

LIVING WITH AUTOMATION

31 MAY, 2022

The Sigtuna Foundation



The DIGMEX Network, in collaboration with the Sigtuna Foundation, present “**Digital Existence III: Living with Automation - A conference about AI, Biometrics and the Human Condition**”, following on from “Digital Existence: Memory, Meaning, Vulnerability” (2015) and “Digital Existence II: Precarious Media Life” (2017). As part of the conference, this full-day symposium takes existential media studies in new directions, prompting a necessary interrogation of AI and biometrics from creative, imaginary, artistic, philosophical and historical angles, while anthropologically centring on experiences of living with automation in today’s world. It features a series of keynote lectures by distinguished international guests from the humanities, with expertise on AI and the human condition.



PROGRAM - 31 MAY 2022

9.30 *Coffee and registration in Rosengårdssalen*

10.00 Welcome to Sigtunastiftelsen!

10.15 **Prof. Amanda Lagerkvist**, Dept. of Informatics and Media, Uppsala University, PI of the WASP-HS Project BioMe and the Uppsala Informatics and Media Hub for Digital Existence.

Introduction: AI as Existential Media

11.00 **Keynote 1: Prof. N. Katherine Hayles**, James B. Duke Distinguished Professor Emerita of Literature, literary critic and theorist.

Inside the Mind of an AI: Materiality and the Crisis of Representation

12.00 *Lunch*

13.00 **Keynote 2: Prof. Joanna Zylińska**, Professor of Media Philosophy + Critical Digital Practice, Department of Digital Humanities at King's College London.

Machine Visions: On the Digital Imaging of the Future

14.00 **Keynote 3: Dr. Benjamin Peters**, Hazel Rogers Associate Professor and Chair of Media Studies at the University of Tulsa.

What Comes after the Anthropocene? Soviet AI and the Collapse of Other Inhumanely Smart Environments (*via link*)

15-15.30 *Coffee*

15.30 **Keynote 4: Prof. Btihaj Ajana**, Professor in Ethics and Digital Culture at King's College London.

The Immunopolitics of Covid-19 Technologies

16.30-17.00 **Endnote: Prof. Nick Couldry**, Department of Media and Communications, London School of Economics and Political Science. Sociologist of media culture, focusing on media practices, ethics and data colonialism.

17.15-18.30 **Art Exhibition: “Slip of the Digital Tongue” by Jacek Smolicki**, interdisciplinary artist, designer, and researcher within the BioMe project. Dr. Jacek Smolicki is also a soundwalker interested in techniques of attending to (as in paying attention) and recording (as in calling to mind and heart) human and other-than-human realms, events, and existences.

CONTEXT AND FUNDING

The conference is an activity within the project “BioMe: Existential Challenges and Ethical Imperatives of Biometric AI in Everyday Lifeworlds” (2020-2024), headed by Prof. Amanda Lagerkvist (based in the Uppsala Informatics and Media Hub for Digital Existence: <http://www.im.uu.se/research/hub-for-digital-existence>) and hosted by the Department of Informatics and Media at Uppsala University. BioMe is part of the national research program WASP-HS: Wallenberg AI, Autonomous Systems Software Program – Humanities and Society: <https://wasp-hs.org> (2020-2030) financed by the Marianne and Marcus Wallenberg Foundation (MMW) and the Marcus and Amalia Wallenberg Foundation (MAW). The conference is co-organized by the DIGMEX network and the Sigtuna Foundation, and co-funded by MMW, MAW, Uppsala University and the Sigtuna Foundation.



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