

Society 5.0 Ethics

A Festival of Ideas

17–18 June 2024



Enabling Impact
Platforms

Social Change



Utrecht
University

**Scan to learn more
about Society 5.0 Ethics:**



Introduction

Society 5.0 Ethics

Society 5.0 is a broad label for the near-future, inseparable interconnection between humans and technologies in the era of artificial intelligence and machine learning. It is characterised by ever-increasing data gathering, ubiquitous predictive analytics, AI-saturated systems, and immersive internet.

“Biased, ungoverned, and flawed systems continue to wreak havoc for individuals, cities, and businesses across the globe. Why does the world need a new Ethical Future for Society 5.0?”

Every new ethical problem reminds us that we need to disrupt our current mindsets about what society should become.

There are no comprehensive statements of commitments, principles, or ethical guidelines to protect and advance ethics and human rights during the next leap of technology.

Without a global consensus around the principles of technology best practices and governance, we will continue to face ongoing challenges brought about by data breaches, misinformation, rampant data surveillance, and personal data risks. We will also remain unprepared for emerging risks that accompany ungoverned development and deployment of automated, augmentative, invasive, or immersive technologies. Positioning human needs at the forefront of these technologies is critical to ensure new innovations embed ethical principles and human rights at their core.

“A planetary issue requires a planetary response.”

Event Co-Designers & Keynote Speakers



Professor Lisa Given

RMIT University

*Director, Social Change Enabling Impact Platform
& Professor of Information Sciences*

Lisa is a Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia and a past President of the Association for Information Science and Technology.

Lisa's interdisciplinary research in human information behaviour brings a critical, social research lens to studies of technology use and user-focused design. Her studies embed social change, focusing on diverse settings and populations, and methodological innovations across disciplines.



Professor Annette Markham

Utrecht University

*Chair Professor of Future Data Literacies
& Public Engagement*

Annette is renowned for her expertise in digital ethics and research design. With nearly 30 years of ethnographic research, she examines how digital transformations affect identity and socio-cultural practices.

She pioneers citizen social science methods to understand how algorithmic and data-driven systems shape daily life and future perspectives, especially among urban youth. She founded the international Future Making Research Consortium and formerly directed the Digital Ethnography Research Centre at RMIT.

Keynote Speakers



Professor Payal Arora

Utrecht University

Professor of Inclusive AI Cultures & Co-Founder of FemLab, a feminist futures of work initiative

Payal is a digital anthropologist and author, speaker, and consultant. Her expertise draws from more than two decades of user experiences among diverse marginalised communities worldwide to shape inclusive designs and policies.

Forbes named her the “next billion champion” and “the right kind of person to reform tech.” She is the author of award-winning books including ‘The Next Billion Users’ with Harvard Press. Her upcoming book with MIT Press & Harper Collins India, ‘From Pessimism to Promise: Lessons from the Global South on Designing Inclusive Tech’ will be released soon. She sits on several boards for organisations such as the Prosus Centre for Internet and Digital Economy and the World Women Global Council in New York.



Associate Professor Julia Powles

University of Western Australia

Director of the UWA Tech & Policy Lab and Associate Professor of Law and Technology

Julia is an expert in privacy, intellectual property, internet governance, and the law and politics of data, automation, and artificial intelligence.

She serves on Australian federal and state committees on generative AI in education, privacy and responsible information sharing, responsible AI, and robotics.



Laureate Professor Sarah Pink

Monash University

Director of the Emerging Technologies Lab at Monash University

Sarah is a design and futures anthropologist and documentary filmmaker. She is an Australian Research Council Laureate Fellow and holds honorary doctorates from Malmo and Halmstad Universities.

Her most recent publications include her book *Emerging Technologies / Life at the Edge of the Future* (2023) and her documentaries *Digital Energy Futures* (2022) and *Air Futures* (2024).



Professor Rachel A. Ankeny

University of Adelaide

Professor of History and Philosophy

Rachel's research foci include bioethics, history and philosophy of the biological and biomedical sciences, and food and agricultural ethics.

As of July 2024, Rachel will be Chair and Professor of the Philosophy Group at Wageningen University in the Netherlands.

Other Speakers, Panellists & Workshop Facilitators



Dr Kate Anderson

RMIT University

Vice-Chancellor's Senior Research Fellow

Kate's research explores how AI and emerging digital technologies can be made more useful, accessible, and inclusive for people with disability. Kate is a fierce advocate for authentic co-design and consumer consultation.



Emma Arrigo

Amazon Web Services (AWS)

Solutions Architect

Emma is a Solutions Architect at Amazon Web Services (AWS), where she works closely with customers in the public sector.



Leigh Ashlin

Simbl

Chief Recycling Officer

Leigh Ashlin is the Founder of Simbl, a pioneering gamified home recycling solution using blockchain and augmented reality. Previously, Leigh was Head of Blockchain and Disruptive Platforms at Accenture, focusing on supply chain traceability and digitization of real-world assets.

With 20 years of experience in Investment Banking at Standard Chartered, Macquarie Bank, and BlackRock, Leigh now focuses on sustainability disruption, recycling research, and human-centered blockchain solutions. He sits on the Advisory Board of the RMIT Graduate School of Business and Law, is a Research Partner at the RMIT Blockchain Innovation Hub, an Industry Partner to the RMIT Graduate School, and a Sponsor of the University of Melbourne Innovation Practice Program.



Dr Sarah Barns

RMIT University

Vice Chancellor's Senior Research Fellowship

Sarah brings two decades of strategic policy, research, and creative practice to her work on digital ecosystems, urban civics and cultural imaginaries. In 2023 she commenced a Vice Chancellor's Senior Research Fellowship at RMIT, exploring emerging organisational sensibilities and place strategies for platform civics in an era of climate vulnerability. She Co-Directs the creative practice ESEM with her life partner Michael Killalea, created STORYBOX as Australia's first public space media platform, and is a champion of multi-disciplinary storytelling practices in building communities of connection. Her book *Platform Urbanism* was published in 2019 by Palgrave.



Professor Chris Berg

RMIT University

Director, Digital 3

Chris is the co-founder of the RMIT Blockchain Innovation Hub, the world's first dedicated social science research centre studying blockchain technology, based at RMIT University, Melbourne. Professor Berg is a leading global authority on regulation, technological change, and civil liberties. His many articles have been published internationally, and he is the author/co-author of eleven books, including *Understanding the Blockchain Economy: An Introduction to Institutional Cryptoeconomics* (2019) and *The Classical Liberal Case for Privacy in a World of Surveillance and Technological Change* (2018).



Dr Paul Bowell

Swinburne University of Technology

Lecturer, Sports Innovation Research Group

Paul is a doctor of sociology specialising in the social effects of sport, technology, and gender. Paul's research qualitatively focuses on how athletes' affectively experience digital self-tracking and employee experiences of workplace monitoring.



Joann Cattlin

RMIT University

PhD Candidate and Research Assistant

Joann's PhD research is on the role of the institution in enabling societal impact of research, which is informed by her prior professional experience as a project manager for academic-industry research collaborations.



Katie Dang

Swinburne University of Technology

PhD candidate

Katie's research is investigating the changing Information Behaviours of International Student-Gig Workers in Australia. Katie's recent work has focused on establishing an important situational awareness of the Australian gig work ecosystem.



Katy Gagliardi

VALID

Systemic Advocate

Katy is passionate about working with diverse stakeholders to determine VALID's positions on important issues. Before VALID, Katy worked in communications-based roles with Inclusion Australia and Villamanta Disability Rights Legal Service, and volunteered as a Community Visitor. Katy has the Master of Publishing and Communications from Melbourne University, where they wrote and published a peer-reviewed adaptation of their thesis on Facebook and Disability Discrimination. Katy is currently in their second year of the Juris Doctor at La Trobe University. Katy enjoys spending time with family and friends, and making one too many puns at every opportunity.



Prof Nicola Henry

RMIT University

Professor, School of Global, Urban, and Social Studies

Nicola is Professor and Australian Research Council (ARC) Future Fellow in the Social Equity Research Centre at RMIT University. Nicola is a socio-legal scholar with over two decades of research experience in the sexual violence field. Her research investigates the nature, prevalence and impacts of sexual violence, including legal and prevention responses in Australian and international contexts. Her current research focuses on technology-facilitated sexual violence and image-based sexual abuse. Nicola is currently undertaking an ARC Future Fellowship on digital tools, policies and platforms and image-based sexual abuse.



Dr Jonathan Kolieb

RMIT University

Senior Lecturer in International Law & Co-Director Business and Human Rights Centre

Jonathan's research and teaching interests focus on international law and global governance issues. Current projects examine human rights obligations of companies in conflict-affected areas and issues related to international humanitarian law. For several years, Jonathan has been part of a fruitful collaboration with Australian Red Cross around achieving responsible business conduct in conflict zones. He has consulted to the United Nations, International Committee of Red Cross and routinely provides expert advice to business and civil society organisations.



Stephanie Livingstone

RMIT University

PhD student, School of Media and Communication

Stephanie's research is exploring the impacts and opportunities relating to automated decision-making systems in social services on young people at risk of and experiencing homelessness. Stephanie has used a multi-method qualitative approach using creative workshops and interviews to conduct this research with young people and social workers living in Melbourne. Prior to beginning the PhD, Stephanie worked in the community sector in Melbourne in advocacy and community development. As part of this work, Stephanie designed and delivered digital inclusion training initiatives in rural Indonesia and across Australia. Stephanie has a specific interest in trauma-informed approaches to automated decision-making system design and research.



Professor Shelley Marshall

RMIT University

Professor, Graduate School of Business and Law

Shelley is professor of law at RMIT University. She has advised and published on corporate accountability and business and human rights for 25 years, with a focus on the labour conditions of vulnerable workers and modern slavery. Shelley left legal practice in 2001 to join the team setting up Ethical Clothing Australia. Her research has informed labour law reform in several countries and the policies of the International Labour Organisation. For example, over 2018-19 she made frequent trips to Thailand to advise the Thai Ministry of Labour on how to enforce labour laws for homeworkers. In 2023, she co-drafted an ILO Convention on Decent Work in Global Supply Chains with Ingrid Landau. Her book, *Living Wage* published by Oxford University Press in 2019, proposed a new architecture for international labour law. An Australian Research Council DECRA Fellowship, 2020-2023, allowed Shelley to examine the deployment of digital technologies to address modern slavery.



Dr Dana McKay

RMIT University

Associate Dean (Interaction, Technology & Information), School of Computing Technologies

Dana works at the nexus of people, technology and information. Her primary research interest is in ensuring that rapidly advancing technologies are beneficial to all members of society, rather than just the privileged few. To this end, Dana has projects on the harms of tech in intimate relationships, the ethics of AI, how online information influences our views, and how we find information using search and browsing.



John McKenna

Inclusion Consultant and Community Empowerment Advocate

John has 60+ years of living experience with a physical disability. John regularly works with Government representatives, services, and academic researchers to achieve better outcomes for people with disability or diversity. His recent work has focused on issues including palliative care and Voluntary Assisted Dying, Restrictive Practice, inclusive sport and recreation, aged care, and advocacy services for people who find it hard to assert themselves using English.



Dr Laura McVey

eSafety

Assistant Manager, eSafety (Gender & Tech team)

As a part of the Education, Prevention and Inclusion Branch, the team works to encourage better responses to, and the prevention of, tech-based abuse of women and the building of safe, inclusive and gender equal online spaces. Prior to joining eSafety, Laura worked across the family, domestic and sexual violence service sector, as well as academia – with her PhD focussed on violence against women in the user-generated pornography market.



Dr Dang Nguyen

RMIT University

Research Fellow, ARC Centre of Excellence for Automated Decision-Making & Society

Dang's current research examines informal economic activities within automated media systems, including social media platforms. Dang's books include Digital research methods and the diaspora (Routledge, 2023), and Internet cures: the social lives of digital miracles (Bristol University Press, forthcoming).



Brenton Ponza

Brenton is an athlete, disability advocate and fundraiser, with lived experience of Cerebral Palsy.

Brenton was recently recognised as Boroondara Citizen of the Year (2024) for his contribution to the Boroondara community, in particular, with Go Zone Gymnastics, where he has served as a volunteer coach for over 5 years. In addition to inclusive sports, Brenton also has training in photography and animation, and is interested in the role of Artificial Intelligence for inclusion outcomes.



Dr Jason Sargent

Swinburne University of Technology

Lecturer

Jason teaches ethics, governance, wicked problems, systems thinking, design thinking and socio-technical co-design. He is a member of the IEEE Society on Social Implications of Technology (SSIT) and performs the role of Associate Editor for IEEE Transaction on Technology and Society.



Dr Paul Scifleet

Swinburne University of Technology

Senior Lecturer

Paul is a Chief Investigator with the Australian Research Council's Centre for Information Resilience. Dr Scifleet's research focusses on the emerging socio-technical discourse now framing information and data at societal levels. He is specialist in information governance and management, including areas of information protection, privacy.



Dr Nicole Shackleton

RMIT University

Lecturer in law

Nicole is a socio-legal researcher focused on gender and sex, technology, and regulation. Using qualitative empirical research, she explores how gender and technology interact, and consequently how technologies may be regulated to reduce abuse and harassment. Her research aims to inform law reform to prevent online abuse, and the regulation of technology companies.



Dr Robert Shen

RMIT University

Director, RMIT AWS Cloud Supercomputing and Cloud Innovation Centre

A research professional, Robert brings 20 years of experience in higher education, digital innovation, and the research infrastructure sector. He received his PhD from the School of Information Technology, University of Sydney, in 2006. His career includes roles as a research fellow at the University of Melbourne, software lead at Australian National Data Service, and eResearch Director at Astronomy Australia. Since January 2022, Robert has been serving as the Director of RACE (RMIT AWS Cloud Supercomputing) at RMIT University.



Professor Chris Speed

RMIT University

Professor of Design for Regenerative Futures

Chris collaborates with a wide variety of communities and partners to explore how design provides methods to adapt toward becoming a regenerative society. Chris has an established track record in directing large complex grants and educational programmes with academic, industry and third sector partners, that apply design and data methods to complex social, environmental, and economic challenges.



Dr Damiano Spina

RMIT University

Senior Lecturer, School of Computing Technologies

Damiano is an Associate Investigator at the ARC Centre of Excellence for Automated Decision-Making & Society (ADM+S). His research focuses on Interactive Information Retrieval and evaluation of information access systems, including search engines and conversational assistants. He is the recipient of an ARC DECRA (2020-2023) and an RMIT Award for Research Impact (Technology, 2021).



Patrick Taylor

RMIT University

Patrick is an AWS Cloud Application Specialist

Patrick is an AWS Cloud Application Specialist and a final year PhD candidate at RMIT. His areas of expertise include high powered computing (HPC), computational chemistry, and nanotechnology.



Professor Karin Verspoor

RMIT University

Executive Dean, School of Computing Technologies

Karin is a Fellow of the Australasian Institute of Digital Health and a 2021 "Brilliant Woman in Digital Health". She was also selected as a finalist in the Women in AI Australia/New Zealand Awards 2022 for "AI in Innovation". Karin is passionate about using data and AI to improve health outcomes for people. Her work has a specific emphasis on the use of natural language processing to transform unstructured data in biomedicine, ranging from scientific literature to clinical texts, into actionable information.

Schedule - Day 1

Arrival

8.20am – 8.50am

Registration Desk Open

Foyer (Level 3 entrance)

Session 1 – Keynote and Plenary Discussion

9am – 9.15am

Welcome

080.02.007

Professor Lisa Given
(Director, Social Change Enabling Impact Platform)
Professor Alec Cameron
(Vice-Chancellor and President, RMIT University)

9.15am – 10.30am

**Society 5.0 Ethics: A Clarion Call for
Technology-Disrupted Futures**

080.02.007

Professor Annette Markham *(Utrecht University)*

We know that technological disruptions are inevitable. Along with each new development, harms and risks inevitably arise, leaving us to scramble to (re)position change in society's best interest. Yet the world seems to be surprised anew each time, as if these ethical problems were not foreseeable. This opening address explores "Society 5.0 Ethics" as a future-oriented and human-centric framework that can empower us to get ahead of the curve when facing technology disruptions. Instead of getting stuck in continual states of reaction in the face of the latest crisis, this perspective shifts our attention toward proactive and future-oriented questions around "What do we want to be(come) as a society?" With the rise of generative AI and other autonomous technologies, this is a critical moment to shift our attention to address this question. If continual technology disruption is the new normal, people from all walks of life must proactively shape our futures and make them what we want them to be.

10.30am – 10.50am

Morning Tea Break

Foyer (Level 3 entrance)

Session 2 – Multi-track Session

11.00am – 1.00pm

Workshop

080.02.003

The AI Primer: Definitions and Reality Check

Professor Karin Verspoor (*RMIT University*)

The year 2023 might be called “The Year of AI”, when it seemed that the whole world was turned on to the potential value of AI to transform everything from our ability to write sweet love poems to performing surgery. There was hype – about the magical capabilities and emergent behaviours of generative LLMs – and there was fear – about AI taking over our jobs or doing harm. There is of course some element of truth to both views. AI can do things that are challenging for humans, such as find complex patterns buried in large data sets, but it does so with blinders that narrow its view to that data, with limited context or nuance.

It is clear that there are tremendous opportunities for AI to drive more efficient and effective data-driven solutions in many sectors. However, it is equally clear that there are barriers to realisation of these opportunities, and risks associated with adoption of AI technologies. In this talk, I will introduce the core concepts of AI, provide examples of how AI is already being used in real-world settings, and explore both sides of this debate.

11.00am – 1.00pm

Roundtable

080.03.006

Should Australia Recognise a Right to the Internet? A Roundtable Exploring Human Rights Priorities in Society 5.0

Dr Jonathan Kolieb (*RMIT University*)

In this interactive workshop, the question of whether Australia should recognise a right to the internet and if so, what might that entail. The vision of Society 5.0 is of ‘a human-centred society’ enabled through ‘a highly integrated system of cyberspace and physical space fusion of cyberspace with physical space.’ (Cabinet Office, Gov’t of Japan). Human rights considerations are fundamental components of this vision, and in the practical realisation of that future societal vision.

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Schedule - Day 1 cont'd

Session 2 – Multi-track Session

High on the priority list of essential human rights in the context of imagining and creating Society 5.0 is whether people have a right to the internet. The United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) predates the existence of personal computers, let alone the internet, and does not include any such right. However, there is a growing movement for national and international recognition of such a right. Some countries have enshrined the right to the internet for its citizenry in law, and experts at the United Nations suggest that the internet's indispensability in modern life demands its inclusion in any contemporary set of universal human rights.

Should Australia have a "right to the internet"? What are the pros and cons, and implications of such a move, and how would we, as a society, constitute that right? This workshop will guide participants through a series of activities to prompt their thinking, exchange views and develop a preliminary shared understanding of these questions. It is hoped that the workshop may generate future collaboration between participants to explore the human rights-based elements of Society 5.0 generally, and, specifically, to promote the need for universal access to the internet as part of that vision

11.00am – 1.00pm

Interactive Seminar

080.02.002

Can Money Save the World?

Professor Chris Speed (*RMIT University*)

For many years the primary representation of value has been money. However, money is now undergoing significant change as it becomes data. This talk will explore the implications for design as a series of technological and regulatory shifts are taking place that are changing the representation of money into data. The talk anticipates that within Society 5.0, personal bank accounts will be better understood to be personal data stores, and monies held within them will be connected to data-driven systems that broker the provision of services that guide us to a regenerative economy. By charting the changes that are taking place, the talk will introduce a series of design case studies that make tangible the possible social, economic and environmental futures.

1.00pm – 1.25pm

Lunch Break

Foyer (Level 3 entrance)

Session 3 – Keynote

1.30pm – 2.30pm

Designing Our Ethical Approaches to New Technologies: Anticipating, Reflecting, and Envisioning

080.02.007

Professor Rachel A. Ankeny (*University of Adelaide*)

This talk explores how we should devise shared ethical approaches to new and emerging technologies through focus on using ‘responsible by design’ approaches to foster reflection and anticipation, rather than merely being responsive once such technologies are available. Our multicultural society may well have diverse views about various potential uses of technologies but we can use deliberative approaches to envision shared understandings of which technologies we should support and how processes associated with them should be structured to create public and social benefits.

2.30pm – 2.50pm

Afternoon Tea Break

Foyer (Level 3 entrance)

Session 4 – Multi-track Session

3.00pm – 5.00pm

Panel Discussion

080.02.002

Supply Chain Governance, Human Rights and Ethics

Professor Shelley Marshall & Prof Chris Berg (*RMIT University*) & Leigh Ashlin (*Simbl*)

Supply chains are the webs that ties the global economy together. But supply chains are not simply abstractions - they encompass concrete relationships between firms, individuals, and communities. How supply chains are governed influences not just how and where goods are manufactured and distributed but the shape of the societies that they link. Behind the abstraction of a supply chain can be significant environmental harm, human rights violations, or economic and political distortions. In this panel, Chris Berg and Shelley Marshall will be joined by RMIT industry partners working at the coalface of supply chain research and innovation to tackle the human rights, environmental and ethical dimensions of how we govern supply chains.

Schedule - Day 1 cont'd

Session 4 – Multi-track Session

3.00pm – 5.00pm

Workshop

080.02.003

Altered States: Conversations with Otherselves in the Ambient Surround

Dr Sarah Barns (*RMIT University*) &
Professor Annette Markham (*Utrecht University*)

This workshop is directly concerned with shifting states of attention, belonging and care in contemporary digital lives. Embracing the 'ambient' as characteristic of spaces of proliferating conversational devices and agencies that collapse the digital/physical divide, we explore the nature of attention as a focus for value-capture, with particular implications for the care economy. Through a series of workshop exercises and conversations with invited participants, this workshop invites reflection on the kinds of attentional care practices enacted with 'otherselves' of care optimisation, wellbeing and trust.

3.00pm – 5.00pm

Workshop

080.03.006

Digital Futures for People with Disabilities

Dr Kate Anderson (*RMIT University*),
Ms Katy Gagliardi (*VALID*), &
Mr John McKenna (*Better Access*) &
Brenton Ponza

Many people with disability are turning to AI as an emergent tool for inclusion and social disruption. Alongside these opportunities, AI introduces new and insidious forms of discrimination that require urgent attention. Drawing on research evidence and community insights, this interactive panel session will explore what makes emerging technologies ethical and inclusive for people with disability. The session will also showcase how people with disability can drive and shape their own digital futures, and how communities and industry can form effective partnerships in the pursuit of ethical practice.

Session 5 – Keynote

5.30pm – 6.30pm

Designing Inclusive Tech: Future-Oriented Approaches to the Digital with the Majority World

080.02.007

Professor Payal Arora (*Utrecht University*)

Designing Inclusive Tech: Future-oriented approaches to the digital with the majority world.

What actions and innovations are needed to create an inclusive internet? What guardrails do we need for a regenerative, redistributive, and resilient tech enabled society?

In the last decade, cheap mobile phones and data plans have brought the next billion users online – mostly young people from the Global South who have fast come online to engage with the internet in ways that go beyond our common understandings. 90 percent of the world's youth today live outside the West. While many of them have limited resources, they have an unlimited passion to immerse in digital media.

Just India and China alone are home to most users today, and neither society is anywhere close to market saturation. It is time we stop underestimating and instead, start understanding the creative potential of the Global South. We should seek ways to ethically engage with different cultures, contexts, and consumers to rethink digital opportunities, online safeguards, and creative economies with the majority world. Inclusion is not an altruistic act. It is an essential element if we are to build a global community to generate sustainable solutions to the wicked problems in how we work, play, love, and live with the planet's limited resources. Join Payal Arora as she shares insights on inclusive AI futures from her new book with MIT Press, 'From Pessimism to Promise: Lessons from the Global South on Designing Inclusive Tech.'

Close

6.30pm

Networking Reception

Foyer (Level 3 entrance)

Schedule - Day 2

Arrival

8.20am – 8.50am

Registration Desk Open

Foyer (Level 3 entrance)

Session 1 – Keynote

9am – 10.15am

Big Tech, AI, and Reclaiming the Future

080.02.007

Associate Professor Julia Powles
(University of Western Australia)

The economic might and existential hold of Big Tech depends at core on two features. First is reckless impunity: the routinised production and tolerance of negative externalities without consequence. Second is narrative: the evergreen promise of progress and brighter futures; of solutions and certainty in a burdened and uncertain world. In the grab-bag that is 'artificial intelligence', the technology industry has found the ultimate instantiation of both impunity and narrative: computational engines without limit, eroding reason, labour, humanity, ecosystems; simultaneously abhorrent and desirable; our tragic saviour made manifest. This keynote interrogates why the lessons of a quarter-century of the global tech industry have not been learned, how to break the cycle, and what will be required to reclaim the future.

10.15am – 10.35am

Morning Tea Break

Foyer (Level 3 entrance)

Session 2 – Plenary and Manifesto

10.45am – 12.45pm

**Tackling Misinformation on a Global Scale:
The International Panel on the Information
Environment (IPIE)**

080.02.007

Dr Damiano Spina, Dr Dang Nguyen,
Professor Lisa Given (*RMIT University*) &
Professor Annette Markham (*Utrecht University*)

Breakout rooms (from 11.45am)

080.03.001

080.03.003

080.03.004

080.03.005

080.03.006

Algorithmic manipulation, bias, hate speech, misleading information, deepfakes, and other acts have created a global information environment crisis an existential threat to humanity. The cost is billions of dollars, millions of lives, and an erosion of trust in science, our institutions and each other. With the specific threats of climate change, generative AI, and an ongoing need for critical thinking, the information environment crisis needs a global response. In this session, RMIT's four current members of the International Panel on the Information Environment (IPIE) invite attendees to engage in discussions that will inform the global response, recognising that such responses are always locally imagined and enacted. The panellists will provide short provocations and invite the audience to generate creative and innovative possibilities for reimagined futures. The IPIE is now developing several panels and position papers, so the discussions at this session can inform the development of strategies for providing independent scientific evidence that can reshape local and global responses to the misinformation crisis.

12.45pm – 1.25pm

Lunch Break

Foyer (Level 3 entrance)

Schedule - Day 2 cont'd

Session 3 – Keynote

1.30pm – 2.30pm

Society at the Edge of the Future

080.02.007

Laureate Professor Sarah Pink
(*Monash University*)

There can never be absolute certainty about what will happen in the future. And it is increasingly evident that the tools that are currently used to forecast, envision, imagine and plan for societal, environmental and technological futures, are inadequate, inequitable and unlikely to solve the problems that they seek to address. Government and industry organisations too often depend on prediction, forecast, and high-level analysis based on quantitative data. But numerical approaches are always based on imperfect data and can neither accurately predict future human experiences nor account for how human values and practices will shape the future. How might we go about better understanding, anticipating the ways in which real people, communities and their experiences and hopes will participate in shaping possible futures? Why is this necessary? What could be the impact of a new interdisciplinary and multisectoral approach to futures? and Why doesn't this already exist?

2.30pm – 2.50pm

Afternoon Tea Break

Foyer (Level 3 entrance)

Session 4 – Multi-track Session

3.00pm – 5.00pm

Panel Discussion

080.02.002

**When Tools Become Weapons:
The Dark Side of Everyday Technology**
Professor Nicola Henry, Dr Dana McKay,
Dr Nicole Shackleton (*RMIT University*) &
Dr Laura McVey (*eSafety*)

Technology-facilitated abuse (TFA) can take many forms, including creating, sharing, or threatening to share intimate images, stalking and surveillance, online hate speech, destroying or restricting devices, impersonation, doxing, and online sexual harassment. With the ever-increasing expansion of digital technologies, including AI and generative AI, TFA has become increasingly prevalent and can have a range of significant psychological, physical, social and financial impacts. This panel will discuss the causes, prevalence, nature and impacts of TFA, as well as different research, law, policy and practice responses to this growing problem.

Schedule - Day 2 cont'd

Session 4 – Multi-track Session

3.00pm – 5.00pm

Roundtable

080.03.006

Working from Phone:

Ethics, Technology, and the Future of Gig Work

Dr Paul Scifleet, Dr Paul Bowell, Dr Jason Sargent,
& Ms Katie Dang (*Swinburne University of Technology*)

The rise of the gig economy is characterised by innovation, flexibility, and autonomy in the provision of goods and services, with everyone benefitting - from customers to gig workers, to the digital platforms that are driving new marketplaces for ride sharing (Uber, Shebah), food delivery (Uber, DoorDash), freelance work, e.g. programming, graphic design (Fiverr), and everyday tasks (Airtasker and TaskRabbit). However, the social and technological impacts for gig workers taking up these short term, temporary, freelance gigs are large and not always positive: genuine concerns include protection of worker rights, safety, data privacy, surveillance, algorithmic bias, discrimination, exploitation and other power imbalances. This session introduces the gig economy, its growth and significance today and will centre on the ethical dilemmas arising. Driving discussions will be real-world cases and examples that illustrate growing concerns about fair and ethical treatment in the gig economy. Roundtable participation and collaboration and participatory will focus on discussion of the impact of changing technology, ethical challenges, worker perspectives, and likely futures for gig work (research, policy, solutions).

3.00pm – 5.00pm

Workshop

080.02.003

Essentials of Generative AI for HASS Scholars

Dr Robert Shen (*RMIT University*), Ms Emma Arrigo (*AWS*)
& Mr Patrick Taylor (*AWS & RMIT University*)

This session aims to unravel the complexities of Generative AI for HASS scholars. Attendees will gain insights into the concept, explore various frameworks, and understand the basic landscape of AI models. We will also address data privacy concerns and discuss best practices for deploying AI solutions using AWS services. The session will conclude with a hands-on experience with different AI models. This session is designed to cater to HASS researchers, and enthusiasts alike.

Session 5 – Plenary and Keynote

5.15pm – 5.45pm

**Voices into the Future: Setting a Potential
Research Agenda for Society 5.0 Ethics**

Ms Joann Cattlin &

Ms Stephanie Livingstone (*RMIT University*)

080.02.007

What issues has this event raised for you in relation to Society 5.0 ethics and how will you respond? Drawing on responses from participants at this event we highlight the key themes emerging and present some provocations for future directions in research and collaboration. Responses to the above prompt will be collected across the day on postcards available at a desk in the main foyer area. If you'd like to participate, we'd love to capture your reflections to present in this final session.

5.45pm – 6.30pm

**A Transdisciplinary Ethos for a Society 5.0
Ethical Future**

Professor Lisa Given (*RMIT University*)

080.02.007

Disruptive technologies raise significant challenges for individuals, communities, and organisations. The global challenge posed by the concept of Society 5.0 Ethics is to position adoption of technology innovations in ethical, human-focused ways to improve society. Yet, the discourse of innovation leans towards technological determinism, rather than positioning human agency as central to innovations that can support positive social change. Many research and development practices also continue to reinforce siloes between disciplines, and between universities and their community, government, and industry contexts. This closing keynote explores transdisciplinarity as an overarching ethos for realising an ethical Society 5.0 future. Transdisciplinary approaches embrace interdisciplinarity and embed industry, community, and government partners in all stages of innovation design, implementation, and evaluation. Embracing transdisciplinarity is critical for future technology development and adoption of innovations to ensure they embed human values and sustain positive social change, at scale.

Close

6.30pm – 6.45pm

Closing Remarks

Professor Lisa Given (*RMIT University*)

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Thank you

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