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Fireside Chats

Digital Enlightenment Forum would like to invite you to an online ‘Fireside Chat’.

What is this about?

We organize a small-size online meeting, lasting about 1 -1.5 hours, for a number of young and promising researchers including PhD and master’s level students to have an informal chat with a senior person from the world of policy, politics, industry or academia. The senior person is the host and she or he will kick-off on a theme (see below). This is then followed by an open discussion. The intention is actually not only to exchange about the theme but also to hear about some of professional life experiences of the host. And perhaps – but without obligation - also to hear what is keeping your mind occupied.

What is the intention?

Digital Enlightenment Forum is an informal community of people committed to the evolution of digitisation in society while respecting human values. We bring together a network of experts and professionals to create and stimulate multi-stakeholder discussions to find solution-focused strategies.

Over the years we have been organising events and undertaking commissioned studies. We had celebrities in our midst such as founder of the World Wide Web Sir Tim Berners-Lee, former European Commissioner Viviane Reding, and Internet visionary Andrew Keen. Often our meetings are held in Brussels and we have a reputation of organising high-quality discussions with policymakers.

We believe that it is important that we can talk to each other, learn from each other, benefit from each other’s experiences and networks. Of course, we would like to see you being engaged in Digital Enlightenment Forum but there are no strings attached to taking part in our fireside chats.

What can you get out of it?

We think that in a short meeting like this you will hear interesting insights about a theme that is close to your heart. We also think that you can pick up some practical ideas from the experience of the host in her or his life as a politician, policymaker, academic, entrepreneur, etc. Finally, you will meet online some people who are more or less at the same stage of their professional and academic life as you are, and perhaps you want to continue staying in touch with them. Each fireside chat will have some 6-8 participants, in addition to the host. We will make continued contact possible if you are interested. That’s it!

We do hope that you join us! **Simply please respond to this email with yes or no**, or I am interested but cannot attend this time.

You can also respond to mdegreef@27plus.com and cc admin@digitalenlightenment.org.

Upcoming fireside chats

18 May 2021 at 16:00 CE(S)T - 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*



27 May 2021 at 15:00 CE(S)T - Prof. Andra Siibak on The datafied child: data practices and imaginaries in children's lives

Professor of Media Studies, Institute of Social Studies, University of Tartu



Andra Siibak is a Professor of Media Studies and program director of the Media and Communication doctoral program at the Institute of Social Studies, University of Tartu, Estonia. Her main field of research has to do with the opportunities and risks surrounding internet use, social media usage practices, datafication of childhood, new media audiences and privacy. Most recently Andra completed a book manuscript, co-authored with Giovanna Mascheroni, entitled *Datafied childhoods: data practices and imaginaries in children's lives*, forthcoming in the Digital Formations series of Peter Lang, in autumn 2021.

Andra has gained international experience while filling different academic positions in a variety of cultural contexts, e.g. been a post-doc in Sweden, guest-researcher in Denmark, Fulbright scholar in the US, and a visiting guest-professor in Italy, Latvia and Lithuania. She has engaged in various international research projects and networks (e.g. EU Kids Online) and acted as expert consultant on Estonia for projects initiated by the European Parliament, European Commission, European Council and OECD. Andra has been awarded with the Young Scientist Award by the President of Estonia (2015), the Outstanding Young Person of Estonia (TOYP) award (2017) and Prof. Peeter Tulviste's memorial scholarship (2020).

The datafied child: data practices and imaginaries in children's lives

In the current age of mediatization, the internet and internet-connect objects (IoT) have come to permeate all contexts of socialisation – the home, the school, the peer group - and are implicated in many of the everyday practices in which children engage. The pervasive and intense mediatization of society, the emergence of a data-driven business model (surveillance capitalism), and the normalisation of a culture of surveillance that frames datafication and dataveillance as good practices (of parenting, of teaching and learning, of self-expression etc.), have led to the fact that the “world which the contemporary child is conceived and raised is one that is increasingly monitored, analyzed and manipulated through technological processes” (Willson, 2018: 1). During the fireside chat we will tackle upon the variety of ways how the practices of children themselves, their parents, peers, and teachers are leading to the creation of their data traces and their data selves.

3 June 2021 at 15:00 CE(S)T - Ilias Iakovidis on Going beyond the dilemma 'Is digitalisation climate solution or pollution?'

Adviser, DG CONNECT, European Commission



Ilias Iakovidis, PhD, is Adviser on digital aspects of green transition at the European Commission, DG CONNECT.

Ilias contributes to EU wide measures and initiatives that aim to improve the energy and material efficiency of ICT, e.g., making data centres climate neutral, digital devices, circular. He is focused on maximising the benefits of green digital transformation for environment & climate, society and economy. Ilias is working on digitalisation for circular economy (e.g. digital product passport) and on the European Green Digital Coalition. He is fostering cooperation of relevant stakeholders to develop consistent and transparent methods to estimate the net impact of digital solutions on environment/climate, and, green digital transformation in sectors such as energy, transport, construction, agriculture and others.

Before 2017 Ilias was leading the eHealth and ICT for ageing units and contributed to the EU Agenda in eHealth field for over 23 years. Areas he pioneered include Integrated Care; 'Virtual Physiological Human'; Personal Health Systems and Electronic Health Records. Ilias has a PhD in Applied Math (USA) and postdoc in biomedical engineering (Canada).

Going beyond the dilemma 'Is digitalisation climate solution or pollution?'

How to quantify net effect of digitalisation and contribute to positive impact.