

## PANEL DESCRIPTIONS

### Panel 1: Digital Ethics with a New Focus on Differences (AGIDE Project Results)

In *Panel One*, several members of the AGIDE working group present the results of the AGIDE project and examine dimensions of differences within digital ethics. Amongst other things, panellists discuss main results derived from the empirical data of seventy-five qualitative interviews and three workshops, and explain the key lessons learnt for future research and recommendations for policy makers.

### Panel 2: Narratives of Digital Ethics

*Panel Two* lays the foundation for the central theme of the conference, “Narratives of Digital Ethics”, and places it in the broader discourse of narratives and digital ethics and other important research. Delving deeper into the project’s findings, panellists discuss the power of narratives as drivers of political choices and innovation – or lack of innovation, as the case may be.

### WWTF Interactive Part 1: “On Non-Human agents: Different Notions of Anthropomorphism, Posthumanism and Imaginaries of our Socio-technical Future”

Why do we assign human-like traits to non-human entities? Research shows that it is not simply a matter of technological embodiment. Moreover, generative AI as a new actor in our socio-technical world challenges anthropocentric perspectives. The panellists discuss boundaries and bridges between humans and “intelligent” technologies.

### Panel 3: Why Difference Matters

*Panel Three* addresses the pivotal question of “why difference matters” in digital ethics with speakers from different regions, including New Zealand, Africa, and Thailand, sharing their unique insights and experiences and discussing international challenges. The debate also reflects on the relationship between the need to respect cultural differences and international human rights discourse.

### Keynote Lecture: “The Moral Machine Experiment”

Edmond Awad presents the Moral Machine, a platform that poses moral dilemmas in a participatory, game-like format online: Users must decide for a driverless car the outcome of an accident, such as whether to kill two passengers or five pedestrians. The renowned, cross-institutional MIT study has distilled data from forty million decisions made by three million people in two hundred countries/territories, revealing the multidimensionality of cross-cultural moral preferences.

### WWTF Interactive Part 2: “Staging Human–Robot Relations: A Dialogue between Dance and Psychology”

After a brief live performance with Boston Dynamics’ robot dog Spot, choreographer and dancer Silke Grabinger, and tech psychologist Martina Mara, together reflect on how we attribute autonomy, sociality, and even gender to machines, how these projections shape our understanding of human–robot relations, the use of robots as vessels of meaning in performance art, and opportunities that art–science collaborations offer for research. Audience questions are encouraged.

### Panel 4: Narratives and Digital Ethics: Next Steps

*Panel Four* explores the discourse surrounding the implications of digital ethics narratives as potential drivers of innovation and change. At the heart of this debate is the important question of how to navigate the tensions between local and international governance strategies and narratives of AI without losing sight of local needs and the diversity of perspectives.

The digital transformation has brought about an unprecedented degree of global interconnectedness, accompanied by increasing efforts to formulate universal ethical guidelines for dealing with emerging digital technologies. The relative ease with which countries around the world seem to agree on universal action-guiding principles of digital ethics along the lines of “fairness”, “transparency”, and “accountability” contrast sharply with the vast differences in technology adoption that we see around the world, and also the vast differences in attitudes towards technology.

The project AGIDE, which stands for “Academies for Global Innovation and Digital Ethics”, seeks to explore where differences lie and how these differences might be conceptualized beyond existing stereotypes. To this end, the Austrian Academy of Sciences is cooperating with ten other Academies of Sciences from all over the world.

Contrary to initial expectations that the differences we see in the perception and governance of digital opportunities and risks might result from discernible differences in emphasis on particular values, the data did not support such distinctions. AGIDE’s research showed that there is a remarkable consistency in core values (such as justice, dignity or privacy), including in their relative weight, across different regions of the world. Major differences, however, seem to lie elsewhere: in the narratives of digital ethics. Narratives are stories that are told repeatedly, consisting of a series of events that are selected and arranged in a particular order, often including central characters (protagonists, antagonists), a conflict, and a plot.

It remains unclear, however, whether the narratives are causes or symptoms of the differences we perceive, or both. Thus we need to better understand the factors that contribute to the development of specific narratives, both at the macro and the micro level, and that are conducive to the transformation of established narratives or cause established narratives to resist even major shifts, potentially hindering important policy changes. The AGIDE Final Conference therefore aims to contextualize the discourse more broadly in order to gain a clearer picture of these issues.

#### VENUE:

Austrian Academy of Sciences  
Festive Hall, Dr. Ignaz Seipel-Platz 2, 1010 Vienna

#### CONTACT:

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REGISTRATION: Please register online [here](#):



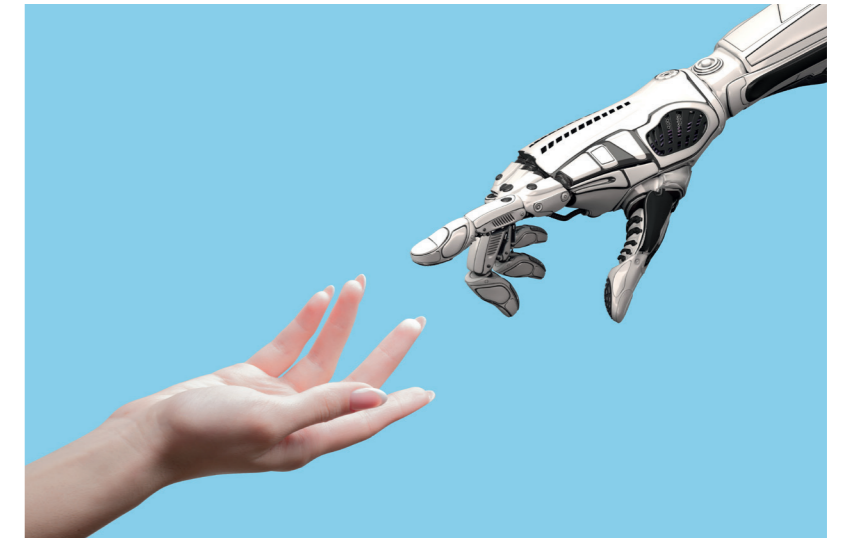
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AGIDE FINAL CONFERENCE

# NARRATIVES OF DIGITAL ETHICS

27TH JUNE 2024, 09:30–19:30 CEST  
28TH JUNE 2024, 09:15–13:00 CEST  
AUSTRIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES  
FESTIVE HALL  
DR. IGNAZ SEIPEL-PLATZ 2  
1010 VIENNA

# PROGRAM

## THURSDAY, 27TH OF JUNE

09:30–10:00 Registration and Welcome Coffee

10:00–10:15 **Opening and Introduction**

**Heinz Fassmann** | President of the Austrian Academy of Sciences  
**Christiane Wendehorst** | President of the Division of Humanities and Social Sciences  
**Michael Stampfer** | Managing Director of the Vienna Science and Technology Fund

10:15–10:45 **PANEL 1:  
DIGITAL ETHICS WITH A NEW FOCUS ON DIFFERENCES (AGIDE  
PROJECT RESULTS)**

*Moderator: Markus Aspelmeyer | Austrian Academy of Sciences, Institute for Quantum Optics and Quantum Information Vienna*

**Astrid Mager** | Austrian Academy of Sciences, Institute of Technology Assessment  
**Magdalena Eitenberger** | University of Vienna, Department of Political Science  
**Jana Winter** | Austrian Academy of Sciences  
**Astrid Weiss** | Technical University of Vienna, Institute of Visual Computing and Human-Centered Technology  
**Christiane Wendehorst**  
**Barbara Prainsack** | University of Vienna, Department of Political Science; Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin

10:45–11:00 Discussion & Q&A

11:00–12:00 **PANEL 2:  
NARRATIVES OF DIGITAL ETHICS**

*Moderator: Yishu Mao | University of Zurich, Department of Communication and Media Research; The Max Planck Society for the History of Science Berlin*

**Christiane Wendehorst**  
**Kanta Dihal** | Imperial College London, Centre for Languages, Culture and Communication  
**Wessel Reijers** | Paderborn University, Department of Media Studies  
**Ruth Page** | University of Birmingham, Department of English Language and Linguistics

12:00–12:30 Discussion & Q&A

12:30–13:30 LUNCH BREAK

13:30–15:00 **WWTf INTERACTIVE PART 1 :  
ON NON-HUMAN AGENTS: DIFFERENT NOTIONS ON  
ANTHROPOMORPHISM, POSTHUMANISM AND IMAGINARIES OF OUR  
SOCIO-TECHNICAL FUTURE**

*Moderator: Michael Stampfer*

**Nadia Magnenat-Thalmann** | University of Geneva, MIRALab  
**Shoko Suzuki** | International Institute for Advanced Studies, Japan  
**Astrid Weiss**

15:00–15:30 COFFEE BREAK

15:30–16:50 **PANEL 3:  
WHY DIFFERENCE MATTERS**

*Moderator: Yik Chan Chin | Beijing Normal University, School of Journalism and Communication*

**Te Taka Keegan** | University of Waikato, School of Computer Science  
**Soraj Hongladarom** | Chulalongkorn University Bangkok, Center for Science, Technology, and Society  
**Teki Akuetteh** | Africa Digital Rights' Hub  
**Pak-Hang Wong** | Hong Kong Baptist University, Department of Religion and Philosophy

16:50–17:30 Discussion & Q&A

17:30–18:00 COFFEE BREAK

18:00–18:45 **KEYNOTE LECTURE: THE MORAL MACHINE EXPERIMENT**

**Edmond Awad** | University of Oxford, The Wellcome Centre for Ethics and Humanities; University of Exeter, Department of Economics and Institute for Data Science and Artificial Intelligence

18:45–19:15 Discussion & Q&A

*Moderator: Christiane Wendehorst*

19:15–19:30 **Closing Remarks and Résumé Day One  
Christiane Wendehorst**

19:30 Reception

## FRIDAY, 28TH OF JUNE

09:15–10:45 **PANEL 4:  
NARRATIVES AND DIGITAL ETHICS: NEXT STEPS**

*Moderator: Nisreen Ameen | Royal Holloway, University of London, Digital Marketing*

**Jascha Bareis** | Institute for Technology Assessment and Systems Analysis Karlsruhe; Humboldt Institute for Internet and Society  
**Judith Simon** | University of Hamburg, Department of Informatics  
**Emma Ruttkamp-Bloem** | University of Pretoria, Department of Philosophy  
**Astrid Mager**

10:45–11:15 Discussion & Q&A

11:15–11:45 COFFEE BREAK

11:45–12:45 **WWTf INTERACTIVE PART 2:  
STAGING HUMAN-ROBOT RELATIONS: A DIALOGUE BETWEEN  
DANCE AND PSYCHOLOGY**

*Moderator: Michael Stampfer*

**Silke Grabinger** | SILK Fluegge Artist Collective Linz (Performance Artist)  
**Martina Mara** | Johannes Kepler University Linz, LIT Robopsychology Lab

12:45–13:00 **Closing Remarks  
Christiane Wendehorst  
Michael Stampfer**

13:00 Reception