BOUNDARIES OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Professor Dr. Sarah Spiekermann (WU Vienna), Co-Chair of IEEE P7000 standard &
Dr. Peter Lasinger (Capital300), capital IT investor
cordially invite you to a round table on 9th of November 2017

AI, Ubiquitous Computing and the Question of Ethics

Global attention has shifted towards recent advances in machine learning and AI. A dualism of either enthusiasm OR fear is common in many meetings on the subject matter; as knowledge about *the true limits* of AI as well as its *true potentials* is limited. Some experts believe that AI – if supported by Ubiquitous Computing environments – will be rising to a human level of intelligence and beyond. Other experts are skeptical and point to performance in isolated, well-defined, mostly supervised contexts. All agree that some ethical guidance around AI is needed; including strategies to distinguish good from bad. Very seldom – unfortunately - the historical roots of our thinking about progress is part of the discussion. And practical guidance on ethics in these new technologies is rare.

This AI event is different. A small group of leading thinkers in the field of AI and Ubiquitous Computing will convene with philosophers, AI investors and experts in business ethics on the crucial issue of ethics and philosophy of AI and Ubiquitous Computing. We will all sit on one long round table. We will think about three grand questions in four hours:

1. **What can AI really do and what not from a technical perspective?**

   20 min presentation of Konstantin Oppel, CTO, Xephor Solutions on what AI can do and cannot do; 5 min impulse reply with open questions an tackling reality (Sarah Spiekermann)

   20 min discussion with the group with the goal to understand the current capabilities, potentials and limits as well as a probable transition path (meaning: what technical cornerstones are assumptions for a general AI to become true)

2. **What are the socio-cultural, historical and philosophical roots of our desire to create a general *artificial* intelligence and to diffuse our environments with IT systems?**

   20 min presentation of Christopher Coenen on the historical roots of our thinking around AI and the 'idea of man' (Menschenbild)/20 min moderated conversation Coenen vs. Hoff: Philosophical foundations of our belief in the machine

   40 min discussion with the group with the goal to develop an 'idea of man' (Menschenbild) that we desire for ourselves as technology further advances.

3. **What ethical guidance can we use as investors, researchers and developers or use in technical standards to ensure that AI does not get out of control?**

   20 min presentation of Sarah Spiekermann on the core challenges we face in building IEEE P7000; that is IEEE's first standard on ethical system engineering.

   50 min discussion with the goal to develop a few crucial ethical points around AI at the technical and organizational level, which help to get a grasp of what IT projects deserve investment and which don't from an ethical perspective.

Invited Participants:

Christopher Coenen, Institut für Technikfolgenabschätzung und Systemanalyse (ITAS) Karlsruhe, ***confirmed***

Alois Ferscha, Professor for Ubiquitous Computing, University of Linz ***requested***

Peter Hampson, Professor for Psychology & Theology, University of Oxford, ***confirmed***

Sepp Hochreiter, Professor for Bioinformatics, University of Linz ***requested***

Johannes Hoff, Professor for Theology and Philosophy, University of London, ***confirmed***

Peter Lasinger, Investor, Capital300, ***confirmed***

Konstantin Oppel, CTO, Xephor Solutions ***confirmed***

Michael Platzer, CTO, Mostly AI, ***confirmed***

Bill Price, Resident Economist***, confirmed***

Jeffrey Sachs, Columbia University / United Nations, ***confirmed***

Sarah Spiekermann, Professor for Business Informatics, WU Vienna/ IEEE P7000, ***confirmed***

Venue:

Vienna University of Economics and Business, November 9th, 12:00 – 4 pm

Institute for Business Informatics (Prof. Sarah Spiekermann), Room tbd

Invited Listeners

IEEE PROJECT

P7000 - Model Process for Addressing Ethical Concerns During System Design

Engineers, technologists and other project stakeholders need a methodology for identifying, analyzing and reconciling ethical concerns of end users at the beginning of systems and software life cycles. The purpose of this standard is to enable the pragmatic application of this type of Value-Based System Design methodology which demonstrates that conceptual analysis of values and an extensive feasibility analysis can help to refine ethical system requirements in systems and software life cycles. This standard will provide engineers and technologists with an implementable process aligning innovation management processes, IS system design approaches and software engineering methods to minimize ethical risk for their organizations, stakeholders and end users.The standard establishes a process model by which engineers and technologists can address ethical consideration throughout the various stages of system initiation, analysis and design. Expected process requirements include management and engineering view of new IT product development, computer ethics and IT system design, value-sensitive design, and, stakeholder involvement in ethical IT system design.

STATUS:
Active Project

Working Group: EMELC-WG - Engineering Methodologies for Ethical Life-Cycle Concerns Working Group

Sponsor: C/S2ESC - Software & Systems Engineering Standards Committee

Society: C - IEEE Computer Society