

INFORMATION ETHICS – DIGITAL ETHICS

Short description of Panel 5

Moderators: Rafael Capurro, Jared Bielby

Panelists:

Francesca Vidal, Anna Suorsa, Sarah Spiekermann, John Holgate, Marco Schneider, Lyn Robinson

The panel will address the following issues: What are Digital Ethics? What are the greatest ethical challenges of robotization and automation? What is most needed in schools in terms of digitalization from an ethical perspective? What is the impact of social networks on public policy from an ethical perspective? What is the drawback of digital surveillance? What are the ethical challenges of driverless cars?¹

1 Digitalization is changing all aspects of human life. What is its impact on our understanding of ethics as it has evolved over the centuries? Can we speak of a Digital Ethics?

2 Per definition, ethics should help humans in the application of moral decisions. Can this process be applied to a rapidly changing and complex digital world?

3 Communication in our digital culture is centered around posts and tweets. Is the use of social networks and online platforms a symptom of the human need for recognition?

4 Is it possible that the growth of digital networks, where human interaction via smart phones and machine-machine communication increases exponentially, could end up being a type of Pandora's box?

¹ Hilmar Dunker and Ralf Bretting, IT Magazine business impact, posed these questions to Rafael Capurro. A short German version of the interview was published with the title "Digitale Ethik" in: business impact 04_2015, 40-43. <http://www.capurro.de/businessimpact2015.pdf>

The English translation of the long version "Digitalization as an ethical challenge" was published in: AI & Society, 2016, pp. 1-7 http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00146-016-0686-z?wt_mc=Internal.Event.1.SEM.ArticleAuthorOnlineFirst

5 We speak often about a robotization of human beings. What does the robotization of human beings look like and what are the greatest dangers inherent in the process?

6 Knowledge is a key value in today's working environment. Can we foresee the rise of a new working class particular to digital societies?

7 What is most needed in schools and other educational institutions in order that digital natives become aware that digitalization is not the only measure for a good life?

8 Concerning privacy: What are the potential consequences of companies, employers and individuals obtaining vast amounts of intimate knowledge about our private lives? Is such a scenario a danger to individual freedom and autonomy? What are the drawbacks to too much surveillance?

9 Automobile manufacturers worldwide are working hard at developing driverless cars, encouraging a further development of digital networks as well as a prompting plethora of additional ethical issues. Who should lead the way in terms of starting the discourse to address these issues?

10 Many companies view globalization and digitalization as a strategic goal. What risks do societies face as digital globalization takes hold and local context becomes less and less relevant?

From the above a subset of topics will be chosen and discussed in the panel.