



Universität  
Zürich<sup>UZH</sup>

Digital Society Initiative (DSI)

# Digital Society Initiative - December 2022



Dear interested parties, dear researchers

In the last DSI News 2022, Abraham Bernstein, our Managing Director, takes a look back at the year in 2200 characters.

We go into more detail on selected topics of 2022 and again we provide entertainment for the rather quiet time in the form of text and video around the digital transformation.

We wish you a happy holiday season and look forward to an exciting 2023.

The Digital Society Initiative team

## 2200 characters on 2022

Dear DSI Community

In 2016, the DSI was officially launched - so in 2022, we were faced with the infamous «seven-year itch» that eventually tests many relationships. But I think we've done well this year and the DSI has definitely outgrown its infancy. Many of our programs have become established: Our «DSI Infrastructures & Labs» program has now already **launched 10 projects**, more than **1000 students participate** in (parts of) the Studium Digitale each year, and also in our Excellence Program (PhD) the - with more than 20 people gratifyingly large - third cohort has started. It is also encouraging to see the interest of our network in the formation of new communities: no less than **three new communities** have formed this year and want to work on important topics such as «Education», «Metaverse» and «Sustainability». We are excited to see how these new groups contribute to the content work of the DSI, which now has 12 communities covering a broad range of topics.

We are also pleased to have taken another important step this year in creating **new DSI Professorships**. In November, the DSI Steering Committee approved our selection for

the creation of new assistant professorships with tenure track. Starting next year, calls will now follow for professorships in cybersecurity, geographic information systems, mathematics, econometrics, orthopedics, sociology and theology. We are happy to announce that our DSI faculty will soon have new faces.

Our work is also having an impact outside the academic world: several parliamentary activities at the cantonal and national level this year relied on the results of our last year's **DSI Strategy Lab on the regulation of AI** - and we hope that the results of this year's Strategy Lab on «**AI in Medicine**» will have similar effects.

We are therefore confident that the DSI will continue to have effects at all levels of the university and non-university sectors in the coming year: in fall 2023, the **pilot of our «Digital Skills» minor** will start - an important addition to our «education portfolio». Thanks to the support of the foundation Mercator, we will also be able to continue our **educational activities for politicians**.

Finally, the DSI has strengthened its staff to be well prepared for the work ahead. **Two new directors** - Jean-Michel Hatt from the Vetsuisse Faculty and Michael Coors from the Faculty of Theology - join the Board of Directors, which now covers all seven faculties of the UZH. And **three new faces** have joined the DSI managing office: Lena Brun (Administration), Leyla Ciragan (Education) and Roman Scherrer (Communication) - welcome!

So, in the end, all I have to say is: «keep up the good work», and enjoy the coming holidays.

Abraham Bernstein  
Managing Director of the DSI



**DSI STRATEGY LAB 2022**

## **AI in medicine**

This year, the DSI has joined forces with the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Zurich. Together, the scientists are exploring the question: «[Artificial intelligence in medicine - where do we want to go?](#)»

A deliberate interdisciplinary and participatory approach was taken to **predict the interaction of humans and AI** in a future setting with providers, insurers, regulators and vendors.

During workshops, through the inclusion of focus groups, and via roundtable discussions,

**various scenarios were developed** for the near future (approximately 10 years) and the distant future (approximately 25 years).

These scenarios form the basis for **recommendations** that are currently being developed and will be communicated in spring 2023. We will keep you up to date.

## OUR COLUMN

# DSI Insights

In 2022, the DSI was once again able to demonstrate its **expertise and interdisciplinarity** on topics related to digital transformation. The following six «DSI Insights» by authors from the **DSI network** appeared on [Inside IT](#) and on communication channels of the UZH:

«Sind die goldenen Jahre der Gig-Economy vorbei?» by Karin Schwiter

«Die Zukunft der humanitären Arbeit in einer digitalen Welt» by Christina Teleki

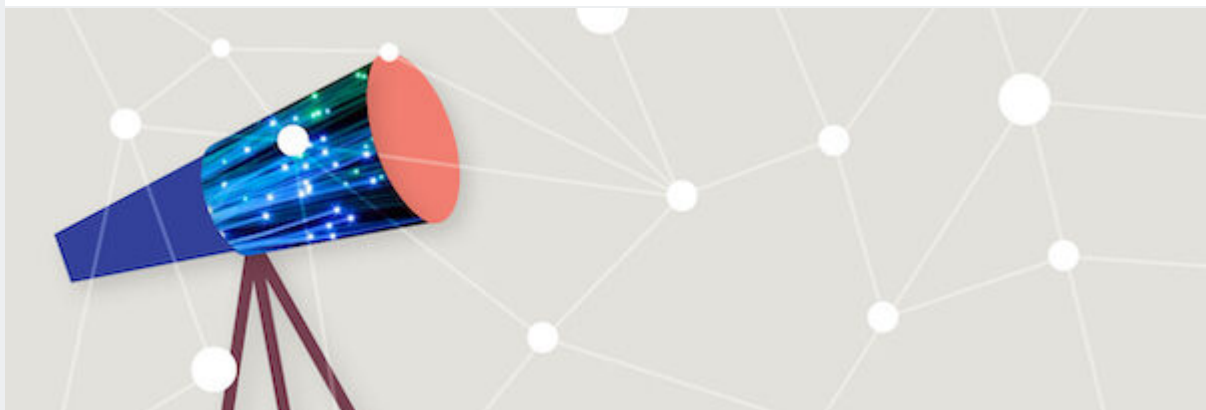
«Von 'guten' zu 'ethischen' Drohnen» by Ning Wang

«Cyberabwehr – definierte Prozesse statt 'Hack Backs'» by Markus Christen

«Digitalisierung und Nachhaltigkeit beißen sich manchmal» by Mario Angst

«KI in der Medizin – Wissen ist gefragt» by Claudia Witt

You will find further media articles relating to the DSI in the [media review](#) on our website.



## CYREN ZH

# A «cyber militia» for the canton of Zurich

DIZH funded four **new research structures** in 2022 as part of its innovation program. CYREN ZH is one of them. The Cyber Resilience Network of the Canton of Zurich promotes cooperation in research and teaching in the field of cyber security between the DIZH universities.

The funded project is intended to establish a task force of **civilian first responders** for

the digital space – a «cyber militia» analogous to the fire brigade.

Due to its interdisciplinary character, CYREN ZH is located at the DSI managing office.

[Learn more about CYREN ZH](#)

**NEW LOOK**

## DSI website

The DSI website received an update this fall. For a **better user experience**, the page structure was adjusted, additional visual elements simplify navigation and the content was completely updated.

We ask you to **re-save your bookmarks** and favorites of the DSI website and hope you enjoy exploring.

[To DSI website](#)



**DSI LECTURE SERIES 2022**

## The Future of Work

In the spring and early summer of this year, we took an in-depth look at the future of work. In the process, we learned, for example, that a **healthy dose of humor** never hurts in everyday work, and we agree that digitalization will **not lead to the end of work**.

You can find the [video recordings](#) of our 2022 Lecture Series on «The Future of Work» [here](#).

### THREE NEW DSI PROFESSORS

## Welcome on board

The **DSI professors** conduct research on the causes, consequences and future scenarios of the digital transformation of society and science.

We are pleased to introduce three new faces:

- [Sascha Schneider](#) joined the DSI in February 2022 and focuses on «Educational Technology».
- [Alexandre Bovet](#) joined the DSI in July 2022 and focuses on «Quantitative Network Science».
- [Anja Schulze](#) – already a senior member of the DSI – is since September 2022 also a DIZH Bridge Professor. Her focus is on «Mobility and Digital Innovation Management».

We warmly welcome our three new colleagues.

You can get to know **all 16 DSI professors** better [here](#).



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### FIRST, THIRD AND FOURTH COHORT

## Excellence Program (PhD)

In June, 14 doctoral students from the first cohort of the Excellence Program celebrated the **successful completion** of the program at a small summer party.

A short time later, in September, the DSI welcomed new young researchers. The **21**

**participants of the third cohort** have very different scientific backgrounds: for example, communication, political science, mathematics, philosophy, law and computer science.

Finally, in November, the **applications for the fourth cohort** of the Excellence Program started. New and prospective doctoral students at UZH can apply for a place until **January 15, 2023**. The DSI is again **awarding scholarships** this year.

Learn more about the Excellence Program [here](#).

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