

Upcoming fireside chats

8 March 2021 at 15:00 CET

Patrice Chazerand on “AI, a bridge too far? In which Pascal makes up for ‘Descartes’ Error”

Director, Global Digital Foundation



Prior to joining DIGITALEUROPE, Patrice Chazerand was the Secretary-General of the Interactive Software Federation of Europe (ISFE), the trade body of PC and videogames publishers operating in Europe between 2002 and 2009. In this capacity he has established PEGI, the only pan-European system of harmonised rating of digital content dealing with various topics such as internet content, protection of minors, privacy, freedom of expression and intellectual property; competition law as applied to interactive and user-generated content; Net neutrality, etc.

In 1999, Patrice Chazerand set up the Brussels office of Viacom which he ran as Vice President, European Affairs until 2002. During this tenure with Viacom he dealt with audiovisual content creation and distribution on all platforms, anti-piracy, EU audiovisual issues.

From 1989 to 1995, Patrice Chazerand was Director, Public Affairs, at AT&T France, and subsequently Managing Director from 1995 to 1999. He has extensive knowledge of telecom services and networks: regulation, interconnection, universal service, broadband deployment, next gen networks, etc.

Patrice Chazerand spent the first fifteen years of his career with the French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, seven of which were at the Embassy of France in Washington.

“AI, a bridge too far? In which Pascal makes up for ‘Descartes’ Error”

In a nutshell, I plan to build upon the challenge of keeping online gaming out of the scope of the AVMS Directive - drawing from personal experience, in keeping with the rules of the ‘Fireside Chat’ game – with a view to argue that this type of advocacy and subtle interaction with policy makers is too challenging to ever be within AI reach. Come February, I hope that I will be on top of the fine line Pascal intended to draw between ‘esprit de géométrie’ (accessible to bots) and ‘esprit de finesse’ (forever off-limits).

17 March 2021, 15:00 CET

Prof. Dr. Ernst Hafen on Genome meets iPhone – Opportunities and challenges of citizen-controlled personal data cooperatives

Professor of Systems Genetics, Institute of Molecular Systems Biology, ETH Zürich, Zürich, Switzerland



Ernst Hafen, PhD, is a full professor at the Department of Biology of ETH Zürich. As a biologist he is interested in how the genetic instructions in the genome of an organism specify the basis of its form and function. During 30 years of academic research he studied this question in the fruit fly *Drosophila*, a genetic model organism. With the decreasing costs of genome sequencing and the offering of direct to consumer genetic analysis by companies (e.g. 23andme) he realized that people could directly contribute to answering to this basic biological question. Moreover, with their genome and other health data they could contribute as citizen scientists to a better understanding of personalized health and medicine. After all, humans, in contrast to flies, can talk to their doctor about their symptoms and collect health relevant data with their smartphones. The main problem, however, is that people give their data away for free and have no control over the use of their personal data.

Genome meets iPhone – Opportunities and challenges of citizen-controlled personal data cooperatives

In this talk we will discuss the ethical, economic and health opportunities and challenges of the current health data ecosystems and how citizens in Europe could counteract the current US model of surveillance capitalism or the Chinese model of state surveillance with a system in which citizens are in control of their personal data in the same way they are in control of their personal finances.

30 March 2021, 15:00 CE(S)T

Prof Dr Jo Pierson on Artificial Intelligence

Professor in the Department of Media and Communication Studies at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel



Jo Pierson, Ph.D., is Full Professor in the Department of Media and Communication Studies at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) in Belgium (Faculty of Social Sciences & Solvay Business School) and Principal Investigator at the research centre SMIT (Studies on Media, Innovation and Technology). In this position, he is in charge of the research unit 'Data, Privacy & Empowerment', in close cooperation with imec. He holds the VUB

Chair in 'Data Protection on the Ground'. His main research expertise is in online platforms, algorithms, data privacy and user innovation. Since 2016 he is elected member of the International Council and member of the Scholarly Review Committee of the International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR).

Artificial Intelligence

As AI systems increasingly pervade modern society and lead to manifold and diverse consequences, the development of internationally recognized and industry-specific frameworks focusing on legal and ethical principles is crucial. My talk is aimed at (a) understanding how the 7 Key Requirements for Trustworthy AI impact the Media and Technology sector (MTS) and at (b) putting forward guidelines to ensure compliance with the 7 Key Requirements. The talk identifies four application areas of AI MTS, i.e. automating data capture and processing, automating content generation, automating content mediation and automating communication. Subsequently, the 7 Key Requirements are discussed within each of the four identified themes. Ultimately, recommendations are made to ensure that AI development and adoption in Media and Technology sector is compliant with the 7 Key Requirements. Three clusters of recommendations are proposed: (1) addressing data power and positive obligations, (2) empowerment by design and risk assessments and (3) cooperative responsibility and stakeholder engagements. This fits in the broader debate on how to safeguard and promote European public values in technological systems that - due to digital transformation - have become the basis for key sectors in society.

7 April 2021 at 15:00 CE(S)T

Dr.Thanassis Tiropanis on The centralisation-decentralisation pendulum on the Internet and the Web - research challenges



Associate Professor, Electronics and Computer Science - Web and Internet Science, University of Southampton

Thanassis is associate professor with the Web and Internet Science Group, Electronics and Computer Science, University of Southampton and is interested in distributed linked data infrastructures, linked data for higher education, social networks and social machines.

Prior to that he was assistant professor with the Athens Information Technology Institute (AIT) in Greece working on Web technologies and e-learning. Prior to AIT, Thanassis was a research fellow with

University College London (UCL) where he worked on network and service management research for telecommunication services.

He holds a PhD in computer science from UCL, and a DiplIng in computer engineering and informatics from the University of Patras, Greece.

He is also visiting associate professor at the department of Computer Science at the National University of Singapore and a senior member of IEEE, a chartered IT professional with BCS, a fellow of the Higher Education academy in the UK, a member of the ACM and a member of the Technical Chamber of Greece.

The centralisation-decentralisation pendulum on the Internet and the Web - research challenges

Patterns of transition from centralisation to decentralisation and vice versa have been observed throughout the evolution of the Internet and the Web and they correlate with major shifts in innovation and policy. Technological developments on computer networking, distributed systems, knowledge management and data mining have been key enablers in that process. At the present stage, decentralised data infrastructures have been proposed as an enabler for innovation by letting individuals control access to their data in data sharing ecosystems. Nevertheless, there are technological challenges on security, scalability, and optimisation when processing data on a large, decentralised scale. This fireside chat will discuss those challenges and roadmaps to further explore them. Further, it will discuss the implications of technological affordances and challenges on policymaking.

Date tbc, Prof. Dr. Ulrike Felt on Trust, Solidarity and Ownership: Why cocreation matters in building successful health data platform

Head of the Department of Science and Technology Studies, Head of the Research Platform Responsible Research and Innovation in Academic Practice, University of Vienna



Date tbc, Frits Bussemaker on Business Community Builder & D1G1T4L C0NN3CT0R