



**Digital
Future Society**



**Ajuntament de
Barcelona**

Humanism in the digital age

The urban contribution

A programme of



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Humanism in the digital age: The urban contribution

The City of Barcelona and the Mobile World Capital through the initiative Digital Future Society are joining forces to organize the conference “Humanism in the digital age: the urban contribution” that will take place on Monday 15 November, in Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau, Barcelona.

Digital technology now permeates the world, as technological development is driving a deep transformation in how our economies are organized and how we relate to each other and with public institutions. With the pandemic accelerating this transformation digitalization is reshaping the social contract, making technology the new normality for humanity.

In this context, critical thinking about the social impacts of technology is becoming urgent, particularly in a scenario of emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence and algorithmic automation. Global digitalisation continues to widen the inequality gap as well as the digital divide, as digitalisation is not happening equally all over the world.

The event aims to explore how to build a digital transition that does not leave anyone behind, protects and reinforces human rights in the digital age, and places both people and the planet at the centre of the technological deployment.

It will assemble top-leading thinkers and doers who will discuss, identify, and address the challenges our societies are facing from a human-centred technological perspective, through themes such as Digital Inclusion, Ethical Artificial Intelligence and Digital rights.

That is why, the event will hold several sessions to outline and discuss the digital divide, with a particular focus on public policies against it, its community approach, as well as the global framework for digital inclusion. New ethical standards and institutional arrangements are needed to secure a democratic reinforce of digital services implementation, and the event is aimed at gathering leading voices and examples on how to unleash the role public policies can play, with a particular focus on the importance of acting at local level to contribute to this global debate.

The event will gather key stakeholders from public administration, policy-makers, experts, researchers, activists, and community organizers, as the best way to work together on building a more sustainable, equitable and inclusive digital agenda that places people and the planet at the centre of the technological revolution.

Humanism in the digital age

The urban contribution

Speakers



Carme Artigas

Secretary of State for Digitization and Artificial Intelligence, Government of Spain



Laia Bonet

Deputy Mayor of Barcelona for the 2030 Agenda, the Digital Transition and International Relations



Carlos Grau

CEO Mobile World Capital Barcelona



Cristina Colom

Digital Future Society Director



Carissa Veliz

"Researcher, philosopher, writer"- Institute for Ethics in AI, University of Oxford



Delphine Jamet

Deputy mayor in charge of administration, the evaluation of public policies and data strategy, Municipality of Bordeaux



Morten Meyerhoff

EGOV Advisor, UNU-EGOV



Sonia Jorge

Executive Director at World Wide Web Foundation



Michael Donaldson

CTO -City of Barcelona



Nerea Luis

Artificial Intelligence Lead at Singular



Gemma Galdón

CEO & Founder -ETICAS



Javier Creus

Founder of Ideas for Change

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Renata Ávila

CEO at Open Knowledge Foundation



John Paul Farmer

New York City's CTO



Lucia Velasco

ONTSI Director



Werner Stengg

Cabinet Member, Cabinet of Executive Vice-President Margrethe Vestager, European Commission



Liliana Arroyo

Researcher & lecturer - Esade



Brando Benifei

Rapporteur on the AI Act, Head of the PD delegatio - European Parliament (MEP)



Ramon Roca

President - Fundació Guifi.net



Roos Vermeij

Deputy Mayor for Economy, Districts and Small Localities, Municipality of Rotterdam



David Franquesa

CEO, Co-Director - Usody, eReuse



Judit Batayé

Directora - Cataluña TECH friendly



Núria Oliver

Chief Data Scientist - Data-Pop Alliance



Anne Kaun

Researcher and lecturer at Södertorn University

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Agustí Cerrillo

Catedrático de derecho administrativo – UOC



Simon Chignard

Expert on data governance at UIA (Urban Innovative Actions) and Senior Lecturer at SciencesPo



Amos Toh

Senior Researcher on AI at Human Rights Watch



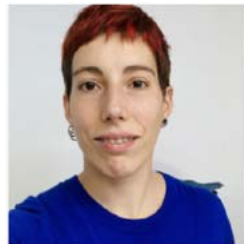
Cecilio Angulo

Full Professor at Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya



Ricardo Baeza-Yates

Director of Research at Institute for Experiential AI, Northeastern University



Judith Membrives i Llorens

Digital Transformation, Tech Sovereignty and AI advocac at Lafede.cat and Assistant Lecturer at UOC



Jackson Morgan

O.team Consultant



Simona Levi

Co-founder – Xnet and15MpaRato



Raquel Jorge Ricart

Policy Analyst – Technology, Digital and Cyber Policy at Elcano Royal Institute



Gianluca Misuraca

Team Leader and Key Expert on AI Diplomacy & Strategic Communication



Javier Creus

Founder of Ideas for Change

Moderators



Pipo Serrano

Master of Ceremonies, Journalist; Deputy General Manager, Head of Innovation & New Business at Broadcaster.Co.



Carles Planes

Moderator. Tech Journalist, El Periódico



Thais Ruiz de Ávila

Moderator. Founder & CEO – Digital Fems



Carina Lopes

Moderator. Head of Digital Future Society Think Tank



Olivia Blanchard

Moderator. Researcher Digital Future Society Think Tank



Jordi Vaquer

Moderator. Open Society Foundations



María Celia Fernández Aller

Professor of "Social, Ethical and Legal Issues" at Technical University of Madrid

Program

Master of Ceremonies: Pipo Serrano, Journalist , Head of Innovation & New Business at Broadcaster

9:30 **OPENING CEREMONY**

- Carme Artigas, Secretary of State for Digitization and Artificial Intelligence, Government of Spain
- Laia Bonet, Deputy Mayor of Barcelona for the 2030 Agenda, the Digital Transition and International Relations
- Cristina Colom, Digital Future Society Director

10:00 KEYNOTE CONVERSATION **HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE DIGITAL AGE**

- Carissa Véliz, Researcher, Philosopher & Writer, Institute for Ethics in AI, University of Oxford

10:30 **THE ROLE OF CITIES IN BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE, SAFE AND RESPONSIBLE DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION**

Welcome Address: Cristina Colom, Digital Future Society Director

- Delphine Jamet, Vice President in Charge of Digital at Bordeaux Métropole
- Roos Vermeij, Deputy Mayor for Economy, Districts and Small Localities, Municipality of Rotterdam
- Arnaud Ngatcha, Deputy Mayor for International Relations and Francophonie, Municipality of Paris

Moderator: Laia Bonet, Deputy Mayor of Barcelona for the 2030 Agenda, the Digital Transition and International Relations

11:30 **COFFE BREAK**

AUDITORIUM 1

12:00 **PUBLIC POLICIES AGAINST THE DIGITAL DIVIDE**

- John Paul Farmer, New York City's CTO
- Michael Donaldson, Barcelona City Council CTO
- Morten Meyerhoff, EGOV Advisor, UNU-EGOV
- Lucía Velasco, ONTSI Director

Moderator: Carina Lopes, Head of Digital Future Society Think Tank

12:45 **BREAK**

13:00 **FACIAL RECOGNITION TECHNOLOGIES: SECURING RESPONSIBLE USES IN URBAN ENVIRONMENTS**

- Sarah Chander, Senior Policy Advisor at European Digital Rights Initiative
- Brando Benifei, European Parliament (MEP), Rapporteur on the AI Act, Head of the PD delegation
- Amos Toh, Senior Researcher on AI at Human Rights Watch

Moderator: Melissa Heikkila, AI correspondent, Politico Europe

AUDITORIUM 2

ALGORITHM DEMOCRACY

- Nerea Luis, Artificial Intelligence Lead at Singular
- Gemma Galdón, CEO & Founder of ETICAS
- Raquel Jorge Ricart, Policy Analyst - Technology, Digital and Cyber Policy at Elcano Royal Institute

Moderator: Carles Planes, Tech Journalist, El Periódico

COMMUNITY APPROACH TO THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

- Lilibiana Arroyo, Researcher & Lecturer, ESADE
- Ramon Roca, President of Guifi.net Foundation
- David Franquesa, CEO of Usody and Co-Director of eReuse
- Judith Batayé, Director of Catalunya TECH friendly

Moderator: Thais Ruiz de Alda, Founder & CEO of Digital Fems

13:45 **LUNCH BREAK**

AUDITORIUM 1

KEYNOTE CONVERSATION:

15:00 **AI IN PRACTICE: ETHICAL CHALLENGES AHEAD**

- Núria Oliver, Chief Data Scientist of Data-Pop Alliance

AUDITORIUM 2

KEYNOTE

WHAT WE NEED TO MAKE EVERYBODY CONNECTED

- Sonia Jorge, Executive Director at World Wide Web Foundation

15:45 **COFFE BREAK**

16:15 **OPERATIONALIZING ETHICS IN AI: REGULATORY STANDARDS**

- Agustí Cerrillo, Professor of Administrative Law at UOC
- Werner Stengg, Cabinet Member, Cabinet of Executive Vice-President Margrethe Vestager, European Commission
- Renata Ávila, CEO at Open Knowledge Foundation

Moderator: María Celia Fernández Aller, Professor of "Social, Ethical and Legal Issues" at Technical University of Madrid

DIGITAL RIGHTS, DATA AND PRIVACY

- Simon Chignard, Expert on Data Governance at UIA (Urban Innovative Actions) and Senior Lecturer at SciencesPo
- Gianluca Misuraca, Team Leader and Key Expert on AI Diplomacy & Strategic Communication at InTouchAI.eu
- Belén Santa Cruz, Asesora SEDIA

Moderator: Jordi Vaquer, Open Society Foundations

17:00 **BREAK**

AUDITORIUM 1

17:15 **UNPACKING THE USE OF AI: BIAS, GENDER, RACE AND POVERTY**

- Cecilio Angulo, Full Professor at Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya
- Ricardo Baeza-Yates, Director of Reserch at Institute for Experiential AI, Northeastern University
- Judith Membrives i Llorens, Digital Transformation, Tech Sovereignty and AI advocac at Lafede.cat and Assistant Lecturer at UOC
- Anne Kaun, Researcher and Lecturer at Södertorn University

Moderator: Olivia Blanchard, Researcher Digital Future Society Think Tank

18:00 **BREAK**

18:15 **INSTITUTIONAL CLOSING**

- Laia Bonet, Deputy Mayor of Barcelona for the 2030 Agenda, the Digital Transition and International Relations
- Carlos Grau, CEO Mobile World Capital

AUDITORIUM 2

DIGITAL RIGHTS, DATA AND PRIVACY

- Jackson Morgan, O.team consultant
- Simona Levi, Co-Founder of Xnet
- Javier Creus, Founder of Ideas for Change

Agenda

09:30	AUDITORI 1 OPENING CEREMONY	
10:00	AUDITORI 1 KEYNOTE CONVERSATION: Carissa Véliz	
10:30	AUDITORI 1 PANEL: THE ROLE OF CITIES IN BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE, SAFE AND RESPONSIBLE DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION	
11:30	COFFEE BREAK	
12:00	AUDITORI 1	AUDITORI 2
	Public Policies against the Digital Divide	Algorithm democracy
12:45	Break	Break
13:00	Community approach to the digital divide	Facial recognition technologies: securing responsible uses in urban environment
13:45	LUNCH	
15:00	AUDITORI 1: KEYNOTE CONVERSATION: Núria Oliver	
15:45	AUDITORI 1 KEYNOTE: Sonia Jorge	
15:45	COFFEE BREAK	
16:15	AUDITORI 1	AUDITORI 2
	Operationalizing ethics in AI: regulatory standards	Digital Rights, Data and Privacy
17:00	Break	
17:15	Unpacking the use of AI bias: gender, race and class	Digital Public Infrastructures: Data and Software
18:00	Break	
18:15	AUDITORI 1 INSTITUTIONAL CLOSING	
18:45		

- INSTITUTIONAL SESSIONS (2)
- HIGH LEVEL PANEL (1)
- KEYNOTE (2)
- BREAKOUT SESSIONS (8)

Sessions brief

KEYNOTE CONVERSATION

HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE DIGITAL AGE

As the world becomes ever-more digital due to the rapid expansion of digital communication infrastructure and exponential adoption of digital technology, so does the need for our rights to be respected both online and offline. Digital technologies provide new means to exercise human rights, but they are too often also used to violate them. Hence, they have transformed the means through which human rights are both exercised and infringed around the world. Everyday, there are new examples of how digital technologies play a role in undermining human rights and freedoms, such as data protection and privacy issues, digital identity, the use of surveillance technologies or online violence and harassment, among others. In this context, this session is aimed at exploring how the human rights movement can catch up to the digital reality in which we operate now.

THE ROLE OF CITIES IN BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE, SAFE AND RESPONSIBLE DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

A recent report from the United Nations has highlighted the undeniable and steadily growing Digital technologies are driving a profound transformation in how our economies are organized and how we relate to each other and with public institutions. This path of digital acceleration is shaping public and private services, procedures and products, unleashing both gains in convenience and efficiency but also potential or even real risks at individual or societal levels. City governments are part of this global transformation and taking advantage of different technology drivers to deploy new forms of governance and service delivery by digital means. This may entail real-time management, artificial intelligence and algorithmic decision-making, big data analytics, among others. Local governments can also be frontrunners in our quest for a digital society that benefits all, leaves no one behind and enlarges individual agency and democratic rights and freedoms. Breakthrough initiatives embraced at local level (in terms of responsible use of technologies, commitments on high standards of protection of privacy, digital inclusion or even banning of certain solutions following precautionary principles) can have huge impacts in how digital technology takes form globally. This impact from local level action can even be larger when municipalities work in concerted ways. This session is an exploration on the experience of a number of city governments committed to making sound digital transformation a reality, and what are the principles, frameworks and actions they are pursuing an inclusive digital society.

PUBLIC POLICIES AGAINST THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

Technology has become an essential component of everyday life, and its presence and use have a significant impact on an individuals' ability to fully engage in society generally and, more specifically, in essential areas such as education, employment, government, citizen participation, and socialization. Unluckily, at the same time, there is a growing gap, a new form of divide or exclusion, gradually separating those who can derive multiples benefits from digital society and those who cannot. Hence, as digital and online activity increases globally, it does the digital divide and all the ways in which digital inequality manifests. As this inequality is a multi-faceted phenomenon and takes shape at different levels, active policies and conscious design processes are needed to face it, both at local and at global level. Within this framework, this session seeks to illustrate specific forms of public intervention in contexts of digital exclusion, discussing the way public policies are tackling the issue in a multi-dimensional way, addressing not only access connectivity, but also affordability, usability and skills acquisition.

ALGORITHM DEMOCRACY

A recent report from the United Nations has highlighted the undeniable and steadily growing impacts of AI technologies on the exercise of the right to privacy and other human rights. This is only a new milestone of a long-time work and assessment on how AI brings crucial conflicts for the proximate future, if not today. The growing use by public and private actors of artificial intelligence, including profiling, automated decision-making and machine-learning technologies, affects the enjoyment of the right to privacy and associated rights, and even shapes a new understanding of what privacy means and how to build protective frameworks. Moreover, automated decision algorithms are currently propagating gender and race discrimination throughout our global community. Despite all that, algorithms are not intrinsically bad. There are enormous opportunities to harness the value of data and the power of algorithms to bring benefits across society, but there is a need to confront these potentials within democratic principles. Through this session, we will explore different ways to address the fundamental problems associated with AI, seeking solutions and ideas for overcoming AI-enabled discrimination, and tools for achieving a democratic, transparent and accountable governance of AI schemes.

FACIAL RECOGNITION TECHNOLOGIES: SECURING RESPONSIBLE USES IN URBAN ENVIRONMENTS

Facial recognition technologies are often flagged as among the riskiest AI applications. Their increasing use, without proper public assessment, has emerged as a salient issue in the worldwide public debate on biometric surveillance, facing strong opposition and an emerging backlash within digital rights movement. Specifically, its use has recently been the subject of governmental scrutiny both in Europe – as in the UK– and the US. While there are real benefits to using facial recognition systems for public safety and security, their pervasiveness and intrusiveness, as well as their susceptibility to error, give rise to several fundamental rights concerns. Hence, these systems need to be regulated to ensure there are sufficient safeguards in place to protect people’s privacy and freedoms, and accountability measures must be implemented. Throughout this session, we will discuss the hidden risks of facial recognition, as well as the criteria to assess the ethics of such systems. Additionally, we will explore a number of experiences around the world regarding the guidance on its use or the actions some cities are taking in order to regulate it.

COMMUNITY APPROACH TO THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

The digital divide is a multifaceted phenomenon that remains an important public policy debate that encompasses social, economic and political issues. While the problem of digital exclusion has been recognized by governments all over the world for many years, sustainable and scalable solutions have struggled to emerge. In this context, a community approach through community-led initiatives to tackle the digital divide is necessary, as we can not rely only on public frameworks to tackle digital inequality risks. This session aims to discuss and explore different projects, actions, initiatives, best practices, and community-led approaches addressing the digital divide in particular contexts and situations.

KEYNOTE CONVERSATION

AI IN PRACTICE: ETHICAL CHALLENGES AHEAD

Artificial intelligence is gaining more and more practical uses and it is emerging as driver of different innovations in decision-making at public and private levels. It is also a fancy concept for headlines, but it still lacks a clear understanding of its social and individual impacts. We need to raise awareness on the principles we need to build fairer and ethical AI-driven technology solutions. The session will explore the speaker’s view on how to build a better social understanding on what AI computation means in our digital society.

OPERATIONALIZING ETHICS IN AI: REGULATORY STANDARDS

Today, AI technologies and tools play a key role in every aspect of our life, as they have become a part of our everyday lives from healthcare to online banking, rideshare apps, smart assistants or even law enforcement. AI negative impacts are not science-fiction anymore, and different research and assessment projects have gained societal awareness on how AI-related mechanisms and procedures are already generating negative impacts. These challenges have grown apace quickly, ranging from algorithmic bias and data privacy to transparency and accountability. AI is indeed an opportunity, but the challenge is to set a new direction that favours its inclusive, resilient and sustainable use by local governments. How can this be achieved and through which frameworks? During this session, we will address and overview different tools and actions seeking ethical standards in order to ensure that AI is safe, lawful, accountable, fair, inclusive and in line with fundamental rights and freedoms.

UNPACKING THE USE OF AI: BIAS, GENDER, RACE AND POVERTY

Artificial intelligence is a fast-evolving and strategic technology with tremendous opportunities. However, some of its uses pose specific significant risks for social inclusion and fundamental rights and freedoms. Some studies have shown issues with AI such as bad data sets and real-world biases creeping into algorithms. As human intelligence is marked by intrinsic bias in decision-making, such characteristics can also be found in AI products that work with human-created intelligence. These phenomena of bias and discrimination (gender, race, etc.) are a threat to universal human rights, and above all, to concrete individuals exposed to harmful decision-making through automated systems. Throughout this session, we will explore more in-depth the challenges that the use of AI systems poses over its ethical judgment, equal protection, economic rights and basic freedom, and we will seek answers on how we can reverse these trends so that AI can be trusted.



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