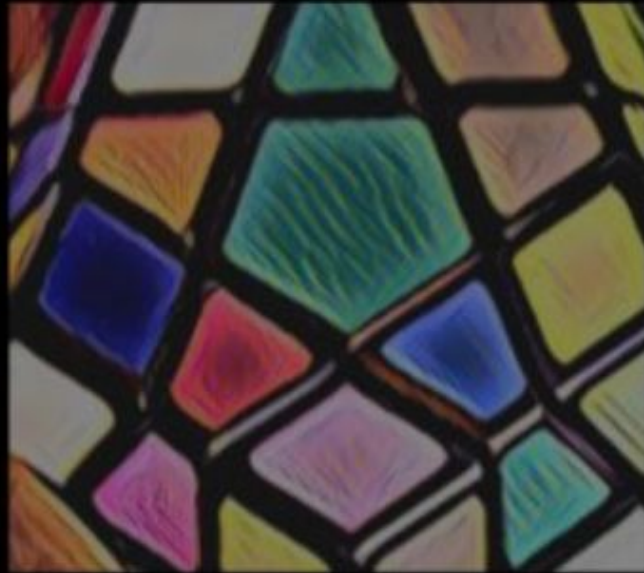


DIGITAL  
HUMANISM  
SUMMIT



**A.I.**  
**AND**  
**DEMOCRATIC**  
**SUSTAINABILITY**

July 2023,  
Vienna

# Participants and Organizers

Over 60 participants.

Worldwide: Asia, Africa, Europe, South and North America

Universities, civil society, UN, UNESCO, European Commission public bodies, and other institutions

Organized by:

Digital Humanism Initiative (hosted by TU Wien)

OSUN Hannah Arendt Humanities Network at Bard College

Institute for Human Sciences (IWM)

Digital Enlightenment Forum, Brussels

# Digital Humanism Summit on AI and Democracy



Program / four half days:

- AI and related research issues
- Its impact
- Global governance and regulation
- Final discussion

Interactive

13 presentations and intense, high level discussions

# As Introduction

- AI next wave of digitalization
- Simulation of human behavior, machines showing “intelligent” behavior, also questioning human intelligence and human being
  - Discussion between Utopia and Dystopia
- Beneficial uses
  - We also admire the human creativity behind these machines
- Many concerns – we focused on
  - Massive automated production of fake news
  - further concentration of power, few platform companies

# Short Summary of Sessions

- **Generative AI, its Power, and Shortcomings**
  - History of calculus and computing up to generative AI
  - Ethics may distract from the issue of power
  - Highlighting different paradigm to AI, with resp. limitations (black box of ML)
  - Replace Turing test with a specific test for specific situations
  - Difference human - machine: machines cannot abstract, have no situational awareness

# Short Summary of Sessions

- **Socio political impact**
  - Discussion on Section 230 of US legislation (protects a company from publisher liability when content is 'provided by another information content provider) – refers to differences 'platforms' and 'curators.
  - Danger of 'weaponized' AI (not primarily autonomous weapon but state control and influence over networks.
  - 'Trilemma' of sovereignty, democracy and globalization – you cannot have all three.
  - Human and AI decision making processes are sufficiently different – you cannot replace democratic decision making by algorithmic decision-making

# Short Summary of Sessions

- **Socio political impact - 2**
  - Education and participation
  - We have to learn how to deal with these systems, issue of teaching Informatics and AI also in elementary schools
  - Presentations and discussions on the possibility and potential of technically supported participation
  - Digital deliberative methods and in-person citizens' assemblies designed to engage and empower publics



# Short Summary of Sessions

- Approaches to AI Regulation and Global Governance
  - OECD explained its process and principles
  - Importance that fundamental rights, transparency and human determination are forefront of any approaches to regulation
  - EU AI act currently **the** approach to implement – specific role of Europe
  - Overview on different approaches world-wide and “benchmarking” system
  - Multi-stakeholder engagement needs to ensure that academics and civil society organizations have a seat at the table
  - Importance of multilateral, consensus-focused principles

# Short Summary of Sessions

- **Concentration of Power and Democracy**
  - AI developments foster further concentration
  - Historically anti-trust laws were democratically inspired
  - Road to anti-trust narrowed down in 1990
  - Threats of private power overtaking public democracies
  - AI developments triggered a new approach to anti-trust
  - Finally, breaking up if necessary

# Conclusion

- A critical issue for democratic societies and their citizens
- Need of a public voice
- Special concern regarding
  - Upcoming elections world-wide and automated production of fake news
  - Concentration of power and regulation

Not Only Discuss, also Get Involved

Summit invites individuals / organizations to join the Digital Humanism Initiative