

People-Centered Internet

Digital Governance Series

Transforming Science in the Age of AI and Digital Innovation

Virtual Sept 16 - 18, Hybrid: Sept 19

Register at Eventbrite

The Digital Governance Series at the UN Science Summit will be a comprehensive exploration of how digital tools, citizen science, participatory governance, and AI can shape the future of science and public policy. Organized by Mei Lin Fung and Jascha Stein of the People Centered Internet, the series spans four days and features various thematic sessions.

Day 1, chaired by Anastasia Kalinina, CEO of reState Foundation will focus on integrating scientific knowledge into public policy, exploring digital commons and network sovereignties, and examining the role of citizen assemblies in participatory governance. The UN Science Summit Report on Data Cooperatives will be launched and discussed.

Day 2, led by Stephen Wyber, Head of External Relations and Partnership at IFLA.org, the International Federation of Library Associations, will delve into digital citizen science, participatory decision-making, AI regulation, and building trust in science collaboration. The day will also highlight the utilization of existing infrastructures like libraries to support AI-powered science.

Day 3, chaired by Mei Lin Fung and Jascha Stein of the People Centered Internet, will feature Alan Kay's keynote address on Science Systems Children, Adults touching on the role of AI in human affairs, will followed by responses from the technical communities, accounting, the UN & global South with open mic session for UN Science Summit registered participants.

Day 4, will feature a discussion of the UN's AI report with speakers from the UN AI advisory body convened to develop the report. Declan Kirrane, Chair and Managing Director of the UN Science Summit, Dame Wendy Hall, a member of that UN body and Mei Lin Fung will speak at the event co-hosted with GeSI. The UN AI report will be released at 8 am September 19.

Day 1 - September 16, 2024: Science and Public Policy Governance

Topical Chair: Anastasia Kalinina, Co-Founder and CEO of reState Foundation

7:45 am - 8:50 am ET
Opening of the Digital Governance Series and **Launch of Data Cooperative Report**

8 am How can Science better inform Public Policy Governance and Capacity Building

Focus: Explore how scientific research and data can inform public policy and enhance governance capacity, integrating scientific knowledge into policy-making to address complex societal challenges effectively.
Session Chair: Anastasia Kalinina, Co-Founder and CEO, reState Foundation

Speakers Opening:

Chair Anastasia Kalinina - Re-State, People Centered Internet Senior Fellow and Digital Governance Series Co-chairs Mei Lin Fung and Jascha Stein.

Speakers Panel:

- Agata Gurzawska, Research Manager, Trilateral Research IE
- Reema Patel (confirmed), Research consultant specializing in participation and people centered research in AI, tech, climate science and economy
- Eng. John Tanui (confirmed), MBS, Principal Secretary, Ministry of Information, Communications and the Digital Economy in charge of the State Department for ICT and the Digital Economy of Kenya
- Grace Wickerson (confirmed), Health Equity Policy Manager, Federation of American Scientists

9:00 am - 9:50 am ET
New Network Sovereignties (Digital Commons)

Focus: Discuss emerging concepts of digital commons and network sovereignties and their implications for future digital cooperation and autonomy.
Session Chair: Anastasia Kalinina, Co-Founder and CEO, reState Foundation
Speakers:

- Sofia Cossar (confirmed), Researcher at BlockchainGov

- Eche Emole (confirmed), Co-Founder, Afropolitan
- Hugo Mathecowitsch (confirmed), Founder, Tools for the Commons

10:00 am - 10:50 am ET
Citizen Assemblies as an Example of Participatory Governance

Focus: Examine the role of citizen assemblies in inclusive decision-making and the challenges and opportunities they present in the digital age.
Session Chair: Anastasia Kalinina, Co-Founder and CEO, reState Foundation
Speakers:

- Jon Alexander (confirmed), Co-Founder, New Citizen Project and Author, CITIZENS
- Marjan Horst Ehsassi (confirmed), Executive Director (North America), FIDE; Renovating Democracy Fellow, Berggruen Institute
- Kalypso Nicolaidis (confirmed), Chair in Global Affairs at the School of Transnational Governance at European University Institute

11:00 am - 11:50 am ET
Future of governance and the role of the social sciences

Focus: Discuss the learning needs for actors to operate a shift towards future governance and insights from existing experiences.
Session Chair: Anastasia Kalinina, Co-Founder and CEO, reState Foundation
Speakers:

- Puruesh Chaudhary (confirmed), Founder and President, AGAHI, Advisory Council Member, Harvard Business Review
- Skippy Mesirow (confirmed), Founder, Elected Leaders Collective
- Dr. Stephanie Schoss (confirmed), Director, Competence Center for Top Team Research, Institute for International Management, University of St. Gallen; Co-Founder of GAIA Logic

2:15 pm - 3:15 pm ET
Data Cooperatives Report

Focus: in SSUNGA 2023, the topic of Data Cooperatives generated great interest and a report was compiled. Editors and contributors will discuss its implications.
Session Chair: Mei Lin Fung, Co-chair, Co-founder, People Centered Internet

Speakers:

- Javi Creus, Ideas for Change, salus.coop
- Dr. Thorsten Jelinek, Centre for Digital Governance, Hertie School
- Izaan Khan, Data Protection & Information Security Officer, NOW: Pension
- Marie Shabaya, Forbes Africa
- Natalie Tercova, Chair, IGF Czechia
- Gael Van Weyenbergh, Initiator and Curator, Data Cooperative Report
- Christine Asjoma, Editor Data Cooperative Report, Convenor SSUNGA Digital Governance Series

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Day 2 - September 17, 2024: Citizen Science and Libraries

Topical Chair: Stephen Wyber, External Affairs and Partnerships, IFLA.org

7:45 am - 9:00 am ET
Defining Digital Citizen Science with Opening Introduction of "Citizen Science and Libraries"

Focus: Overview of digital citizen science, its benefits, practical examples, and the role of AI in its future development.
Session Chair: Stephen Wyber, External Affairs and Partnerships, IFLA.org
Speakers Opening:

Thematic Chair Stephen Wyber and DGS Series Co-chairs Mei Lin Fung and Jascha Stein
Speakers:

- Carol Delmazo, VERA, Operas-EU
- Nele Leosk, Estonia Tech Envoy
- Wouter Schalier, Head, Hernan Santa Cruz Library, ECLAC Chile
- Lin Li Soh, National Library Board, Director Partnerships, Singapore
- Tracey Brown, Sense About Science, UK

9:15 am - 10:15 am ET
Not without me! Participatory Decision-Making

Focus: Discuss participatory decision-making in the digital space, especially around AI and marginalized groups.
Session Chair: Mei Lin Fung, People Centered Internet
Speakers:

- Ndemo Bitange, Ambassador to the EU, Belgium, Kenya
- Neema Lugangiri, Member of Parliament, Tanzania
- David Roos, Deputy Head, GIZ Sector Programme Digital Development
- Antoine Vergne, Mission Publique

10:30 am - 11:30 am ET
Shaping the Legal Landscape for AI and Science

Focus: Explore the interaction between AI regulation and research, and the creation of spaces that enable advances in AI and science while addressing potential harms.
Session Chair: Stephen Wyber, External Affairs and Partnerships, IFLA.org
Speakers:

- Ava Nadir, Iraq Communication and Media Commissioner
- Liviu Stirbat, Head of Unit, Industry 5.0 and AI in Science, European Commission
- Ben White, University of Bournemouth, UK

12:30 pm - 1:30 pm ET
Building Confidence in Science Collaboration

Focus: Address concerns about trust in science, particularly among vulnerable groups, and the impact of AI.
Session Chair: Mei Lin Fung, People Centered Internet
Speakers:

- Patricia Diaz, Data y Sociedad, Uruguay
- Jim Hendler, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, father of Semantic Web
- Alek Tarkowski, Open Futures
- Natalie Tercova, Chair, IGF Czechia

1:45 pm - 2:45 pm ET
Building an Infrastructure: the Role of existing Infrastructures in Governance

Focus: Discuss how existing infrastructures, such as libraries and repositories, can support AI-powered science.
Session Chair: Stephen Wyber, External Affairs and Partnerships, IFLA.org
Speakers:

- Dr. Bhaskar Chakravorti, Dean, Tufts Fletcher School
- Omo Oaiya, LIBSENSE
- Kathleen Shearer, COAR

3:00 pm - 4:00 pm ET
What did we miss? What is important that we didn't discuss?

Focus: Open interdisciplinary and cross-cultural dialogue about governance and science, with a Q&A session involving selected speakers from earlier sessions.
Session & Series Chair: Mei Lin Fung, Co-chair and Co-founder, People Centered Internet

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Day 3 - September 18, 2024: Science Systems Humanity in Age of AI

Topical Chairs: Mei Lin Fung and Jascha Stein, People Centered Internet

8:00 am - 9:00 am ET

Science Systems Children Adults - Turing Award Winner, Dr. Alan Kay

Focus: Alan Kay's keynote address on harnessing creative thinking, interdisciplinary approaches, and advanced technology to augment human understanding and propel the journey of science forward.
Session Chairs Opening Remarks: Jascha Stein and Mei Lin Fung, Co-Chairs of SSUNGA Digital Governance Series and the People Centered Internet
Keynote Speaker: Dr. Alan Kay, Turing Award Winner and Computing Visionary

This talk is aimed at the world general public. It is mostly about the nature of humanity, particularly as this relates to our increasing power, especially via science and technology, and looks at why human wisdom has not kept pace with human power. This has resulted in a very dangerous state of affairs with regard to many technologies today.

An important scientific example -- which has successfully predicted great danger for more than 60 years -- is explained. We look at why science itself took several decades to come to a solid consensus on the results, and why most of world still has not. Some of findings about how human minds work also provide ways to understand what is called "AI" today, and indicates what needs to be done to make both safe and useful.

All of children, adults, and fledgling "AI"s need a revolution in education to successfully reach a future that is much better than the present. The way education for each is approached will be different -- but with somewhat similar content -- and the whole constitutes a critical "Grand Challenge" project for the world, at least at the level of scope -- or more -- of the most successful large research communities of the past.

9:15 am - 10:15 am ET

Responding to the Keynote Address of Alan Kay – Panel I – Technical

Focus: Discussion on technical aspects and implications of Alan Kay's keynote.
Session Chair: Jascha Stein, Co-chair, People Centered Internet
Speakers:

- Jim Hendler, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Father of the Semantic Web
- Yannis Ioannidis, President of the ACM, Professor, University of Athens
- Jyotika Athavale, Director of Engineering Architecture at Synopsys, President of the IEEE Computer Society
- Noshir Contractor, Executive Director, Web Science Trust
- Denise Leal, Internet Governance Forum, Brazil

10:30 am - 12:30 pm ET
Responding to the Keynote Address of Alan Kay – Panel II - Global

Focus: Responding Perspectives on Equity and Inclusion on Alan Kay's keynote.

Session Chair: Mei Lin Fung, Co-chair, Co-founder, People Centered Internet
Speakers:

- Emily Chien, Member of the IFRS Advisory Council advising the IFRS, the ISSB and the IASB sustainability and accounting standards boards. Senior Fellow at Harvard University, specializing in AI, climate tech and finance, the net zero transition
- Eli Noam, Professor of Economics and Garrett Professor of Public Policy and Business Responsibility, emeritus. Director of the Columbia Institute for Tele-Information, a research center focusing on management and policy issues in telecommunications, internet, and electronic mass media.
- Sameer Chauhan, Director UN ICC - Director of the UN International Computing Centre
- Ananda Gautam, Secretary Internet Society Youth Standing Group
- Frauke Goll, Managing Director, Applied AI Institute for Europe
- Nicholas Mbonimpa, CEO, Research and Education Network for Uganda (RENU)
- Joy Mountford, SAP VP Design Innovation, Lifetime ACM SIGCHI Awardee, “mother of Design thinking” who started the Design Expo while at Apple
- Yash Ranga, Pyxera Global, Cooperatives, India

- Suzanne Dumouchel, OPERAs, CNRS, Misinformation and Trust
- Meng Heng, Silicon Valley Product Manager, Cambodia

1:00 pm - 4:00 pm ET

Open conversation

Session Chair: Mei Lin Fung, Co-chair, Co-founder, People Centered Internet

UN Science Summit participants invited to express interest in speaking at the open mic for up to 5 minutes; Speakers will be notified 10-15 minutes before they are called.

Expression of Interest Form: https://forms.gle/hfcNVeKzPvCxy4Px9

Day 4 - September 19, 2024: AI with Purpose Summit

LIVE in-person event in NYC

https://sciencesummitunga.com/programme-2/

The Artificial Intelligence with Purpose Summit will be a full-day by-Invitation event hosted by the Global Enabling Sustainability Initiative (GeSI) and multiple UN agencies, including the UN's Advisory Body on AI.

The AI with Purpose Summit will focus on the global imperative of establishing an inclusive, equitable, and sustainable governance framework for artificial intelligence. Public, private and social sector senior decision-makers and senior leaders will gather to accelerate and act on AI's impact and requirements for global governance, policy collaboration, digital infrastructure modernization, climate action, and education and skills training.

8:30 am – 9:00 am ET
Registration

9:00 am – 9:30 am ET
Welcome Remarks

Speakers:

- Luis Neves, Chief Executive Officer, GeSI.org
- Declan Kirrane, Chair of the UN Science Summit
- Dame Wendy Hall, Regius Professor of Computer Science at the University of Southampton

9:30 am – 10:30 am ET
Our Vision for an AI with Purpose

Focus: This session will establish our vision for global governance, our current governance gap, and the common ground we share as we work towards an aspirational blueprint for an AI-driven future that is inclusive, equitable, and sustainable. The panel will answer the question why we need global governance

of AI and explore perspectives spanning the public and private sectors, global north and global south, and science and policy.

Moderator: Dame Wendy Hall, Regius Professor of Computer Science at the University of Southampton

Speakers:

- Mary de Wysocki, Chief Sustainability Officer, Cisco
- Haksoo Ko, Chairman of the Republic of Korea's Personal Information Protection Commission (PIPC)
- Daisy McGregor, Deputy Director, International AI Strategy at the UK Department for Science, Innovation and Technology

10:30 am – 11:00 am ET
International Collaboration – Opportunities and Challenges

Focus: The ITU and Verizon have a long and positive history together, confronting opportunities and challenges from the emergence of telephony to the information age. As an AI-driven future emerges as a dominant force, some dynamics of international collaboration will remain the same while others will be new. This fireside chat will explore international collaboration for an AI-driven future.

Speakers:

- Doreen Bogdan-Martin, Secretary-General, International Telecommunications Union (ITU)
- Jim Gowen, SVP Procurement & Supply Chain and Chief Sustainability Officer, Verizon and GeSI Board Chairman

11:00 am – 11:30 am ET
Tea and Coffee Break

11:30 am – 12:15 pm ET
Capacity Building: Research, Education and Skills Development

Focus: Widening digital divides could limit the benefits of AI to a handful of states, companies and individuals. These are challenges of research, educational capacity, skill development, and trust in systems.
Moderator: Nizar Kammourie, President, Sawaco
Speakers:

- Magdalena Skipper, Editor-in-Chief, Nature and Author of Special Feature in AIAB Report
- Chris White, President, NEC Labs Americas
- Noshir Contractor, Jane S. & William J. White Professor of Behavioral Sciences at Northwestern University

12:15 pm – 13:00 om ET
Capacity Building: Digital Infrastructure Modernization

Focus: Sam Altman, CEO of OpenAI, declared in a Washington Post OpEd that "infrastructure is destiny when it comes to AI." This panel will explore infrastructure innovation necessary to unlock broad participation in AI and how infrastructure modernization is critical for global sustainability and climate action.
Moderator: Kevin Thompson, Chief Operating Officer, GeSI.org
Speakers:

- Jonathan Spalter, President and CEO, US Telecom
- Faith Taylor, Chief Sustainability Officer, Kyndryl
- Vilas Dhar, President of the Patrick J. McGovern Foundation
- Lukas Lhotsky, President, FX Innovation
- Elena Morettini, Global Head of Sustainable Business, Globant

13:00 pm - 14:30 pm ET
Lunch Break

14:30 pm – 15:30 pm ET
Building Trust in Data: Collaborative Approaches for AI Innovation and Economic Growth

Focus: Ensuring that data sources, both public and private, meet transparency accountability and scientific criteria is essential for fostering economic growth through AI innovation. Recognizing that effective data governance is a work in progress, this panel will advocate for joint public-private collaboration and research to establish best practices and frameworks that guide responsible data

collection, validation, and appropriate use. By actively involving local stakeholders in the decision-making processes surrounding data governance and management, such engagement can enhance the trustworthiness of AI by building confidence in the data sources for AI training. Join us in exploring how these partnerships can pave the way for a more reliable data landscape that drives sustainable economic advancement.

Moderator: Mei Lin Fung,Co-Chair with Jascha Stein and Cofounder People Centered Internet with Vint Cerf

- Dr. Ran Balicer, Chief Innovation Officer & Deputy DG at Claitt Health Services
- Niraj Bhargava, Founder and CEO, NuEnergy.ai
- Tshilidzi Marwala – Rector of the United Nations University, UN Under-Secretary General, and Artificial Intelligence Engineer
- Yannis Ioannidis, President of ACM, Association of Computing Machinery
- LeKiesha French, CEO, Future in Colour, Special Advisor to US Presidential Candidate Kamala Harris on AI

15:30 pm – 16:30 pm ET

AI's Role in Delivering on the UN's Summit of the Future and Post-SDG Agenda

Focus: The UN Summit of the Future holds significant importance as it shifts the focus from a primarily UN-led approach to a more nationally driven initiative. Unlike the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which were predominantly steered by UN bodies, the Summit of the Future represents a pivotal shift towards greater involvement and ownership at the national level. This transition is crucial because it acknowledges that global challenges, such as climate change, technological advancements, and socioeconomic disparities, require tailored solutions that resonate with individual countries' priorities and capabilities.

By embracing a stronger national and community approach, this panel will explore how we facilitate deeper engagement and commitment from member states and key stakeholders, fostering a more inclusive and participatory approach to addressing complex global issues.

Moderator: Declan Kirrane, Managing Director, UN's Science Summit

- Alessandro Gropelli, Deputy Director, ETNO
- Virginia Dignum, Professor of Responsible Artificial Intelligence at Umea University

- Ambassador Philip Thigo, Special Envoy on Technology for the Republic of Kenya
- Estela Aranha, Special Adviser to the Minister of Justice and Public Security, Federal Government of Brazil

16:30 pm – 17:00 pm ET
Closing Remarks and Our Shared Path Ahead

Speakers:

- Carme Artigas, Secretary of State for Digitalization and Artificial Intelligence of Spain
- Amandeep Singh Gill, UN Secretary General's Envoy on Technology