![Universität Zürich UZH logo]

Digital Society Initiative (DSI)

Digital Society Initiative – September 2024

Dear interested readers, dear researchers

Did you manage to use the summer to recharge your batteries? Yes? Very good. Because here we are serving you a concentrated load of interesting lectures and other events on digital topics with the start of the semester.

But we don't want to overwhelm you right away. Just remember this much for now: we are at the AI+X Summit in Oerlikon, providing information about disinformation and letting you hear from us via podcast.

We hope you enjoy the reading.

The team of Digital Society Initiative

News

DSI @ AI+X Summit

The AI+X Summit, which is organized by the ETH AI Center in collaboration with the ZHAW and the University of Zurich (UZH), offers researchers and academics the opportunity to explore the **latest developments in the field of artificial intelligence** (AI). The DSI will represent the UZH at the AI+X Summit, which takes place on **October 3 and 4 at StageOne in Oerlikon.**

On the Main Stage, **DSI co-director Noah Bubenhofer** will give a talk entitled «What you need to know about language in order to use AI effectively» on **Thursday, October 3, at 10:40**. On **Friday, October 4, at 16:55**, **DSI Professor Anikó Hannák** will speak about «New Faces of Bias in Online Platforms». In addition, the DSI will hold the workshop «Responsible AI» on **Friday morning at 9:30.**

The DSI will also be present at the AI+X Summit's **exhibition**. You will find our booth at the main entrance, right **next to the check-in desk**. Here you can playfully learn **what the Swiss population thinks about AI** and get information from **eight DSI experts** on a wide range of AI topics – **from religion and politics to machine learning**. Visit us, we look forward to meeting you.

Learn more about DSI @ AI+X Summit

DSI INSIGHTS

AI in higher education and in art

In the mood for some reading? The DSI published **two columns** in the «DSI Insights» series on the InsideIT news portal.

- **DSI Director Abraham Bernstein** writes about the third DSI Strategy Lab, which focuses on **artificial intelligence (AI) in education, research and innovation**. You can read the column here (in German).
- **DSI Researcher Eva Cetinić** is looking at the **impact of AI on art and culture**. You can read her column here (in German).

All columns from the «DSI Insights» series can be found here.

GENIAL DIGITAL?

New DSI Podcast

The DSI has a new podcast: **«Genial digital?»** provides answers on topics related to digital transformation. In the first episodes, which were created **in collaboration with the DSI Community Work**, the podcast focuses on **the future of work**.

The **first episode** of «Genial digital?» was released this week and focuses on **platforms that digitally mediate work**. Podcast host Milena Ragaz visited DSI professor and labor geographer **Karin Schwiter**, who is a specialist in this topic due to her research. **Dr. Marisol Keller** also provides exciting insights. As part of her research, she herself worked for platforms and, among other things, cleaned private households.

Want to find out more? You can listen to the first episode of «Genial digital?» here (in German).

<div style="border:1px solid #e2521a; display:inline-block; padding:10px 20px; color:#e2521a; font-weight:bold;">More on the podcast «Genial digital?»</div>

DIGITAL MASTERCLASS

One completion and two starts

The Digital MasterClass offers **members of parliaments** the opportunity to educate themselves on topics related to digital transformation so that they can form an opinion on upcoming decisions **competently and independently**. This year, the DSI is conducting four Digital MasterClasses:

- The MasterClass **for the Grand Council of the Canton of Bern** concluded with a closing event last June. You can find a review here.
- Another MasterClass kicked off in June, this time **for the Zurich cantonal parliament**. More information about the series of events can be found here.
- In September, a MasterClass started for the second time **for members of the National Council and Council of States**. The news article about it can be read here.
- The MasterClass **for members of the Geneva cantonal parliament**, which started last January, is currently still running. The program for this series can be found here.

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All information about the Digital MasterClass

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EVENT SERIES

DSI Disinformation Month

The **topic of disinformation** has become increasingly important in recent years. The DSI is focusing on this in its fourth Strategy Lab. In this context, the DSI is organizing the DSI Disinformation Month. This consists of public events and many other activities that shed light on disinformation and how to deal with it from different perspectives. Mark the following events in your calendar:

- **October 18, 2024**: «Zwischen Fakten und Fiktion: Wie digitale Entwicklungen und Desinformation die öffentliche Meinung weltweit beeinflussen», organized by the **DSI Community Communication**.

- **30 October 2024**: «Everything You Know About Disinformation is Wrong», organized by the **DSI Community Democracy**.
- **6 November 2024**: «Fighting Disinformation – The need for a Digital Public Space», closing event with a lecture and panel discussion, featuring **Karin Mössenlechner, Ambassador of the Netherlands** to Switzerland, among others.

The full DSI Disinformation Month program can be found here.

More on the DSI Disinformation Month

FALL SEMESTER 2024

Inaugural lectures and Ringvorlesungen

With the start of the semester, we can once again look forward to a whole series of **inaugural lectures** by **colleagues from the DSI network**. The lectures will take place in the Aula of the University of Zurich, Zentrum:

- **23.09.: Prof. Dr. Corinna Reinhardt** – «Blicke auf die Antike: Archäologie und KI im Dialog»
- **07.10.: Prof. Dr. Raphael Flepp** – «Sports as a Laboratory for Management & Economics»
- **21.10.: Prof. Dr. Melika Payvand** – «Analog Substrates for Efficient AI Hardware: Inspired by the Structure of Brain Circuits»
- **21.10.: Prof. Dr. Patrick Lehnert** – «Regional Perspectives on the Innovation Effects of Vocational Education»
- **28.10: Prof. Dr. Beth Singler** – «Religion and AI: Entanglements, Imaginaries, and Futures»
- **28.10.: Prof. Dr. Yves Karlen** – «Selbstreguliertes Lernen meistern: Chancen und Herausforderungen für Lernende und Lehrpersonen»
- **09.11.: Prof. Dr. Josephine Diecke** – «„Sie blickte hinter Fenster, hinter Masken, hinter das Meer": Weibliche Perspektiven im und auf das Filmschaffen der DDR»
- **18.11.: Prof. Dr. Giorgia Ramponi** – «Learning to Act: Reinforcement Learning and the Future of Decision-Making»
- **02.12.: Prof. Dr. Sarah Ebling** – «Leveraging Artificial Intelligence for Language Accessibility»
- **14.12.: Prof. Dr. Tobias Jammerthal** – «Zur politischen Brisanz der Rechten Lehre: Heinrich Bullinger und die Berner Kirche»
- **16.12.: Prof. Dr. Dr. Yoan Hermstrüwer** – «Aligning Legal Tech»

In addition, **two lecture series** dealing with **digital topics** are taking place this fall semester:

- The **Gaming Literature** Ringvorlesung of the Deutsches Seminar attempts to trace the reciprocal learning processes between **literature and computer games** step by step.

- The **Cultural Analysis Now!** Ringvorlesung of the Cultural Analysis study program pursues the question of how **artificial intelligence** is changing both everyday cultural life and the conditions in cultures.

WELCOME

New DSI Professors & Fellows

We are pleased to welcome four new faces at the DSI. We congratulate two of them on their appointments:

- **Roland Meyer** has been appointed DIZH Bridge Professor of Digital Cultures and Arts at the University of Zurich and the Zurich University of the Arts as of July 2024.
- **Joshua Weidlich** has been appointed to the DIZH Bridge Professorship «Digital Higher Education» at the Zurich University of Teacher Education and the University of Zurich as of October 1, 2024.

We are also pleased to welcome two new DSI Fellows:

- **Katja Valaskivi** is a professor of religious studies and media research at the University of Helsinki and will be working as a DSI Fellow in September and October 2024.
- **Eva Wolfangel** is a journalist, author, speaker and moderator and will be working with the DSI Community Cybersecurity as a Fellow in September and October 2024.

We wish them every success and enjoyment in their work.

Find out more about the people at the DSI

THREE EVENTS

HackEOn: Pixels for the Planet

The **University of Zurich** and the **Zurich University of Applied Sciences** are organizing HackEOn in October and November. This hackathon uses **satellite data to tackle challenges** in the areas of sustainable finance, natural resources and biodiversity. Various skills are sought, programming knowledge is not required. The HackEOn consists of three events:

- **October 24**: «Space Insights: The everyday impact of satellite data»
- **October 30**: «Hackathon Prep: Satellite data & entrepreneurial skills»
- **November 15-17** : «HackEOn Weekend: Let's hack the planet»

Registration and more information

Events

Today

Rechtliche Rahmenbedingungen für Künstliche Intelligenz in der Schweiz

Final event of the ITSL project «Rechtliche Rahmenbedingungen für Künstliche Intelligenz in der Schweiz» in Bern.

The Center for Information Technology, Society, and Law (ITSL) is a partner organization of the DSI.

More information

Today

On Data And Design #28 Data Visualization Tools

The event series «On Data And Design» is stopping by the DSI to present three tools for data visualization. Specialists and founders of such tools will show how data can be presented in impressive visualizations without the need for a programming language.

More information

21. & 28.09.

Data Donation Days

Booth events in Zurich and Winterthur where the scientific upcycling of personal data can be experienced and information about data donation for research purposes is provided.

Organized by the Data Donation Lab – a project in the «DSI Infrastructures & Labs» series.

More information

24.09.

Experiences und Serious Games in der Wissensvermittlung

This event, organized by the MEEET Lab and the DSI Community Gaming, is about how virtual reality and other playful forms can convey knowledge and make it tangible.

More information

26.09.

Design Process and Game Mechanics of Serious Games

A workshop by the DSI Community Gaming that lets participants dive deep into the world of serious games. You can register until September 23.

More information

30.09.

Create Convincing Maps for your Research and Teaching

This workshop of the DSI GIS Hub teaches you how to create various maps that can be used as illustrations for research, papers or lectures.

More information

30.09. Vorträge zur Besetzung der Assistenzprofessur «Antikes Christentum und Digital Humanities»

As part of the appointment to the assistant professorship «Ancient Christianity and Digital Humanities», the Department of Theology is organizing eight lectures.

More information

10.10. DSI General Meeting

This year, the DSI General Meeting will take place in the form of a lunchtime event with an Apéro riche. The number of participants is limited, so register now.

More information

17.10. DSI Community AI & Law Meeting

The DSI Community AI & Law presents its projects and future events and offers a platform for networking.

More information

18.10. DSI Disinformation Month: Zwischen Fakten und Fiktion

In this event of the series «DSI Disinformation Month», Prof. Dr. Edda Humprecht from the University of Jena will talk about how digital developments and disinformation influence public opinion worldwide.

More information

24. & 25.10.

Digital Democracy Workshop 2024

This year's Digital Democracy Workshop of the DSI Community Democracy will cover topics such as political communication, artificial intelligence, autocracies and violence as well as theoretical issues in the field of digital democracy.

More information