



Digital Society Initiative – April 2025



Dear readers, dear researchers,

Artificial intelligence (AI) is also central to the second DSI News of the year. For example, with our column on predictive policing and AI, with research on sustainability discourses around AI, with our media workshop on AI in healthcare, or with various events on the topic.

In addition, we are pleased that the DSI was able to make a small contribution to bridging the Röstigraben. We connected digitally savvy representatives of the two cantonal parliaments of Geneva and Zurich and can say: it's a match!

Enjoy reading.

The Digital Society Initiative team

News

DIGITAL MASTERCLASSES IN ZURICH & GENEVA

Across the Röstigraben

At the beginning of March 2025, the **Digital MasterClass for members of the Zurich Cantonal Parliament** ended with the fifth and final event under the title [«Gesundheitswesen digital? Aktuelle Einblicke»](#). A subsequent aperitif offered the participants another opportunity to exchange ideas on topics related to the digital transformation in an informal setting.

A few days later, [an exchange at the intercantonal level](#) provided the framework for the **conclusion of the Digital MasterClass in Geneva**. A delegation from Zurich, consisting of representatives from the Zurich Cantonal Council, the cantonal administration and the University of Zurich (UZH), visited the «Grand Conseil» of Geneva. Among other things, the evaluation of the two MasterClasses in Geneva and Zurich was presented – the feedback from the politicians involved clearly shows the **desire for continuation**.

Thus, **crossing the Röstigraben** proved to be very fruitful and **follow-up projects** are already being planned.

[Find out more about the Digital MasterClass](#)

[UZH News «Entscheidungshilfe in Fragen der Digitalisierung»](#)

Infrastructures & Labs

RESEARCH AT THE DSI

Three questions about STAG

Prof. Dr. Jürgen Bernard presents **STAG** – a project in the «**DSI Infrastructures & Labs**» series.

What is STAG?

STAG (Statistical Timeseries Analysis Guide) is a modular, iterative framework for building case-specific pipelines to preprocess timeseries data in preparation for machine learning and data-driven decision-making (e.g., for preparing ECG signals for some cardiac event detection by an ML classifier). We are designing and developing STAG based on several real-world cases, with collaborators from the DSI Community Health.

What could be a specific benefit of STAG?

Imagine refining timeseries data from fitness trackers to spot anomalies in your study's participant cohort. STAG can handle missing values, segment signals, and document each of your data analysis choices, revealing unexpected patterns and inspiring new hypotheses. Our iterative approach streamlines data cleaning and analysis, while generating valuable domain insights.

Which research areas will benefit most from STAG?

STAG benefits any field handling timeseries data – especially clinical research, wearable-tech studies, and health monitoring. Its iterative, insight-driven framework and thorough logging of operations enable rigorous, replicable workflows. Where raw signals must be transformed into meaningful, actionable insights, STAG is an ideal fit.

You can find out more about STAG and Jürgen Bernard [here](#).

DSI PROFESSOR

Welcome, Ivan

We are delighted to welcome Prof. Dr. **Ivan De Oliveira Nunes** as DSI Professor. Ivan is **Assistant Professor of Cybersecurity** at the Institute of Computer Science (IfI) at the UZH.



With his expertise in the areas of **cybersecurity, computer systems and privacy**, Ivan perfectly complements our team of [DSI Professors](#).

We wish Ivan a good start at UZH and look forward to working with him.

[Find out more about the DSI Professorships](#)

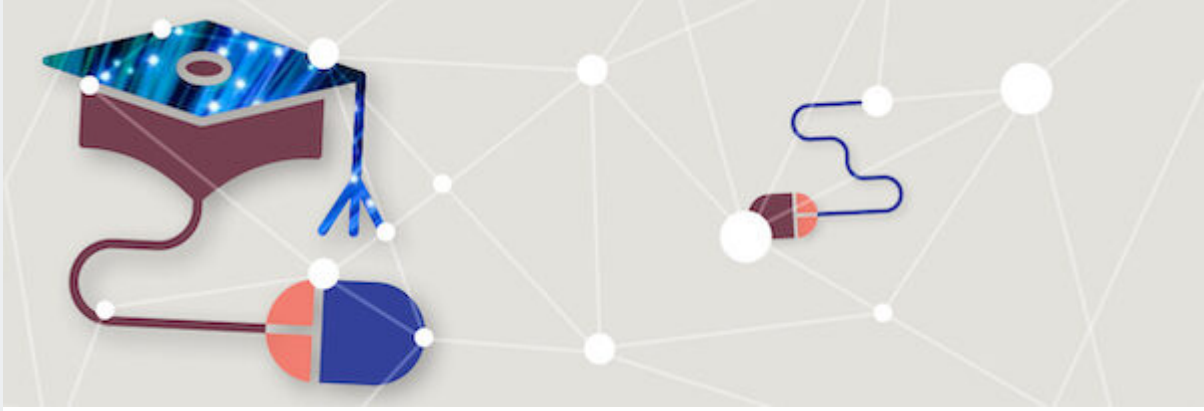
DSI INSIGHTS

Predictive Policing with AI

In the [second DSI Insights](#) of the year, Sarah Summers, director of the Digital Society Initiative (DSI), explains why **predictive policing using artificial intelligence (AI)** poses a challenge for the justice system.

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](#)



APPLICATIONS POSSIBLE UNTIL MAY 25

DSI Minor Digital Skills

Until May 25, 2025, interested students at UZH can apply for the **Master's Minor program DSI Minor Digital Skills** starting in the Fall Semester 2025 (HS 25).

A **Liberal Arts Option (LAO)** is now also offered to students at the Faculty of Law (RWF).

In the study program DSI Minor / LAO Digital Skills, students learn how to meet the **challenges of the digital transformation** and take advantage of its opportunities.

[Find out more about the Minor / LAO Digital Skills](#)

DSI MEDIA WORKSHOP

AI in healthcare

Artificial intelligence has given a boost to **digitalization in healthcare** and will open up new possibilities in the coming years. At the DSI media workshop on April 8, 2025, media professionals were able to find out in which direction this development is heading. **Prof. Dr. med. Claudia Witt**, Co-Director of the DSI, and **Prof. Dr. Philipp Fürnstahl**, Head of ROCS – Research in Orthopedic Computer Science at the Balgrist University Hospital, were on hand to answer questions from the participants.

This fifth edition of the DSI media workshop also generated lively discussions. The next workshop will take place **in fall 2025** on the topic of **cybersecurity**.

[Learn more](#)



A WARM WELCOME

DSI Fellow

We are delighted to welcome **Megan Rollerson**, an outstanding graduate from Lund University with a Master's degree in Strategic Communication, as a **DSI Fellow** in the **DSI Community Sustainability**.

During her fellowship, Megan, in collaboration with Prof. Nadine Strauß, will focus on developing her **research on the sustainability discourses surrounding AI**.

We warmly welcome Megan and look forward to exciting findings.

[Here you can find all DSI Fellows](#)

COMPLETED PROJECTS

DSI Infrastructures & Labs

DSI Infrastructures & Labs are collaborative infrastructures or structural vessels for the **creation of collaborative research environments** related to the **digital transformation**.

The series of projects financed by the **DIZH** research program was launched in the summer of 2021. Recently, several projects have been completed.

[To the completed projects](#)



DSI Shorts

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

- The Interactive **Visual Data Analysis (IVDA) Group** at the University of Zurich (UZH) is seeking a [Ph.D. and a Post-Doc \(m/f/d\)](#) at the intersection of visual analytics, interactive ML, and human-centered AI.
- Under the title «**Smart Education: Effective Learning and Instruction with Digital Technologies**», the [DSI Community Education is holding its first conference](#).
- CYREN ZH, a project of the DSI Community Cybersecurity, is organizing a [summer school](#) on «**Human Factors in Cybersecurity and Privacy: Interdisciplinary Research Methods**» in July 2025.
- The DSI is looking for two interns to work as an «[LLM Multi-Agent System Developer 40–80 %](#)» on the «**AI Buddy**» project.
- The organizers of two DSI events [are calling for abstracts](#): for a PhD Summer School on the topic «**Legal, Ethical and Implementation Challenges of AI in Healthcare**» and for the «**International Conference on Inferentialism**».
- The **study FIDO** (Fatigue Investigation using Digital Outcomes) is [looking for participants](#) to investigate how smartphones and wearables can be used to measure fatigue.

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

DIZH

2. Founder-Call

Apply for the second DIZH **Founder Call**.

It supports innovative start-up ideas in the field of digital transformation with a funding of up to CHF 75'000. Funding is provided for early **proof-of-concept projects** by students and employees of DIZH universities who have not yet founded a spin-off or start-up.

The **submission deadline is August 21, 2025**.

[All info on the call](#)



> 4000 FOLLOWERS

DSI on social media

We are a wee bit proud: over **4000 people** have been following us **on LinkedIn** since mid-March. Not yet a follower? Then catch up now. [Click here for the channel](#).

For more moving images, we can also recommend our [YouTube](#) channel. We look forward to new subscribers here too.

Events

Today

Apéro Digital – The Algorithm Resistance

The fourth Apéro Digital will cover the topic «Regulatory Pathways for Online Platforms in Switzerland».

The event series is co-organized by Bridge Lab, a project of the «DSI Infrastructures & Labs» series.

[More information](#)

Today

Workshop: Digital Literacy in the Age of Artificial Intelligence

This workshop, co-organized by the DSI Communities AI & Law and Education, highlights the legal and educational challenges of artificial intelligence (AI).

[More information](#)

Today

Co-op Gaming Night

This DSI Community Gaming event offers the opportunity to play a wide range of multiplayer games.

[More information](#)

Today

Teaching, Research, and AI: Costs and Benefits of AI in Higher Education

Panel discussion on acceptance and consequences in studies and teaching – organized by the UZH Representative Body Associations.

[Weitere Informationen](#)

17.04.

Legal Personhood for AI Systems

A lunchtime lecture on the legal personhood status of non-human actors.

The event is organized by the DSI Community AI & Law.

[More information](#)

30.04.

AI, Culture & Society Reading Group

Topic: «Bias, Justice, Explainable AI»

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

[More information](#)

30.04.

Workshop on Open Access, Open & Community Peer Review

This workshop, co-organized by the DSI Communities Digital Humanities and Libraries, focuses on new models of scholarly publishing in the digital humanities.

[More information](#)

08.05.

Rechtliche Rahmenbedingungen für Künstliche Intelligenz (KI) in der Schweiz – Wie weiter?

A lunch & learn event hosted by the Center for Information Technology, Society, and Law (ITSL) – a DSI partner organization.

[More information](#)

15.05.

DSI AI Meetup: LLMs as a Research Tool

The DSI Community Democracy is inviting to an interdisciplinary roundtable.

Topic: Large Language Models (LLMs) as a research tool in the social sciences.

[More information](#)

22.05.

Smart Education: Effective Learning and Instruction with Digital Technologies

The first DSI Community Education Conference aims to foster collaboration and knowledge sharing among early career researchers in the field of digital education.

[More information](#)

28.05.

AI, Culture & Society Reading Group

Topic: «Hidden Labour and Global Power of AI»
The event series is organized by the DSI Community AI, Culture & Society.

[More information](#)

30.05.

The New Voyeurism: Criminalising the Creation of «Deepfake Porn»

A talk by Rya Tuna Toparlak (PhD student at the University of Lucerne) on the current epidemic of sexual digital forgeries.

The event is organized by DSI Community AI & Law.

[More information](#)

11.06.

Mobilizing Retirees: The Missing Piece in Boosting Digital Safety

A workshop on how volunteering, especially by retirees, can help strengthen digital skills in our communities.

The event is organized by CYREN ZH, a project of the DSI Community Cybersecurity.

[More information](#)

17.06.

SDG Research Scout Ceremony Event

The launch of the SDG Research Scout – an interactive platform that connects over 100,000 UZH publications with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

[More information](#)

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