Venice International University
VIU Graduate Seminar

**Digital Citizenship: Exploring the Opportunities
and Challenges of a Digitalized Society**

Virtual Sessions | August 29 – November 21, 2022

Faculty

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John William Cheng, Tsuda University

Andries Botha, Toyota South Africa and University of the Witwatersrand

Dirk Brand, Stellenbosch University

Preparation and reflection assignments

Sessions may require either some preparatory work ora brief assignment to reflect on the topic of the focus session. These assignments depend on the topic at hand and can take several forms: some preparatory reading, preparing questionsfor the expert, reflection note and so on. By the end of each session, students will be expected to determine a research question together as a group concerning the topic of that session. These six research questions will form the topics for the group poster presentations during the workshop week.

August 29, 2022 | Introductory session
By professor Lode Lauwaert, KU Leuven

In the first part of the introduction session, participants will receive more practical information on the programme and have the opportunity to introduce themselves group and get to know each other. In the second part of the introduction session, professor Lode Lauwaert (KU Leuven) will provide a philosophical framework based on the question whether technology determines society or the other way around.

September 5, 2022 | Focus session 1: Fake News
By professor Hitoshi Mitomo, Waseda University

Fake news, including disinformation and misinformation, is news articles that are in most cases intentionally false and mislead readers. Fake news is typically spread on social networking sites. Sometimes, it caused serious consequences on human lives. In this class, we will learn about the different types of fake news, from innocent lies to advanced AI-based Deepfakes, through several case studies. Then, we will discuss when fake news spreads and has a strong influence, and how to prevent fake news. In a group discussion, we will analyze actual cases of fake news and discuss how to prevent fake news from spreading and avoid being misled by such disinformation and fake news.

September 19, 2022 | Focus session 2: Ethical and legal issues
By professor Kanshukan Rajaratnam, Stellenbosch University

Innovation in data science and artificial intelligence has brought in new ethical and legal dilemmas. For example, the current Covid pandemic has raised alarms about privacy and personal protection on the back of community protection, whether it is due to mandatory vaccination or due to technology enabled tracing apps. Tracing apps provide a dilemma between individual rights of privacy versus the possibility of lowering infections for the greater community. This is not a pandemic phenomenon. For example, in pre-pandemic days, researchers considered the complex issue of security video cameras which trades-off privacy against community security. In this class, we focus on the ethical and legal aspects of policies related to technology implementation. We take examples of technological policies and discuss their short-term trade-offs between personal rights vs community benefits. Then, we consider the long-term implications of implementing such policies in other aspects of our lives.

September 26, 2022 | Skills workshop 1: Intercultural Communication
By Werner De Wit, Stellenbosch University

In this session you will be introduced to the theme Intercultural Competence. You will explore what intercultural competence entails and examine the challenges that hinder the development of intercultural competence. Darla Deardorff's framework

for developing intercultural competence is used. This framework is centred around the development of skills, attitudes and knowledge systems that lead to effective and appropriate in intercultural interactions.

October 3, 2022 | Focus session 3: Good governance for smart cities and a smart world
By professor Joep Crompvoets, KU Leuven

The aim of this session is to answer the central question 'what is good governance for smart cities/world?'. In order to answer this question, the concepts of good governance and the associated public values are introduced as well as smart cities/world. The answers refer to governance mechanisms, key registries, user-centricity, problem-solution-problem-solution sequence orientation, Interdisciplinary and interoperability. The session is divided into two parts. The relevant concepts and theories are introduced in the first part. Based on a set of provocative propositions, these introduced concepts and theories are intensively discussed and so become more alive in the second part. The session ends with a shared answer to the central question.

October 17, 2022 | Focus session 4: Digital citizen engagement in cultural heritage: challenges and opportunities
By professor Frederik Truyen, KU Leuven

In this session we will address Digital Transformation in the Cultural Heritage sector. You will learn what challenges heritage institutions are facing in the development of encompassing digital strategies, and how this entails a rethink of their core mission. Building on notions from literature on new impact assessment models as well as theories on cultural production, we will focus on "outside in" approaches to user engagement, audience development and citizen science, and how these developments can contribute to a renewed agency of heritage institutions in a profoundly changing landscape.

October 24, 2022 | Skills workshop 2: Systems thinking
By doctor Andries Botha, Toyota South Africa and University of the Witwatersrand

Systems thinking provides a framework to solve problems. Systems thinking focusses on the constituent parts of a system to understand whole system and thereby, optimize its working. Constituent parts of a systems may include data, machine and stakeholders. In this skills development workshop, we will take an example of a large problem and attempt to solve it by considering multiple solutions, its impact on all stakeholders and finally, how to draw a winning solution.

October 31, 2022 | Focus session 5: The power of images
By professor Hitoshi Mitomo, Waseda University

This class will focus on "how social media move people". Images provided by both mass and social media sometimes strongly influence people's behavior and perceptions. Firstly, we will overview actual cases of images that have had a significant impact on people's behavior. For example, in 2001, it was the terrorist attacks on the United States that were etched in the memory of nightmares. On the other hand, images can transcend national borders and connect people's hearts. Secondly, we will learn theories that can be applied to explain how and why a sudden change in public opinion happens. Short- and long-term effects have to be observed. You see, in many social movements, social media was initially supporting people, but online participation subsequently resulted in "slacktivism" that performing simple measures is not truly engaged or devoted to making a change. Lastly, in a group discussion, we will discuss how images triggered people to take action and how they ended up.

November 14, 2022 | Focus session 6: Closing the digital gap for an equitable world
By doctor Dirk Brand, Stellenbosch University

The year 2020 saw the world shutting down as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic and then moving activities to an online setting. This had deep implication for students when physical classes were suspended in favour of online teaching. In deeply inequitable societies like South Africa, lack of access to technology resulted many scholars being left behind, while those with access were given an advantage over others. In this class, first we pose the question, "does ICT create bias?", and if it does, what are consequences for human development and what can policy makers do to ensure the development trajectory between the haves and the have-nots is not widened. We underpin the discussions in this class with consideration for the ethical aspects of policies that may widen the digital gap.

November 21, 2022 | Final session: Wrap Up
This session will focus to wrap up the theory covered up to this point. It will mainly be an opportunity to discuss and clarify any final questions before the workshop week. Lastly at this session students will be allocated to their chosen groups based on the research questions identified during the theory sessions, in which they will work together for their final projects.