

BBC WORLD SERVICE - The Documentary

Title: Me and my digital twin

Written and Presented by: Ghislaine Boddington

First Airing on: Saturday, 30th November, 12:06 GMT and 8 more times globally that week

Ongoing availability on BBC Sounds, Spotify, Apple and most podcatcher platforms

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Me and my digital twin

Ghislaine Boddington investigates the possibility of living after death through an AI digital twin.

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14:06

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EAST AND SOUTHERN
AFRICA

A portrait of Gislaine Boddington, a woman with long dark hair and purple lipstick, wearing a patterned top. The background is a solid blue color. A white rounded rectangle with the text 'AUDIO DOCUMENTARY' is positioned in the top left corner of the image area.

AUDIO DOCUMENTARY

A white audio waveform graphic with vertical bars of varying heights, set against a pink background.

Me and My Digital Twin

Written and presented by Gislaine Boddington, Senior Researcher at the University of Greenwich

BBC World Service Commission - The Documentary Me and my digital twin (50' radio)

Gislaine 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.

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

First broadcast 24th November 2024.

Available as podcast on BBC Sounds and most platforms

INTERVIEWEE QUOTES FROM SHOW

SAMANTHA TAUBER - The great thing about digital twins and digital avatar alter egos is that you can completely defy physics and embrace the imagination. And so with that, building virtual simulations and worlds allows you to try things out that you can't try out in the real world.

SAMANTHA TAUBER - think the most exciting part about having an AI hybrid digital twin is the ability to learn from it and to grow with it in parallel

SAMANTHA TAUBER - I perceive Vinci as a co -creator for not only creativity but evolving and enhancing as a human being. Part of the original intention and mission of the Vinci project was firstly to represent my authentic essence,

STEPHANIE HARE - There's so many ways that it could go wrong that the challenge is going to be how to get it right.

STEPHANIE HARE - Do I have the choice to decide what data I want going into my digital twin? Or am I able to opt out of certain types of data.

STEPHANIE HARE - Let's say that I don't like how some data has been used about me or I don't like the ultimate design of my digital twin. Who can I go to to fix that?

STACEY PITSILLIDES - We have always used technology to communicate with the dead, this is nothing new. It's just the level of mediation and the level of immersion perhaps is the difference here. And ! think that's kind of what digital twins does and kind of makes us think about.

STACEY PITSILLIDES - We are going to live in a future where we leave less and less material artefacts and we will need other ways to tell the story of who we were at different time periods.

What people are saying – short selection from over 500 comments from listeners :

- “Ghislaine Boddington is the perfect translator of the future into real human terms.”
- “This deserves to be essential listening on digital identity.”
“The most human and emotionally resonant work on digital twins yet produced.”
- “A rare crossover between art, science and ethics, intelligent, visionary and grounded.”
- “This documentary helps us feel the future, not just understand it.”
- “Quite a visionary podcast... What a joy to hear a programme that makes the future feel urgent and intimate.”

- The episode explores how digital human twin technology is providing real life solutions with innovations that influence self-expression, connection, and the way to preserve legacies. The documentary paints an optimistic yet cautionary picture of the future.
- The documentary highlights its transformative applications in healthcare, education, and creativity while showcasing groundbreaking innovations like the Leonardo da Vinci AI agent. Excited to see how this technology reshapes our future!
- Thank you so much [Ghislaine Boddington](#) your work and research are legendary and special your passion, the way you keep being one of the top forefront researchers and creators in the domains of tech, creativity. You are a generous person I admire and love to work and share and bring ideas and connect people!
- Wonderfully crafted and delivered. Thanks Ghislaine for this hour long meditation.
- I found the presentation and storytelling human (rather than technological) in terms of communication style and language. It was accessible in a positive way which allowed for explanation of basic concepts - and for big more existential questions.
- Lots of 'e' words stayed with me: essence, ethics, excitement, energy.
- I'm struck of course by the pace of development and gaining a glimpse into the existing manifestations of Digital Twins, and how they are already part of our fabric. Lots to reflect on. Really stimulating !

- The episode sets out to investigate the practicalities and philosophical questions of creating a personal digital twin while sharing Ghislaine's journey and discoveries.Ghislaine considers the potential of these virtual entities to represent not just who we are, but why we are, capturing the essence of human identity in a digital format.
- At first, I felt some fear toward the idea of a digital twin- but your calm voice & expert navigation showed me beyond any anxiety I had. Great podcast piece Ghislaine & thank you for always being a wonderful guide to our future.
- Your exploration of digital human twins, especially in relation to AI, biometrics, and legacy, deeply resonates with my own research on **AI-human co-creativity and digital identity**. I was particularly intrigued by how you framed digital twins not just as reflections, but as **co-authors of our life stories**—
- But the moment that really stuck with me was at [00:32:00]. When you were asked, "So your digital will dance?" and you replied, "Oh definitely, absolutely, it will dance fantastically, everywhere, and with your digital twin and with your digital twin and with yours as well!"—I couldn't help but smile. It was such a joyful way to capture the potential of this technology. I could practically picture a room full of dancing digital twins!
- [Ghislaine Boddington](#) you are one of the few people that can match academic high research, creativity and business and society understanding of technology AI and ideas. We need that and a human centric vision and road map to build AI that empower humans!
- Your amazing thinking and visionary ideas [Ghislaine Boddington](#) are crucial and critical to build a more balanced world where innovation, education and technology can empower us!
- Ghislaine has been forging this research for decades and finally everyone is realising and accepting the future of physical digital blending. A pioneer.

MEDIA COVERAGE AND SOCIAL MEDIA REACTION, LISTENER COMMENTS AND LISTENER NUMBERS IN COLLECTION

Channel/Platform	Impressions	Listeners
LinkedIn	106185 (<i>figure updated 05/05/26</i>)	N/A
BBC World Service		Reach 313m / First month 39k RSS / 31k as radio show (83% live)
BBC Sounds		50-80k a month across 2025 /2026
Other Podcasts platforms incl. Spotify		?

Endorsed by:

- AI health tech founders
- Neuroscientists and STEAM educators
- Global creative industry networks
- Human rights campaigners
- BBC listeners and cultural commentators