



Digital Society Initiative – February 2025



Dear readers, dear researchers,

In our first DSI News of the year, we focus on artificial intelligence (AI). Our newest DSI Community carries AI in its name and is researching the impact of AI on life as a citizen in the 21st century. We show how AI can be of help in crisis situations and present a DSI project that aims to make AI more reliable.

We are also pleased to announce a variety of events on digital transformation, ranging from a movie night with a tech thriller to a series of events with a feminist perspective.

Enjoy reading.

The Digital Society Initiative team

News



WELCOME

DSI Community AI, Culture & Society

We are excited to announce the launch of our **newest DSI Community** today. The members of the [DSI Community AI \(Artificial Intelligence\), Culture & Society](#) explore the impact of AI on life as a citizen in the 21st century.

The community is launching its work with a [reading group](#) on the topic: a series of informal meetings for anyone interested in the role of AI in today's society.

[Get to know all 14 DSI Communities](#)

DSI INSIGHTS

Artificial intelligence (AI) in crisis situations

In our first DSI Insights 2025 «[Wie die KI-Technologie Flüchtenden hilft und Propaganda erkennt](#)», Kilian Sprenkamp, a PhD candidate at the DSI, uses concrete examples to show how **Large Language Models (LLMs)** can help with rapid information processing and effective communication in **crisis situations**.

In the column series «DSI Insights» the DSI demonstrates its **specialist knowledge** and **interdisciplinary approach** on topics related to **digital transformation**. Columns from authors within the DSI network are published in the industry magazine «Inside IT» (in German).

[Find all DSI Insights here](#)



The future of work: Should managers show more emotions?

The DSI 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.

In the second episode of the DSI podcast «Genial digital?», we look at the **effects of digitalization on managers**. Podcast host Milena Ragaz visits **DSI researcher and management professor Lauren Howe** in her office at the University of Zurich. She has been researching for years the importance of a human leader for the future of work in a digital world.

Want to find out more? You can listen to the first two episodes of «Genial digital?» [here](#) (in German).

Infrastructures & Labs

RESEARCH AT THE DSI

Three questions about RAI

Prof. Dr. Christof Seiler presents **RAI** – a project in the «**DSI Infrastructures & Labs**» series.

What is RAI?

RAI stands for reliable AI. It is a software platform that makes it possible to calculate how reliable modern AI algorithms are. We worked with a professional cycling team. We built an algorithm that can predict how many calories an athlete consumes during a race. Based on our calculations, the coaches were able to put together optimal meals.

Why is such a tool needed?

Our calorie calculation algorithm is not perfect and makes mistakes, as do other AI algorithms. That's why we have calculated a whole range of possibilities. For example, instead of predicting that a Tour de France athlete will consume 4500 calories in the second stage, we calculate that an athlete will consume between 4400 and 4600 calories. We believe that such prediction intervals are very important in biomedicine.

How will biomedical researchers be able to use this tool?

Many biomedical researchers develop algorithms that make predictions. For example: Which drug should we try to treat a disease? Such predictions can be estimated based on past experiments. It may be that you simply see an event by chance. RAI enables researchers to make their prediction models more reliable and to provide them with prediction intervals.

You can find out more about RAI and Christof Seiler [here](#).

NEW EVENT SERIES

GenTec: An interdisciplinary Workshop Series on Gender and Technology

The interdisciplinary event series «**GenTec: An interdisciplinary Workshop Series on Gender and Technology**» deals with the way in which **gender** and **technology** interact in today's society.

With a **focus on feminist perspectives and empirical research**, it will examine different forms of technologies and their interaction or impact on gender, race, class, among others. The series aims to promote critical dialogue and offer empirical and practical insights that are relevant to fostering inclusive design strategies.

The event series is co-organized by the **DSI Community Ethics**.

[Find out more about the event series](#)



MORE NEWS IN BRIEF

DSI Shorts

In this section, we draw your attention to **further news from the DSI universe**:

- The **DSI Community Health** has published a new [paper](#) with a series of tools and recommendations to facilitate interdisciplinary education and collaboration.
- **CYREN ZH**, a project of the DSI Community Cybersecurity, is now offering the 3-ECTS course «[Storytelling for Digital Transformation](#)» for Master's and PhD

students at UZH.

- A **paper by DSI members** on the [social acceptance of urban drones](#) has been published in «Science and Public Policy».
- The **DSI Community Health** is looking for 12 to 16 PhDs or postdocs to participate in its [SOLIDERA workshop](#).
- The [paper «From Theory to Practice: Viewpoint on Economic Indicators for Trust in Digital Health»](#) by **DSI member Felix Gille** has been published in the current issue of the «Journal of Medical Internet Research»
- **DSI Professor Roland Meyer** will give his inaugural lecture «[Mustererkennung, oder: Wie Kulturen digital wurden](#)» on April 7, 2025.

[You can find all the news from 2025 here](#)

Events

25.02.

AI, Culture & Society Reading Group

Topic: «Introduction to AI, Culture and Society»

The event series is organized by the DSI Community AI, Culture and Society.

[More information](#)

27.02.

Introduction to Data Donation for Platform Research

A workshop by the Data Donation Lab, organized by the DSI Community Communication.

[More information](#)

04.03.

DSI Community Work – Movie Night

Movie Night on Langstrasse in Zurich with the tech thriller «The Circle» by James Ponsoldt.

The event is organized by the DSI Community Work.

[More information](#)

04.03.

UZH Master Tage: Info Event DSI Minor Digital Skills

Online info event as part of the UZH Master Days on the DSI Minor Digital Skills.

Organized by the DSI and the School for Transdisciplinary Studies (STS).

[More information](#)

11.03.

GenTec: An interdisciplinary Workshop Series on Gender and Technology

Topic: «Gender, Race, and Technology: An introduction»
The event series is co-organized by the DSI Community Ethics.

[More information](#)

12.03.

Let's VR! First Steps in Virtual Reality

First steps in virtual reality at the MEEET Lab.
Co-organized by the DSI Community Gaming.

[More information](#)

14.03.

Justice by Algorithm?

Guest lecture by Cyrill A. H. Chevalley on the topic «Justice by Algorithm?», organized by the DSI Community AI & Law.

[More information](#)

18.03.

GenTec: An interdisciplinary Workshop Series on Gender and Technology

Topic: «Relationships in Digital Spaces»

The event series is co-organized by the DSI Community Ethics.

[More information](#)

18.03.

AI in Teaching: Enhancing Lesson Design and Planning with AI Assistance

Hands-on workshop on «AI in Teaching», organized by the DSI Community Education.

[More information](#)

25.03.

GenTec: An interdisciplinary Workshop Series on Gender and Technology

Topic: «Intersectionality and Technology»

The event series is co-organized by the DSI Community Ethics.

[More information](#)

26.03.

AI, Culture & Society Reading Group

Topic: «Sociology of AI»

The event series is organized by the DSI Community AI, Culture & Society.

[More information](#)

01.04.

GenTec: An interdisciplinary Workshop Series on Gender and Technology

Topic: «AI in Public Spaces: Biases, Harms and Risks»
The event series is co-organized by the DSI Community Ethics.

[More information](#)

07.04.

GenTec: An interdisciplinary Workshop Series on Gender and Technology

Topic: «AI, Gender, and Religion»
The event series is co-organized by the DSI Community Ethics.

[More information](#)

15.04.

GenTec: An interdisciplinary Workshop Series on Gender and Technology

Closing workshop of the series of events, co-organized by the DSI Community Ethics.

[More information](#)

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