

Programme of the 19th International Days in Social Work



Theme 2024

Democracy or Democrazy: navigating the impact of AI on society.

In an era where Artificial Intelligence is evolving at an unprecedented pace, it's important that we examine its role within democratic societies.

Does AI fortify democratic values or does it pose a potential threat?

We want to believe AI is a catalyst for strengthening democracies, increasing citizen participation. However, there have been negative examples of its impact threatening the power of democracy, leading to biases and a diluted form of democracy, perhaps a 'democrazy'.

Let's explore and gain insight in this topic together so we can strive for a future where AI strengthens democracy!

Tuesday 19 March 2024: Plenary Day in Mechelen

Everything you need to know and more
<https://thomasmore.be/en/programme>



Wednesday 20 March 2024
Thomas More campus Geel
Kleinhoefstraat 4
2440 Geel

AI: democracy or democrazy? Opportunities and challenges of AI in the professional practice.



08.45 – 9.00	Small cafeteria	Reception with coffee
09.00-09.15	Agora	Opening and welcome
09.15 – 12.00	Agora	<p>Keynotes 09.15 - 10.00: Mr. Vince Buysens, Digital consultant and lecturer at Thomas More; Fadawah 10.15 - 11.00: Ms Lucilla Siola, Director for "Artificial Intelligence and Digital Industry" within DG Connect: the EU approach to Artificial intelligence that aims to ensure humane and reliable applications of AI. 11.15 - 12.00: Mr Wouter Van den Bosh, R&D programme manager Health & AI at IMEC Belgium</p>
12.00 – 13.00	Main restaurant	Lunch

An overview of our incoming guests in Social Work and their contribution

Who's who

1 Yoel Tawil, Lecturer at HIT Holon, Israel

Expertise

Yoel Tawil, who holds a PhD in anthropology from Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (Israel), is a researcher in the field of creativity studies, socio-cultural anthropology and medical anthropology. He lectures at HIT, the Holon Institute of Technology (Israel), and teaches creativity enhancement, anthropology, and applied sciences from a multidisciplinary perspective. He is also a professional improvisational theatre actor. Dr Tawil is fluent in Hebrew, English and French.

Contribution

"Is AI Magic? - An Anthropological Perspective": In this lecture, I explore the theoretical, practical and ethical implications of framing AI technology within the realm of the 'magical', and discuss how such a perception shapes our understanding of, and interaction with - AI advancements.

"My Worst Possible Version of Your Seemingly Brilliant Idea": Blending the art of creative thinking and the spontaneity of improvisational theatre, this workshop will encourage students to uncover non-obvious hidden gems of value in each other's (AI-related) projects, perhaps elucidating what "democracy" means in the process.

2 Hillel Eyal, International coordinator at HIT Holon, Israel

Expertise

History with specialization on globalization & migration, entrepreneurship and technology.

Contribution

Why you should and why you could get entrepreneurial skills in today's work: Lessons from history

This lecture examines what entrepreneurial skills are, why in today's digital economy they are so crucial and why they are easily accessible to us. We will discuss revolutionary moments in the history of technology, focusing on how they have changed our world, our work, and how we can and should become entrepreneurial.

3 Nicole Klinkhammer, Professor for Early Childhood and Family at Technische Hochschule Augsburg, Germany

Expertise

Since September 2022, I'm a professor for Early Childhood and Family at the Technical University of Augsburg. For about ten years, I've worked as senior researcher and project manager on different aspects of governing systems of early childhood education and care at the German Youth Institute in Munich, which is one of the largest research institutes on the topics of childhood and family in Europe (<https://www.dji.de/en/about-us.html>). My research focus concentrates on vulnerable children and families, social care for disadvantaged children and families, access to early childhood education and care & family support, as well as international social work. I'm also a vice-president of the Federal Working Group on Early Childhood Education and Care (Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Bildung und Erziehung in der Kindheit e.V., BAG-BEK e.V.). For more information: <https://www.tha.de/en/Liberal-Arts-and-Sciences/Nicole-Klinkhammer.html>

Contribution

(Un-)Equal access to early childhood education and care in Germany: The role of Social Work and AI

The regulation of access to early childhood education and care in Germany and how social work and AI can make a change in inequality in early education.

Nicole will present some current data on participation rates of children under three and which role the socio-economic background of families plays in getting access. In some municipalities in Germany electronic systems, read AI, for the distribution of places were introduced for more transparency in the system.

Nicole Klinkhammer will join the international days together with four Social Work students.

4 Kati Schroeder, Educational manager - teaching and internationalization at Fachhochschule Potsdam, Germany

Expertise

Internationalization processes, promoting student community - peer to peer structures, curriculum development, coordination and student consultation, German as a Foreign language, languages (Spanish, English, Italian).

Contribution

Will be accompanying a student group from Potsdam.

5 Arne Von Boetticher, Professor and Vice-Dean for international relations at Fachhochschule Potsdam, Germany

Expertise

professor for German social code law.

Contribution

Will be accompanying a student group from Potsdam.

6 Anna Slozanska, professor at Ukrainian Catholic University, Ukraine

Expertise

I have expertise in social work, social services and social inclusion.

Contribution:

sharing experiences about the university's work during the war and the difficulties we have to face. Sharing experiences about conducting educational processes during the war.

7 Mrs. Olha Tomkiv, Project Manager for International Cooperation at the International Office, Ukrainian Catholic University, Ukraine

Expectations

- strenghtening the cooperation between the sending and the receiving institution with the perspective of future project cooperation
- exchange of knowledge about international education and experience in international exchanges from a different perspective
- presenting Ukrainian Catholic University to the participants of International Days
- sharing information about the university's work during the war and the difficulties we have to face
- creating new networks

Contribution:

sharing experiences about the university's work during the war and the difficulties we have to face. Sharing experiences about conducting educational processes during the war.

8 Dr. Tetiana Zakharchenko, Associate professor at the Faculty of Applied Sciences, Ukrainian Catholic University, Ukraine

Contribution:

sharing experiences about the university's work during the war and the difficulties we have to face. Sharing experiences about conducting educational processes during the war.

9 Dr. Nataliia Nazar, Director of Bachelor programme in Social Work, Ukrainian Catholic University, Ukraine

Contribution

sharing experiences about the university's work during the war and the difficulties we have to face. Sharing experiences about conducting educational processes during the war.

10 Masego Katsi, associate professor at Western Norway University of Applied Sciences, Norway

Expertise

Masego Katsi is a social worker and specialist in health promotion. She has a master's degree in child welfare and applied child research from Swansea University, Wales (UK), and a PhD in health promotion work and development from the University of Bergen. Her main theoretical interests are systemic theory, resilience, salutogenesis, relational wellbeing and other strength-based approaches. Ongoing research projects concern resilience in marginalized youth and adult populations. She is currently researching migration in Norway and orphans in sub-Saharan Africa. She participates in an international research network for refugees in Norway. Masego has published several peer-reviewed articles https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Masego_Katsi2/research

Contribution

I teach in the course Social Exclusion and inclusion. I would like to link themes within this course with democracy to show how AI could possibly facilitate inclusion and participation but also how its platforms, and issues of access can expand exclusion to the already marginalised and discriminated populations. I will also show how, if in the right hands AI can be used to challenge exclusion and facilitate true democracy

11 Jonathan Trinidad, lecturer at University of Aruba, Aruba

Contribution

1. Lecturer Topic: Aruban Citizens' Extent of Satisfaction: Trust and Willingness to Use Services of the Social Sector NGOs (Presenter).
2. Lecturer Topic: Social Work and Development – The Dutch Caribbean Island of Aruba Culture and Context.

12 Jannie Goussard, director of Ubuntu Consultancy, UK

Expertise

Social work: Jannie Goussard, Director of Ubuntu Consultancy has been a practicing social worker in the field of children's services and child protection work since 1993. Ubuntu Consultancy provides consultancy support for Local Authority social work departments with regards to practice improvement and staff training.

Contribution

Opportunities, threats and ethical implications of AI on social work practice from a practitioner's perspective.

13 Gina Marcano, Lecturer and Program Coordinator Bachelor of Social Work at the University of Curacao, Curaçao

Expertise

Working with students researching neighborhood issues and finding solutions in Community of Learning. My focus is on inclusivity, paying special attention to migrant challenges. It's about giving students the tools to make a real impact in communities. Working on incorporating more macro social work in the study.

Contribution

A lecture on how community of learning works and the positive reactions but also challenges we face in the study.

14 Alida Herbst, Deputy-dean, Teaching and Learning, North Western University, South Africa

Expertise

I am a professor of social work at the North-West University in South Africa. I currently serve as Deputy-Dean: Teaching and Learning of the Faculty of Health Sciences. In terms of social work, I consider medical social work, trauma counseling, narrative therapy, social work management and administration and play therapy as my primary interests and/or expertise. As university leader, teacher and researcher, I am passionate about innovative teaching-learning approaches, curriculum development, faculty development, design-thinking methodology, World Café facilitation and qualitative research.

Contribution

1 Deepening your self awareness in a world of AI and real people.

As a future professional you will work and live in a world where you will be challenged to engage yourself to the good use of AI whilst working physically with people and with ourselves.

This workshop is on deepening your balance in a world of AI and real people. Of how implementing elements of detox in order to self care are fundamental and should be present in the professional's daily routine.

2 Country presentation South Africa

Deepening your insights on the opportunities and challenges of AI

Deepening your insights on international approaches of Social Work

F202	F204	F205	F206	F216	F217	F110	F111	F114
<p>Yoel Tawil</p> <p>Is AI magic?</p>	<p>Hillel Eyal</p> <p>Why you should and why you could get entrepreneurial skills in today's work: Lessons from history</p>	<p>Jannie Goussard</p> <p>Opportunities, threats and ethical implications of AI on social work practice from a practitioner's perspective</p>	<p>Masego Katsi</p> <p>How AI as a possible facilitator of inclusion and participation</p>	<p>Alida Herbst</p> <p>Deepening your self awareness in a world of AI and real people.</p>	<p>Nicole Klinkhammer</p> <p>(Un-)Equal access to early childhood education and care in Germany: The role of Social Work and AI</p>	<p>Jonathan Trinidad</p> <p>Aruban Citizens' Extent of Satisfaction: Trust and Willingness to Use Services of the Social Sector NGOs</p>	<p>Gina Marcano</p> <p>Giving students the tools to make a real impact in communities. Working on incorporating more macro social work</p>	<p>Olha Tomkiv Tetiana Zakharchenko Nataliia Nazar Anna Slozanska</p> <p>The impact of war on educational processes</p>

Deepening your insights on the opportunities and challenges of AI

Deepening your insights on international approaches of Social Work

F202	F204	F205	F206	F217		F216	F110	F111	F114
<p>Yoel Tawil</p> <p>My Worst Possible Version of Your Seemingly Brilliant Idea</p>	<p>Hillel Eyal</p> <p>Why you should and why you could get entrepreneurial skills in today's work: Lessons from history</p>	<p>Jannie Goussard</p> <p>Opportunities, threats and ethical implications of AI on social work practice from a practitioner's perspective</p>	<p>Masego Katsi</p> <p>How AI as a possible facilitator of inclusion and participation</p>	<p>Nicole Klinkhammer</p> <p>(Un-)Equal access to early childhood education and care in Germany: The role of Social Work and AI</p>		<p>Alida Herbst</p> <p>Country presentation South Africa</p>	<p>Jonathan Trinidad</p> <p>Social Work and Development – The Dutch Caribbean Island of Aruba Culture and Context</p>	<p>Gina Marcano</p> <p>Giving students the tools to make a real impact in communities. Working on incorporating more macro social work</p>	<p>Olha Tomkiv Tetiana Zakharchenko Nataliia Nazar Anna Slozanska</p> <p>The impact of war on educational processes</p>

<p>15.00 – 15.30</p>	<p>F128</p>	<p>Students' meet and greet Please join us for a meet and greet with our incoming guests. This activity is open for students who are looking for an extra chat with our guests.</p>
<p>15.30 – 16.30</p>	<p>F128</p>	<p>Lecturers' networking moment Please join us for a meet and greet with our incoming guests. This activity is open for lecturers who are looking for a networking opportunity with our guests.</p>
<p>18.00</p>	<p>Main restaurant</p>	<p>Please join us for a dinner together with all incoming guests on our Geel campus</p>

Thursday 21 March 2024
Thomas More campus Geel
Kleinhoefstraat 4
2440 Geel

Multidisciplinary day
How can AI increase (e)quality for all?



08.15 – 8.30	Small cafeteria	Reception with coffee
08.30-09.00	F110	Briefing of the incoming and Thomas More lecturers on the day
09.30 – 12.15	In a classroom together with a TM colleague (more info on what to expect coming up soon)	Getting acquainted with the first phases of the design thinking methodology through knowledge clips together with a group of students and a co-lecturer.
12.15 – 13.15	Main restaurant	Lunch
13.15 – 16.00	In a classroom together with a TM colleague (more info follows soon)	Getting acquainted with the following phases of the design thinking methodology through knowledge clips together with a group of students and a co-lecturer.
18.00	Main restaurant	Please join us for a dinner together with all incoming guests on our Geel campus

In a nutshell (your homework 😊)

We would like you:

- to confirm if your contribution to our Wednesday's afternoon programme is OK
- to let us know if you do not wish to be part of the Thursday programme.

Coming soon: more information on Thursday's programme