

# Society 5.0 Ethics

A Festival of Ideas



## Society 5.0 Ethics: A Festival of Ideas Conference Program (17 – 18 June 2024)

| Day 1 – Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> June              |                        |  |                                                                                                                                                    |                          |
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| 8.20am - 8.50am                                   | Registration Desk Open |  |                                                                                                                                                    | Foyer (Level 3 entrance) |
| Day 1 - Session 1: Keynote and Plenary Discussion |                        |  |                                                                                                                                                    |                          |
| 9am - 9.15am                                      | Welcome                |  | Professor Lisa Given (Director, Social Change Enabling Impact Platform)<br>Professor Alec Cameron (Vice-Chancellor and President, RMIT University) | 080.02.007               |

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| 9.15am - 10.30am                                 | <b>Society 5.0 Ethics: A Clarion Call for Technology-Disrupted Futures</b> | We know that technological disruptions are inevitable. Along with each new development, harms and risks inevitably arise, leaving us to scramble to (re)position change in society's best interest. Yet the world seems to be surprised anew each time, as if these ethical problems were not foreseeable. This opening address explores "Society 5.0 Ethics" as a future-oriented and human-centric framework that can empower us to get ahead of the curve when facing technology disruptions. Instead of getting stuck in continual states of reaction in the face of the latest crisis, this perspective shifts our attention toward proactive and future-oriented questions around "What do we want to be(come) as a society?" With the rise of generative AI and other autonomous technologies, this is a critical moment to shift our attention to address this question. If continual technology disruption is the new normal, people from all walks of life must proactively shape our futures and make them what we want them to be. | Professor Annette Markham (Utrecht University) | 080.02.007               |
| 10.30am – 10.50am                                | <b>Morning Tea Break</b>                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                | Foyer (Level 3 entrance) |
| <b>Day 1 – Multi-track Session 2.1: Workshop</b> |                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                |                          |
| 11am – 1pm                                       | <b>The AI Primer: Definitions and Reality Check</b>                        | The year 2023 might be called "The Year of AI", when it seemed that the whole world was turned on to the potential value of AI to transform everything from our ability to write sweet love poems to performing surgery. There was hype – about the magical capabilities and emergent behaviours of generative LLMs – and there was fear – about AI taking over our jobs or doing harm. There is of course some element of truth to both views. AI can do things that are                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Professor Karin Verspoor (RMIT University)     | 080.02.003               |

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|                                                    |                                                                                                                          | <p>challenging for humans, such as find complex patterns buried in large data sets, but it does so with blinders that narrow its view to that data, with limited context or nuance.</p> <p>It is clear that there are tremendous opportunities for AI to drive more efficient and effective data-driven solutions in many sectors. However, it is equally clear that there are barriers to realisation of these opportunities, and risks associated with adoption of AI technologies. In this talk, I will introduce the core concepts of AI, provide examples of how AI is already being used in real-world settings, and explore both sides of this debate.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                      |            |
| <b>Day 1 – Multi-track Session 2.2: Roundtable</b> |                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                      |            |
| <b>11am -1pm</b>                                   | <b>Should Australia Recognise a Right to the Internet? A Roundtable Exploring Human Rights Priorities in Society 5.0</b> | <p>In this interactive workshop, the question of whether Australia should recognise a right to the internet and if so, what might that entail. The vision of Society 5.0 is of ‘a human-centred society’ enabled through ‘a highly integrated system of cyberspace and physical space fusion of cyberspace with physical space.’ (Cabinet Office, Gov’t of Japan). Human rights considerations are fundamental components of this vision, and in the practical realisation of that future societal vision.</p> <p>High on the priority list of essential human rights in the context of imagining and creating Society 5.0 is whether people have a right to the internet. The United Nations’ Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) predates the existed of personal computers, let alone the internet, and does not include any such right. However, there is a growing movement for</p> | Dr Jonathan Kolieb (RMIT University) | 080.03.006 |

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|  |  | <p>national and international recognition of such a right. Some countries have enshrined the right to the internet for its citizenry in law, and experts at the United Nations suggest that the internet's indispensability in modern life demands its inclusion in any contemporary set of universal human rights.</p> <p>Should Australia have a "right to the internet"? What are the pros and cons, and implications of such a move, and how would we, as a society, constitute that right? This workshop will guide participants through a series of activities to prompt their thinking, exchange views and develop a preliminary shared understanding of these questions. It is hoped that the workshop may generate future collaboration between participants to explore the human rights-based elements of Society 5.0 generally, and, specifically, to promote the need for universal access to the internet as part of that vision.</p> |  |  |
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**Day 1 – Multi-track Session 2.3: Interactive Seminar**

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| <b>11am-1pm</b> | <b>Can Money Save the World?</b> | <p>For many years the primary representation of value has been money. However, money is now undergoing significant change as it becomes data. This talk will explore the implications for design as a series of technological and regulatory shifts are taking place that are changing the representation of money into data. The talk anticipates that within Society 5.0, personal bank accounts will be better understood to be personal data stores, and monies held within them will be connected to data-driven systems that broker the provision of services that guide us to a regenerative economy. By charting the changes that</p> | Professor Chris Speed (RMIT University) | 080.02.002 |
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|                                               |                                                                                                        | are taking place, the talk will introduce a series of design case studies that make tangible the possible social, economic and environmental futures.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                |                          |
| <b>1pm - 1.25pm</b>                           | <b>Lunch Break</b>                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                | Foyer (Level 3 entrance) |
| <b>Day 1 - Session 3: Keynote</b>             |                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                |                          |
| <b>1.30pm - 2.30pm</b>                        | <b>Designing Our Ethical Approaches to New Technologies: Anticipating, Reflecting, and Envisioning</b> | This talk explores how we should devise shared ethical approaches to new and emerging technologies through focus on using 'responsible by design' approaches to foster reflection and anticipation, rather than merely being responsive once such technologies are available. Our multicultural society may well have diverse views about various potential uses of technologies but we can use deliberative approaches to envision shared understandings of which technologies we should support and how processes associated with them should be structured to create public and social benefits. | Professor Rachel A. Ankeny (University of Adelaide)            | 080.02.007               |
| <b>2.30pm - 2.50pm</b>                        | <b>Afternoon Tea Break</b>                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                | Foyer (Level 3 entrance) |
| <b>Day 1 – Multi-track Session 4.1: Panel</b> |                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                |                          |
| <b>3pm - 5pm</b>                              | <b>Supply Chain Governance, Human Rights and Ethics</b>                                                | Supply chains are the webs that ties the global economy together. But supply chains are not simply abstractions - they encompass concrete relationships between firms, individuals, and communities. How supply chains are governed influences not just how and where goods are manufactured and distributed but the shape of the societies that they link. Behind the abstraction of a supply chain can be significant environmental harm, human rights violations, or economic and political distortions. In this panel, Chris Berg and Shelley Marshall will be joined by RMIT                   | Professor Shelley Marshall & Prof Chris Berg (RMIT University) | 080.02.002               |

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|                                                  |                                                                             | industry partners working at the coalface of supply chain research and innovation to tackle the human rights, environmental and ethical dimensions of how we govern supply chains.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                    |            |
| <b>Day 1 – Multi-track Session 4.2: Workshop</b> |                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                    |            |
| <b>3pm - 5pm</b>                                 | <b>Altered States: Conversations with Ourselves in the Ambient Surround</b> | This workshop is directly concerned with shifting states of attention, belonging and care in contemporary digital lives. Embracing the ‘ambient’ as characteristic of spaces of proliferating conversational devices and agencies that collapse the digital/physical divide, we explore the nature of attention as a focus for value-capture, with particular implications for the care economy. Through a series of workshop exercises and conversations with invited participants, this workshop invites reflection on the kinds of attentional care practices enacted with ‘ourselves’ of care optimisation, wellbeing and trust. | Dr Sarah Barns (RMIT University) & Professor Annette Markham (Utrecht University)                  | 080.02.003 |
| <b>Day 1 – Multi-track Session 4.3: Workshop</b> |                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                    |            |
| <b>3pm - 5pm</b>                                 | <b>Digital Futures for People with Disabilities</b>                         | Many people with disability are turning to AI as an emergent tool for inclusion and social disruption. Alongside these opportunities, AI introduces new and insidious forms of discrimination that require urgent attention. Drawing on research evidence and community insights, this interactive panel session will explore what makes emerging technologies ethical and inclusive for people with disability. The session will also showcase how people with disability can drive and shape their own digital futures, and how communities and industry can form effective partnerships in the pursuit of ethical practice.       | Dr Kate Anderson (RMIT University), Ms Katy Gagliardi (VALID), and Mr John McKenna (Better Access) | 080.03.006 |

| Day 1 - Session 5: Keynote |                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                            |                          |
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| 5:30pm - 6:30pm            | <b>Designing Inclusive Tech: Future-oriented Approaches to the Digital with the Majority World</b> | <p>Designing Inclusive Tech: Future-oriented approaches to the digital with the majority world</p> <p>What actions and innovations are needed to create an inclusive internet? What guardrails do we need for a regenerative, redistributive, and resilient tech enabled society? In the last decade, cheap mobile phones and data plans have brought the next billion users online – mostly young people from the Global South who have fast come online to engage with the internet in ways that go beyond our common understandings. 90 percent of the world’s youth today live outside the West. While many of them have limited resources, they have an unlimited passion to immerse in digital media. Just India and China alone are home to most users today, and neither society is anywhere close to market saturation. It is time we stop underestimating and instead, start understanding the creative potential of the Global South. We should seek ways to ethically engage with different cultures, contexts, and consumers to rethink digital opportunities, online safeguards, and creative economies with the majority world. Inclusion is not an altruistic act. It is an essential element if we are to build a global community to generate sustainable solutions to the wicked problems in how we work, play, love, and live with the planet’s limited resources. Join Payal Arora as she shares insights on inclusive AI futures from her new book with MIT Press, ‘From Pessimism to Promise: Lessons from the Global South on Designing Inclusive Tech.’</p> | Professor Payal Arora (Utrecht University) | 080.02.007               |
| 6:30pm                     | <b>Networking Reception</b>                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                            | Foyer (Level 3 entrance) |

| Day 2 – Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> June    |                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                             |                                                                |
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| 8.20am - 8.50am                          | Registration Desk Open                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                             | Foyer (Level 3 entrance)                                       |
| Day 2 - Session 1: Keynote               |                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                             |                                                                |
| 9am - 10.15am                            | <b>Big Tech, AI, and Reclaiming the Future</b>                                                                  | The economic might and existential hold of Big Tech depends at core on two features. First is reckless impunity: the routinised production and tolerance of negative externalities without consequence. Second is narrative: the evergreen promise of progress and brighter futures; of solutions and certainty in a burdened and uncertain world. In the grab-bag that is ‘artificial intelligence’, the technology industry has found the ultimate instantiation of both impunity and narrative: computational engines without limit, eroding reason, labour, humanity, ecosystems; simultaneously abhorrent and desirable; our tragic saviour made manifest. This keynote interrogates why the lessons of a quarter-century of the global tech industry have not been learned, how to break the cycle, and what will be required to reclaim the future. | Associate Professor Julia Powles (University of Western Australia)                                                          | 080.02.007                                                     |
| 10.15am - 10.35am                        | Morning Tea Break                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                             | Foyer (Level 3 entrance)                                       |
| Day 2 – Session 2: Plenary and Manifesto |                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                             |                                                                |
| 10.45am - 12.45am                        | <b>Tackling Misinformation on a Global Scale: The International Panel on the Information Environment (IPIE)</b> | Algorithmic manipulation, bias, hate speech, misleading information, deepfakes, and other acts have created a global information environment crisis an existential threat to humanity. The cost is billions of dollars, millions of lives, and an erosion of trust in science, our institutions and each other. With the specific threats of climate change, generative AI, and an ongoing need for critical thinking, the information environment crisis needs a global response.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Dr Damiano Spano, Dr Dang Nguyen, Professor Lisa Given (RMIT University) and Professor Annette Markham (Utrecht University) | 080.02.007<br><br>Breakout rooms (from 11:45am):<br>080.03.001 |



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|                                   |                                          | In this session, RMIT's four current members of the <a href="#">International Panel on the Information Environment (IPIE)</a> invite attendees to engage in discussions that will inform the global response, recognising that such responses are always locally imagined and enacted. The panellists will provide short provocations and invite the audience to generate creative and innovative possibilities for reimagined futures. The IPIE is now developing several panels and position papers, so the discussions at this session can inform the development of strategies for providing independent scientific evidence that can reshape local and global responses to the misinformation crisis.                                                                                                                                                     |                                                   | 080.03.003<br>080.03.004<br>080.03.005<br>080.03.006 |
| 12.45pm - 1.25pm                  | Lunch Break                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                   | Foyer (Level 3 entrance)                             |
| <b>Day 2 - Session 3: Keynote</b> |                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                   |                                                      |
| 1.30pm - 2.30pm                   | <b>Society at the Edge of the Future</b> | There can never be absolute certainty about what will happen in the future. And it is increasingly evident that the tools that are currently used to forecast, envision, imagine and plan for societal, environmental and technological futures, are inadequate, inequitable and unlikely to solve the problems that they seek to address. Government and industry organisations too often depend on prediction, forecast, and high-level analysis based on quantitative data. But numerical approaches are always based on imperfect data and can neither accurately predict future human experiences nor account for how human values and practices will shape the future. How might we go about better understanding, anticipating the ways in which real people, communities and their experiences and hopes will participate in shaping possible futures? | Laureate Professor Sarah Pink (Monash University) | 080.02.007                                           |

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|                                                          |                                                                           | Why is this necessary? What could be the impact of a new interdisciplinary and multisectoral approach to futures? and Why doesn't this already exist?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                            |                          |
| <b>2.30pm - 2.50 pm</b>                                  | <b>Afternoon Tea Break</b>                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                            | Foyer (Level 3 entrance) |
| <b>Day 2 - Multi-track Session 4.1: Panel Discussion</b> |                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                            |                          |
| <b>3pm - 5pm</b>                                         | <b>When Tools Become Weapons: The Dark Side of Everyday Technology</b>    | Technology-facilitated abuse (TFA) can take many forms, including creating, sharing, or threatening to share intimate images, stalking and surveillance, online hate speech, destroying or restricting devices, impersonation, doxing, and online sexual harassment. With the ever-increasing expansion of digital technologies, including AI and generative AI, TFA has become increasingly prevalent and can have a range of significant psychological, physical, social and financial impacts. This panel will discuss the causes, prevalence, nature and impacts of TFA, as well as different research, law, policy and practice responses to this growing problem. | Professor Nicola Henry, Dr Dana McKay, Dr Nicole Shackleton (RMIT University) and Dr Laura McVey (eSafety) | 080.02.002               |
| <b>Day 2 - Multi-track Session 4.2: Roundtable</b>       |                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                            |                          |
| <b>3pm - 5pm</b>                                         | <b>Working from Phone: Ethics, Technology, and the Future of Gig Work</b> | The rise of the gig economy is characterised by innovation, flexibility, and autonomy in the provision of goods and services, with everyone benefitting - from customers to gig workers, to the digital platforms that are driving new marketplaces for ride sharing (Uber, Shebah), food delivery (Uber, DoorDash), freelance work, e.g. programming, graphic design (Fiverr), and everyday tasks (Airtasker and TaskRabbit). However, the social and technological impacts for gig workers taking up these short term, temporary, freelance gigs are large and not always positive: genuine concerns include protection of worker rights,                             | Dr Paul Scifleet, Dr Paul Howell, Dr Jason Sargent, & Ms Kate Dang (Swinburne University of Technology)    | 080.03.006               |

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|                                                       |                                                                                           | safety, data privacy, surveillance, algorithmic bias, discrimination, exploitation and other power imbalances. This session introduces the gig economy, its growth and significance today and will centre on the ethical dilemmas arising. Driving discussions will be real-world cases and examples that illustrate growing concerns about fair and ethical treatment in the gig economy. Roundtable participation and collaboration and participatory will focus on discussion of the impact of changing technology, ethical challenges, worker perspectives, and likely futures for gig work (research, policy, solutions). |                                                                                                         |            |
| <b>Day 2 - Multi-track Session 4.3: Workshop</b>      |                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                         |            |
| <b>3pm - 5pm</b>                                      | <b>Essentials of Generative AI for HASS Scholars</b>                                      | This session aims to unravel the complexities of Generative AI for HASS scholars. Attendees will gain insights into the concept, explore various frameworks, and understand the basic landscape of AI models. We will also address data privacy concerns and discuss best practices for deploying AI solutions using AWS services. The session will conclude with a hands-on experience with different AI models. This session is designed to cater to HASS researchers, and enthusiasts alike.                                                                                                                                | Dr Robert Shen (RMIT University),<br>Ms Emma Arrigo (AWS) and Mr Patrick Taylor (AWS & RMIT University) | 080.02.003 |
| <b>Day 2 - Session 5: Plenary Session and Keynote</b> |                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                         |            |
| <b>5.15pm - 5.45pm</b>                                | <b>Voices into the Future: Setting a Potential Research Agenda for Society 5.0 Ethics</b> | What issues has this event raised for you in relation to Society 5.0 ethics and how will you respond? Drawing on responses from participants at this event we highlight the key themes emerging and present some provocations for future directions in research and collaboration. Responses to the above prompt will be collected across the day in the main foyer area in the form of short 30-second videos. If you'd like to                                                                                                                                                                                               | Ms Joann Cattlin & Ms Stephanie Livingstone (RMIT University)                                           | 080.02.007 |

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|                        |                                                                   | participate, we'd love to capture your reflections to present in this final session.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                        |            |
| <b>5.45pm - 6.45pm</b> | <b>A Transdisciplinary Ethos for a Society 5.0 Ethical Future</b> | Disruptive technologies raise significant challenges for individuals, communities, and organisations. The global challenge posed by the concept of Society 5.0 Ethics is to position adoption of technology innovations in ethical, human-focused ways to improve society. Yet, the discourse of innovation leans towards technological determinism, rather than positioning human agency as central to innovations that can support positive social change. Many research and development practices also continue to reinforce siloes between disciplines, and between universities and their community, government, and industry contexts. This closing keynote explores transdisciplinarity as an overarching ethos for realising an ethical Society 5.0 future. Transdisciplinary approaches embrace interdisciplinarity and embed industry, community, and government partners in all stages of innovation design, implementation, and evaluation. Embracing transdisciplinarity is critical for future technology development and adoption of innovations to ensure they embed human values and sustain positive social change, at scale. | Professor Lisa Given (RMIT University) | 080.02.007 |
| <b>6.30pm - 6.45pm</b> | <b>Closing Remarks</b>                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Professor Lisa Given (RMIT University) | 080.02.007 |