fraser University); Dr Trudi Lynn Smith (University of Victoria); Dr Prophecy Sun (Emily Carr University of Art Design); Ms Freya Zinovieff (Simon Fraser University)

Wed 8th Jun, 14:30-16:15

Toward an anthropology of the multimodal, we present research-creation works engaging AI that represent, visualize, and interrogate expressions of gender, race, histories, relationalities, materiality, and cultural forms for exhibition and dialogue across disciplinary boundaries.

14:30-16:15

Sonic Ecologies of Bodies and Place: Multimodal Narratives

Authors: Dr Prophecy Sun (Emily Carr University of Art Design); Dr Gabriela Aceves Sepulveda (Simon Fraser University); Ms Freya Zinovieff (Simon Fraser University); Dr Steve DiPaola (Simon Fraser University)

Sonic Ecologies of Bodies and Place: Multimodal Narratives describes a series of collaborative projects that incorporate video, sound, performance and AI tools to pose questions about the complex material, ecological and temporal entanglements between humans, non-humans and technology.

White Clouds in Blue Sky

Authors: Dr Kate Hennessy (Simon Fraser University); Dr Trudi Lynn Smith (University of Victoria); Dr Steve DiPaola (Simon Fraser University)

white clouds in blue sky juxtaposes a performative engagement with the materiality of gallery refuse with the poetics and politics of AI and machine vision, where humans and machines increasingly mutually constitute, reinforce and rewrite classifications and meanings of things.

FaceJam: Détournement and ambivalent non-fiction in the Metaverse

Author: Mr Brett Gaylor (Simon Fraser University)

Welcome To The Metaverse is a work of Multi-Modal Ambivalence that humorously uses Instagram's augmented reality face filters to engage users while at the same time encouraging them to be deeply skeptical of the shared digital environment of the Metaverse.

Liberty!: Revival of African American Folk Culture in the Age of Digital Technology

Author: Mr Tylar Campbell (Simon Fraser University)

This panel explores George Moses Horton as an oral poet, from Oral Horton To Written Horton, and Now Digital Horton. This concept of "experiencing" is entirely new in fiction narration. Through the creation of an Acoustic Avatar, we demonstrate how the user can "immerse" oneself in Horton's poetry.

R03 AI in holistic care and healing practices: the caring encounter beyond COVID-19

Roundtable

Convenor: Dr Runa Lazzarino (Middlesex University)

Chair: Prof Irena Papadopoulos (Middlesex University)

Wed 8th Jun, 14:30-16:15

In holistic care and healing, the body and the physical presence of receivers and providers are essential, as often spiritual care and other bodily manipulations are involved. In this multidisciplinary roundtable, we reflect on how AI is changing the caring encounter towards post-human scenarios.

14:30-16:15

Autism: Masculinity, Machines, Robots and AI

Author: Prof Kathleen Richardson (De Montfort University)

Drawing on anthropological fieldwork in robotics and therapeutic interventions in autism, this talk will examine the way in which roboticists and AI researchers draw on models of mental health when designing machines for autism therapy.

The caring encounter beyond COVID-19: developing spiritual care competency and the use of technologies among the nursing profession in Europe.

Author: Prof Fiona Timmins (University College Dublin)

This paper discusses ongoing work on the development of competencies and educational resources for nurses in healthcare, including with the use of technologies. Referring specifically to post-Covid spirituality needs, these developments will more aptly support nurses to respond to patients' spiritual needs in the hospital setting.

Social Robots in Health and Care during COVID-19 and Beyond

Author: Dr Anne Aronsson (Yale University)

COVID-19 presents a grave danger to humanity. The deployment of AI and robotic devices might increase not only to support disease detection and diagnosis but also to assist with holistic care, healing practices, and social interactions to supplement the lack of contact during social distancing.

The Hybrid Mind: A Novel Form of Human-Machine Interaction

Author: Dr Marcello Ienca (EPFL)

Advances in neurotechnology and AI enable a symbiotic cognitive integration called the "hybrid mind". This paper explores the notion of hybrid mind, identifies its unique ontological features, and outlines ethical questions arising from this unprecedented blending of human brain-minds and machines.

Diversity-aware social robots meet people: beyond context-aware embodied AI

Authors: Prof Antonio Sgorbissa (University of Genova); Prof Carmine Recchiuto

Starting from our experience with culture-aware robotics, the article introduces the concept of a "diversity-aware robot", i.e., an embodied AI that takes into account the unique characteristics of the person it is interacting with to be more easily accepted and provide them with better services.

R04 When Cyber Security Meets AI Ethics: What human society will be like by 2030?

Roundtable

Convenors: Dr Harmonie Toros (University of Kent); Prof Shujun Li (University of Kent); Prof Aylish Wood (University of Kent)

Wed 8th Jun, 12:00-13:45

A group of experts from multiple disciplines and different sectors will discuss long-term impacts of cyber security and AI ethics, and predict how the future human society will look like in 2030, depending on how well or how badly we address today's socio-technical challenges.

<https://research.kent.ac.uk/cyber/cyber-security-meets-ai-ethics-2030/>

12:00-13:45

Roundtable participant: Lorenzo Cavallaro

Author: Prof Lorenzo Cavallaro (University College London)

Lorenzo Cavallaro grew up on pizza, spaghetti, and Phrack, first. Underground and academic research interests followed shortly thereafter. He is a Full Professor of Computer Science at UCL Computer Science, where he leads the Systems Security Research Lab (<https://s2lab.cs.ucl.ac.uk>) within the Information Security Research Group.

Roundtable participant: Sara Degli-Esposti

Author: Dr Sara Degli-Esposti (CSIC)

Dr Sara Degli-Esposti is permanent Research Scientist in AI Ethics at the Institute of Philosophy (IFS) of the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC) in Madrid (Spain), and also Honorary Research Fellow in the Centre for Business in Society (CBiS), Coventry University (UK).

Roundtable participant: Amy McLennan

Author: Dr Amy McLennan (Australian National University)

Dr Amy McLennan works at the intersections of technology, society, food and health. She is currently a Senior Fellow at the ANU School of Cybernetics, and is affiliated with the University of Oxford's School of Anthropology and UniSA Creative. Amy is trained in medical science, anthropology and cybernetics, and her research and teaching focus on cross-disciplinary and cross-sectoral topics, including food systems, non-communicable diseases and artificial intelligence.

Roundtable participant: Patrick Scolyer-Gray

Author: Dr Patrick Scolyer-Gray (460degrees)

Dr Patrick Scolyer-Gray is a cyber-sociologist who investigates what, how and why people think and do what they do. By deploying a mixture of methods, concepts and theories drawn from both behavioural and physical sciences, Dr Scolyer-Gray identifies the security implications of human behaviour and cognitive processes to develop solutions to the vulnerabilities and threats he finds.

R07 Communicating the Moving World to Audiences of Non-Anthropologists

Roundtable

Convenors: Prof Giovanna Guslini (Formerly of the Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research); Dr Natalia Bloch (Adam Mickiewicz University)

Fri 10th Jun, 12:00-13:45

In this round table we want to create a space for discussion on the different forms of communicating a world on the move, aimed at audiences of non-anthropologists. People on the move or those whose movement is restricted are nowadays at the centre of the public debate, not only because of the difficulties imposed on movement by the COVID-19 pandemic. Global economic inequalities, political conflicts and climate change force people to move both as migrants and refugees. Those, however, are often represented in the mainstream media as a burden or a threat, being demonized and denied the right to move. Which means of communication and which language should we use to talk to the media and wider public to counter this discourse by introducing our anthropological knowledge and perspective? Participating in television broadcasts, organising events for schools, writing for magazines and newspapers, telling stories, designing itineraries for exhibitions, providing affordable materials in museums, raising awareness through social media and film-making are just some of the ways to make anthropological perspective available to everyone and able to shape public debates. In this meeting we would like to share our knowledge and experience on the opportunities, methods, techniques and tools to be used so that the anthropologist can attract and engage non-professional audiences, build a link between the academic world and society and finally enhance the figure of the anthropologist among those who still ignore her/his role in today's society.

12:00-13:45

Digital Magazines

Author: Dr Emily Sekine (SAPIENS)

How to bring anthropology to the public? SAPIENS is a digital magazine about anthropological thinking and discoveries that seeks to make a difference in how people around the world see themselves and the people around them through the lens of anthropology.

Social Media and Anthropology for Non-Anthropologists: Experiences from the Global South (Mexico)

Author: Dr Ricardo A. Fagoaga Hernández (World Council of Anthropological Associations (WCAA) and World Anthropological Union (WAU))

In this roundtable, I will share my experience as the creator and social media strategist of the Colegio de Etnólogos y Antropólogos Sociales (CEAS), also known as the Mexican anthropological association. I will focus on how over a decade CEAS became the most important social media platform (Facebook) worldwide and how different public reacts to the content posted daily.

Moving Anthropology to the World

Author: Prof Joy Hendry (Oxford Brookes University)

Lockdown came just after the free release of a film about fieldwork, offering a good example of moving anthropology to the world; I also recorded events for school children through the Brookes Science Festival and lectured live to the British Science Festival. Now I am seeking a publisher for some anthropological fiction. Any offers? It's a good story!

Disaster Times and Anthropology as Layered Advocacy

Author: Dr Bobby Luthra Sinha (Adiwasi Samta Manch, Chhattisgarh)

COVID-19 lockdowns challenged anthropologists all over the world. People's agency and their contexts in which anthropologists immerse themselves thick, became remote, out of bounds and silenced during the pandemic, at least for a while. Using a layered, ethnographic advocacy. I negotiated with NGO's and government of India to provide food to thirty migrant families in Delhi during April-July 2020.

Creative Ethnographic Writing

Author: Dr Kayla Rush (Dublin City University)

In my contribution to the roundtable, I will share my experiences and perspectives as a teacher of creative ethnographic writing. I will discuss the potential of creative ethnography for communicating anthropological research and ideas to non-anthropologist and non-academic audiences. I will also present creative ethnography as a feminist and decolonial practice, and 'voice' as a practice of resistance.