

**BBC World Service Commission - The Documentary “Me and my digital twin: Exploring the Future of Identity and Technology” - The Documentary live radio / podcast strand - November 2024**

BBC WORLD SERVICE The Documentary live radio / podcast strand - first broadcast on 30th November 2024 as one of 12 annual 1 hour radio commissions.

Commissioned research, scriptwriting, interviews and presentation by Ghislaine Boddington, translating her research work "My AI Hybrid Biotwin" into a public-facing global broadcast format.

In Me and My Digital Twin, Ghislaine Boddington explores the profound possibilities of digital human twins through a multidimensional lens that encompasses advancements in artificial intelligence, biometrics, and digital identity. Underpinned by Boddington's ongoing original research based at the University of Greenwich on AI Hybrid Bio-Twins, she examines how AI, health technology, and real-time biometric data can combine to create a digital version of oneself, supporting health, work, and personal identity management throughout a lifetime, and potentially beyond physical existence. This speculative yet rigorous investigation is informed by real-time body data, including heart rate, respiratory functions, and emotional responses, allowing a digital twin to act as an insightful companion, co-creator, advisor, collaborator and posthumous representative.

Boddington's documentary follows her engagement with experts across fields such as cardiology, digital ethics and creative AI, tracing the boundaries and ethical implications of digital human twins. Her interactions reveal both the supportive potential and the profound ethical concerns surrounding data privacy, autonomy, and identity in a society increasingly integrated with AI. The implications of Boddington's project are notable, particularly as she examines the ethical and technical viability of digital twins through discussions with leaders in health, creativity, sports, dance, education, business and technology, as well as data protection experts. By investigating questions of digital identity and memory, the documentary speaks to broader research interests in the intersection of AI, human biology, and digital legacy, offering a valuable resource for researchers and students alike. It creates knowledge exchange into a wider global public, enabling much needed debate on the future of digital identities.

**PUBLIC FACING PROGRAMME DESCRIPTIVE**

Ghislaine Boddington aspires to be interconnected with an AI-powered digital companion - a virtual version of herself - that advises and supports her, keeps her healthy and represents her around the world. A twin that could live on after her death.

As technologies converge, the idea of digital human twins is becoming a real possibility. In practical terms, a digital bio-twin is made up of continuously measured multiple biological signals from your body all fed into an avatar body. Add AI and our virtual twin will become more and more like us.

In a journey that involves dancing in a Belgian basement, virtual table tennis and a discussion on digital death, Ghislaine meets cardiologists, engineers, performance artists and tech entrepreneurs to learn how to build her own virtual self, discovering how existing technology is making a digital human twin a reality.

Written and presented by Ghislaine Boddington, Reader at the University of Greenwich.

Take You Higher written and performed by Samantha Tauber, VNCCII Pty Limited.

Producer: Richard Hollingham - An EcoAudio certified Boffin Media production for BBC World Service

Evidence relating to The Documentary: Me and my digital twin, includes 6 repeat global broadcasts, BBC Sounds (Digital First) (still available for download), trailer mentions across BBC channels into 2026, immediate follow through with BBC World Services Over to You for listeners questions in week following first transmission.

Featured by: BBC Radio 3 and 4, The Financial Times, The Telegraph, Radio Times, CitiesABC, Medium, BusinessABC, Marie.wko, The Global Tech Podcast,

Syndicated to: Canada, US, Africa, and across Europe

“This deserves to be essential listening on digital identity.”

“The most human and emotionally resonant work on digital twins yet produced.”

“Quite a visionary podcast... What a joy to hear a programme that makes the future feel urgent and intimate.”

“Ghislaine Boddington is the perfect translator of the future into real human terms.”

“A rare crossover between art, science and ethics, intelligent, visionary and grounded.”

“This documentary helps us feel the future, not just understand it.”

Interviewees:-

- Declan O'Regan, MRC Laboratory of Medical Sciences
- Steve Levine, Dassault Systèmes
- Andy Miah, MediaCity/University of Salford

- John Challis, Pennsylvania State University
- Axelle Wasiak, Pennsylvania State University
- Michael D. Geer, Humanity
- VNCCII/Samantha Tauber, multimedia music artist
- Sofia Scataglini, Antwerp University
- Steven Truijen, Antwerp University
- Paul Armstrong, TBD Group/Vox-Futura
- Stephanie Hare, Technology journalist
- Stacey Pitsillides, Northumbria University
- Dinis Guarda, Wisdomia

BBC The Documentary Podcast is in the top tier of BBC podcast titles globally (alongside Global News Podcast and Newscast). BBC World Service reaches 313 million people globally each week, and leading episodes like "Me and my digital twin " within The Documentary radio/podcast strand regularly attract audiences in the tens of thousands across broadcasts. BBC Sounds and podcast platforms add 40-80k a month listeners ongoing.