![Universität Zürich UZH logo]

Digital Society Initiative (DSI)

Digital Society Initiative – February 2024

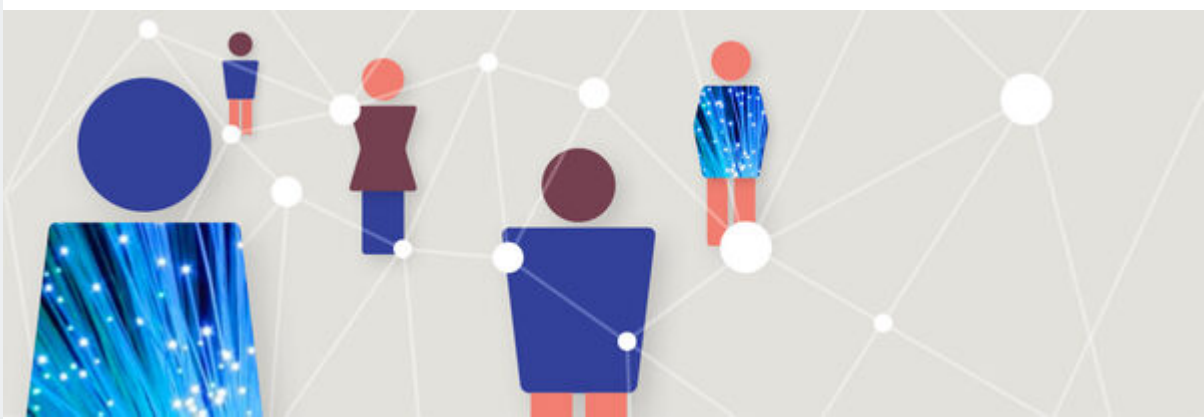Dear interested readers, dear researchers

With the newly founded DSI Communities AI & Law and Digital Humanities, the DSI has a total of 14 communities since the beginning of the year. We introduce you to the two new ones.

Further topics in this DSI news: the launch of the Parldigi MasterClass in the canton of Geneva, a project for improved accessibility in Zurich, the MEEET Lab, two calls and selected event recommendations – including the inaugural lectures by five colleagues from the DSI network.

We hope you enjoy the reading.

The Digital Society Initiative Team

News

AI & LAW / DIGITAL HUMANITIES

Two new DSI Communities

We are proud to present our **two newest DSI Communities** to you today. Since the beginning of the year, DSI researchers are working on two new focus topics.

The **DSI Community AI & Law** is a platform for addressing the **legal challenges of artificial intelligence**, fostering academic discussions with an interdisciplinary perspective and facilitating networking among researchers, students and professionals. The community invites all interested parties to its first meeting on February 28.

The **DSI Community Digital Humanities** aims to establish a dynamic hub for research and teaching in the rapidly evolving **field of digital humanities**. The community focuses on consolidating and improving existing activities at the University of Zurich in this area. The kick-off meeting of the community will take place on February 28 – interested parties are cordially invited to join.

An overview of all **14 DSI Communities** can be found here.

SPRING SEMESTER 2024

Inaugural lectures

We are pleased to announce the **inaugural lectures** of five colleagues from the **DSI network** for the upcoming spring semester. The lectures will take place in the Aula of the University of Zurich, Zentrum.

04.03.: Prof. Dr. Janna Hastings – «Medical AI for Evidence, Knowledge and Decision Support: Advances and Challenges»
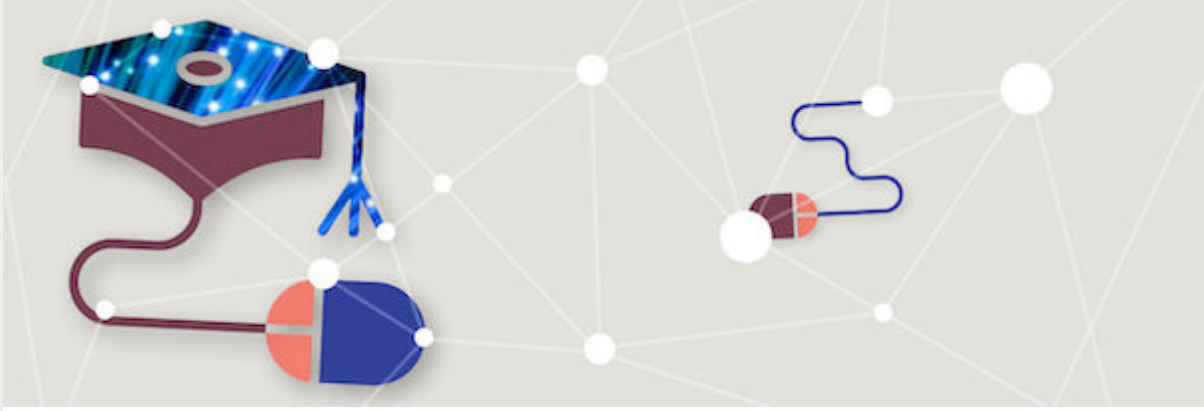
04.03.: Prof. Dr. Tobias Kowatsch – «Digital Therapeutics for Healthy Longevity»

09.03.: Prof. Dr. Adrian Egli – «Warum machen uns Bakterien krank?»

09.03.: Prof. Dr. András Jakab – «A Brain Odyssey: A Computational View of Brain Development»

04.05.: Prof. Dr. David Atwood – «Das Regieren der Transzendenz»

You can find all inaugural lectures here

Start of the Parldigi MasterClass in Geneva

The **Parldigi MasterClass** for members of the Grand Council of the **Canton of Geneva** started on January 26, 2024 with a first event on **cybersecurity**.

With the Parldigi MasterClass, **politicians** have the opportunity to learn more about the technical, social, legal and ethical aspects of the **digital transformation**. Experts from the University of Zurich and other universities offer scientifically based and politically neutral content on current issues of digitalization in **short presentations and discussions**.

The current Parldigi MasterClass for members of the Grand Council of the Canton of Bern ends on March 11, 2024. Meanwhile, the planning work for two new MasterClasses – one in the canton of Zurich, the other for members of the national parliament – is already at an advanced stage.

More about the Parldigi MasterClass

PROJECT UPDATE

ZüriACT: Zurich Accessible CiTy

The **ZüriACT** (Zurich Accessible CiTy) project aims to use data on accessibility features to make an important contribution to a **barrier-free Zurich city center**. It is a **cooperation project** between the **University of Zurich (UZH)** and the **City of Zurich** – responsible on the part of UZH is DSI researcher Dr. Hoda Allahbakhshi.

The project team hosted an event on January 24, 2024 to provide information on the **current status** and celebrate what has been achieved so far. Attendees were also informed about the **next steps in the project**.

Learn more about the project

Infrastruk-turen & Labs

Three questions about the MEEET Lab

Dr. Hiloko Kato presents the MEEET Lab, a project in the «DSI Infrastructures & Labs» series, in a short interview:

What is the MEEET Lab?
The MEEET Lab (Media Existential Encounters and Evolving Technology Lab) is located in the heart of the University of Zurich campus and offers researchers, students and the interested public a place where technologies – from original writing instruments to the latest gaming equipment – can be used «hands-on». It is a place that enables collaborative work, for example on projects, encourages the acquisition of technological and content-related knowledge for teaching at all educational levels as well as the development of innovative forms of teaching, and serves as a meeting and exchange place with the interested public on the numerous topics of the digitalization of our society.

What are specific examples of the technologies on offer?
The equipment in the MEEET Lab is diverse. On the one hand, there is tangible equipment such as a video studio, a 3D printer, Lego Mindstorms or prototyping boxes, which encourage people to try out new forms of appropriation, for example in teaching. In addition, a collection of writing instruments is currently being set up to enable hands-on media archeology. The centerpiece of the MEEET Lab is the collection of different gaming technology, ranging from older gaming devices to high-end gaming PCs and the latest generation of consoles to easy-to-use VR goggles and a Citizen Science arcade machine.

What benefits does the MEEET Lab have for research?
In science and university teaching, work is carried out on and with numerous technologies and their interfaces to specific topics. These analyze and reflect the implications of the digital transformation. The aim here is to provide easy access to these technologies and a place to try them out so that individual and collaborative research on these diverse topics can be facilitated. The fundamental task of the MEEET Lab is to bring these technologies and the diverse and exciting research on them closer to our students and the interested public.
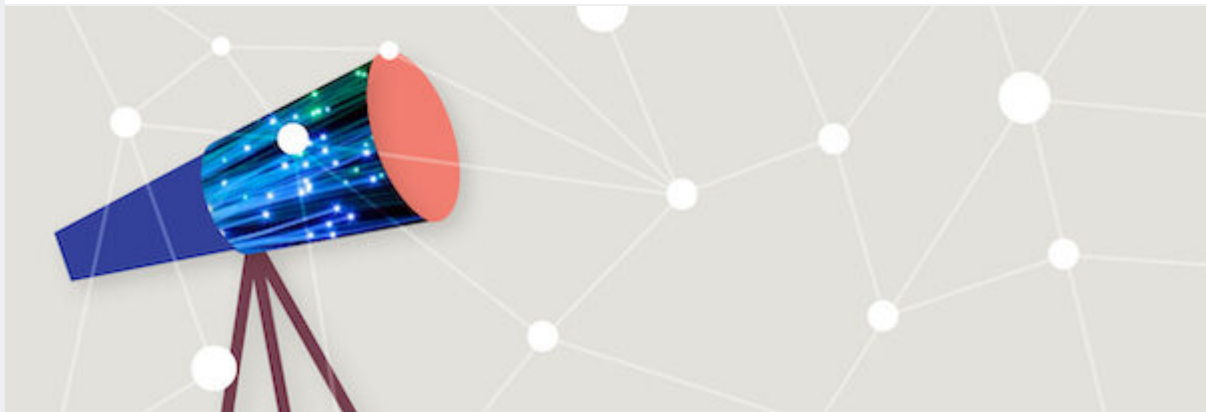
Find out more about Hiloko Kato and the MEEET Lab here.

Call for project proposals

The Data Donation Lab will organize the first **Swiss Data Donation Day** in September 2024 and is looking for projects from DIZH researchers (including UZH).

If you are a researcher affiliated with a DIZH institution (UZH, PHZH, ZHAW und ZHdK) and interested in conducting a data donation project that could contribute to the Data Donation Day, **submit your proposal by March 10, 2024**.

On **February 26, 2024** there will be an **online meeting** providing more **information on the Data Donation Day** and the opportunity to answer questions from potential project partners.

Learn more

APPLY NOW

DSI Infrastructure & Lab Call

The Call for new DSI Infrastructures & Labs is currently open to all DSI members and allows for funding of **up to CHF 100'000**.

DSI Infrastructures & Labs are shareable infrastructures or structural vessels for creating **collaborative research settings** related to digital transformation.

Applications are due by **April 28, 2024**. An info session will be held on Zoom on March 14, 2024.

More info about the call

FIRST DIZH OUTREACH CALL

Six projects with DSI involvement

As part of the first **Outreach Call in the DIZH innovation program**, 10 projects are being funded that not only increase the visibility of digital innovations, but also promote an engaged and critical discourse on their impact.

We are delighted that **six projects from DSI members** are among them, congratulate them warmly and wish the project teams every success.

Find out more about the funded projects with DSI participation

ALWAYS UP TO DATE

DSI on social media

Would you like to stay up to date on the Digital Society Initiative (DSI) and digital transformation topics? Congratulations, you have already done something right by subscribing to the DSI News.

For even more content on the topic, we recommend that you also follow us on **LinkedIn** and **YouTube**. We look forward to welcoming new followers.

Events

28.02.

DSI Community Digital Humanities: Kick-off Meeting

The first meeting of the newly founded DSI Community Digital Humanities aims to present current projects and activities in the field of digital humanities at UZH and to facilitate a discussion about future goals and opportunities.

More information

28.02. DSI Community AI & Law: Kick-off Meeting

In its first meeting, the DSI Community AI & Law presents future projects and events and offers the opportunity to network.

More information

07.03. NRP 77 closing event

At the closing event of the NRP 77 project «Creating an ethical and legal governance framework for trustworthy cybersecurity in Switzerland», the project team will present the results and follow-up projects.

The event is organized by the DSI Community Cybersecurity.

More information

13.03. How interactions via different communication channels relate to employee inclusion

A public lecture and discussion with Wieke Knol, PhD student at Radboud University, organized by the DSI Community Work.

More information

14.03. Info event on the DSI Infrastructure & Lab Call

Information event on this year's DSI Infrastructure & Lab Call via Zoom.

More information

19.03.

«Philosophy of AI» Presentation Series – Session 1

First session of the new event series «Philosophy of AI» on the topic «Ethics of Conversational Agents in Healthcare: The dilemma of humanization» with Jana Sedlakova.

The event series is organized by the DSI Community Ethics.

More information

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