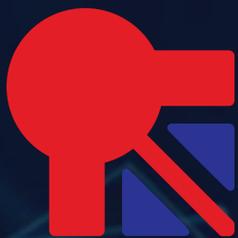


UK-JP 2021: Annual Report



UK-Japan Student Conference 2021: Ethics & Technology

Madalina Benderschi

Yee Hang Chong

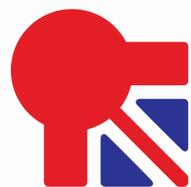
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Table of contents

UK-Japan Student Conference

Ethics & Technology

Context in Japan

Context in the UK

Where Are We Now?

One Day Events

London Panel Discussion

“Who Owns Our Data?”

Tokyo Event, Promotion at UT-BASE

Summer Conference

Programme Structure

Schedule and Sponsors

Preliminary Study Session

Conference Speakers & Activities

Mr Zak Weston

Mr Rob Black

Mr Aaron Gertler

Podcast: User Not Found

Dr Shahrar Ali

Prof. Andy Miah

Dr Emmanouil Tranos

Film: Life in a Day

Dr Elisabetta Versace

Ms Jodie Ginsberg

Social Events

Policy Summaries

Conference Details

Committee Members

Participants

Concluding Remarks



UK-Japan Student Conference

The UK-Japan Student Conference was founded in 2016 as an organisation run by students, for students. We aim to create a space for cross-cultural pollination and a forum for discussion on crucial socio-political issues. We organise a week-long summer conference, alternating between Japan and the UK, and our programme includes academic lectures, social events, fieldwork, and cultural activities.

UK-JP is an opportunity for highly motivated students at British and Japanese universities to come together and create a shared vision towards a sustainable future. Our ambition is to support young people by establishing a thriving network that transcends national borders. We value the idea expressed in an old Japanese proverb: *'Ichigo Ichie'* (一期一会), which conveys that we should treasure every meeting, for it will never recur. We never know where we might encounter someone who will influence our lives and our values. We hope to foster such pivotal, long-lasting friendships amongst participants.

We emphasise experiences that challenge our preconceptions and collective biases, and reveal alternative approaches towards the conference theme, which changes each year. Student-led debate is invaluable in proposing solutions to the most pressing contemporary issues. We want to shape the world through global, cross-cultural problem-solving, and ignite bold policy ideas. We strive to incorporate a process of discussion, realisation and action into our design of the conference. Having nurtured discussions in an international context, we hope that participants will integrate fresh perspectives into their own communities.

Through UK-JP, attendees are empowered to apply the knowledge they have cultivated during their academic careers. We provide a programme that acknowledges and celebrates a diversity of values through interactions with participants from different academic and social backgrounds. We hope the week they spend with us is a fruitful and memorable one with many discoveries.



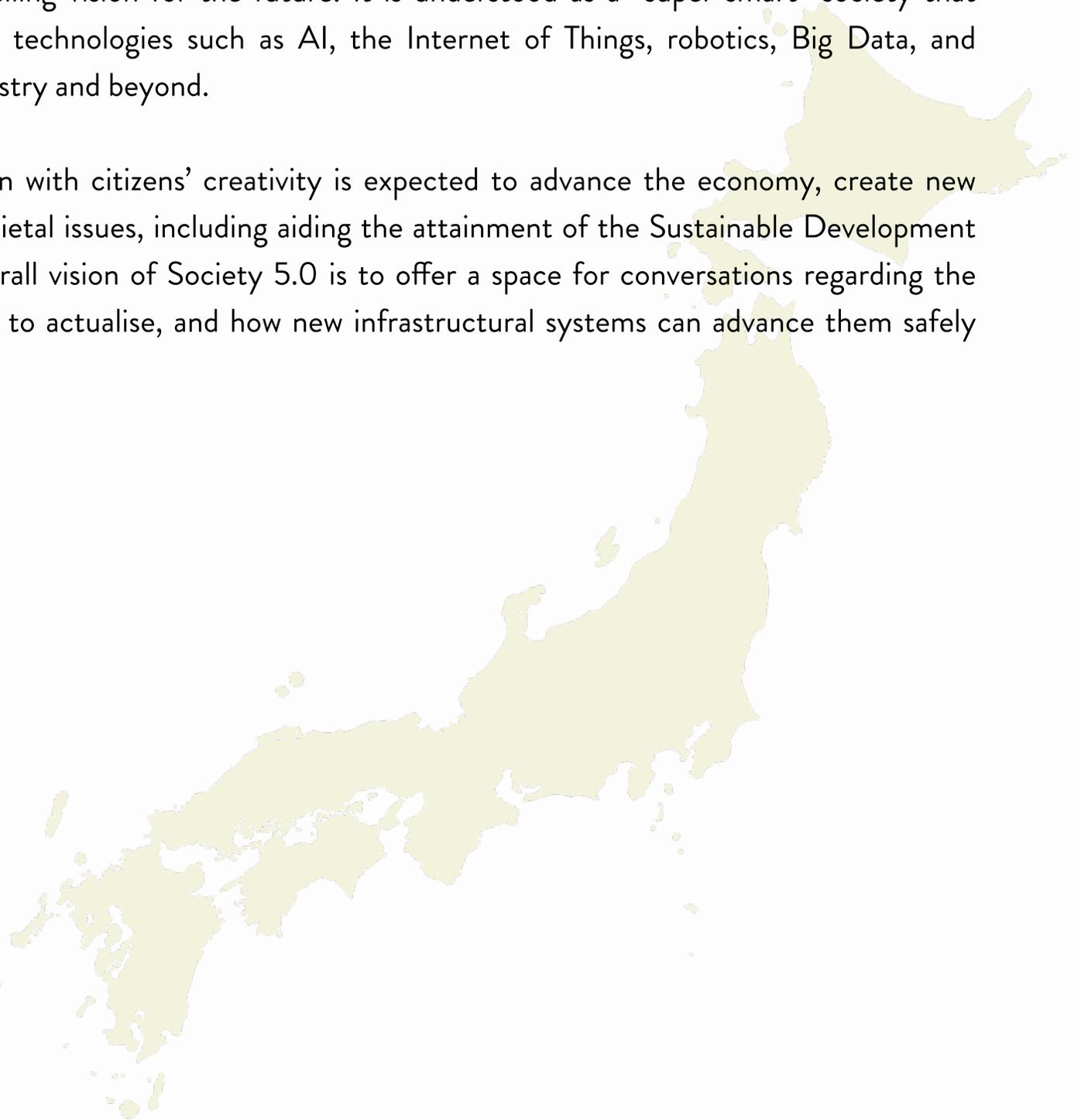
Ethics & Technology

We live in an era of interconnectedness and technological advancement, where digital breakthroughs impact every aspect of modern life. A new wave of information technology—represented by artificial intelligence (AI), robotics, and Big Data analysis—has begun to permeate our daily lives more extensively than ever before. From the ways in which we conduct our social lives and shape our workplace, to our capacity to manage our health, technological innovation must be guided by ethically robust choices. How do we ensure that the technologies we create respond to pressing societal and economic challenges? What policies can improve human wellbeing through technology?

Context in Japan

“Society 5.0” is Japan’s national growth strategy working towards “a human-centered society that balances economic advancement with the resolution of social problems by a system that highly integrates cyberspace and physical space.” Implemented by the Japanese government in 2016, Society 5.0 is a compelling vision for the future. It is understood as a “super smart” society that incorporates innovative technologies such as AI, the Internet of Things, robotics, Big Data, and biotechnology into industry and beyond.

Fusing digital innovation with citizens’ creativity is expected to advance the economy, create new values, and alleviate societal issues, including aiding the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The overall vision of Society 5.0 is to offer a space for conversations regarding the values that people wish to actualise, and how new infrastructural systems can advance them safely and effectively.



Context in the UK

The Technology and Innovation Futures Project commissioned by Her Majesty's Treasury identifies advances which have the potential to support British economic growth in the 2020s. The report encourages businesses to capitalise on technology-enabled improvements in manufacturing and infrastructure. It urges companies to develop smart & green infrastructure, and adapt to the “Fourth Industrial Revolution.” The Fourth Industrial Revolution is frequently defined as the combination of AI, machine learning, language coding, robotics, sensors, cloud computing, nano-technology, 3D printing, and the Internet of Things to advance development and efficiency.

The British government also hopes to meet its sustainability goals by using a wave of innovation which makes a green energy transition possible. This includes: renewable energy generation; batteries and fuel cells; a smart renewable grid; carbon capture and storage; and the potential widespread use of hydrogen as a fuel, along with the resurgence of nuclear power. The UK plans to harness the potential of emerging technologies to overcome the coronavirus pandemic and Brexit's predicted economic downturns, aiming to “build back better.”

Where Are We Now?

The present moment is a critical juncture in the future of technology. The pandemic is likely to accelerate current trends and shape our digital infrastructure. During UK-JP 2021, we critically considered the transformative potential of alternative proteins, the limitations of technology in fostering freedom of thought or addressing climate change, the ethical questions that arise from cyberwarfare amongst other mind-expanding ideas. We considered the merits of current and future technologies along with the moral dilemmas they entail, and developed policy alternatives to our current legislative ecosystem.



One Day Events

London Panel Discussion, ‘Who Owns Our Data?’

Professor Sylvie Delacroix, Professor in Law and Ethics at the University of Birmingham, opened the discussion by diving into the heart of the panel discussion’s theme question, ‘Who Owns Our Data?’. She posited that the idea of ‘owning’ data was rooted in a desire for control, and so many people, in feeling vulnerable about their personal data, hope to control it by taking ownership of it. Yet, she continued, data is like a river– even if we owned the land and by extension the portion of river flowing through it, we would have no control over other people’s actions upstream or downstream. A more productive approach to that vulnerability would be a bottom-up empowerment mechanism that allowed individuals collectively mobilise for greater negotiating power with service providers over the use of their data. While conversations on protecting and empowering individuals are vital, Professor Delacroix noted it would be valuable to explore how a community might pool its data usefully.

Next to speak was Dr Niccolò Tempini, a Data Studies scholar and Senior Lecturer at the University of Exeter, who pointed out that our current digital economy is underpinned by ‘surveillance capitalism’ that uses data to predict our behaviour and push us into predetermined consumption patterns. Compared to smaller companies, powerful organisations like Facebook or Google are harder for even the most privacy-conscious consumer to evade. Picking up on Professor Delacroix’s last point on sharing data, Dr Tempini also encouraged more speculative imagination of various socio-technical designs, whose aim would be to empower citizens to demand an internet that met their needs rather than advertisers’.

The final introductory speech was given by Dr Jiahong Chen, then a Research Fellow in IT Law at

the University of Nottingham. Dr Chen raised a distinction between economically-oriented and morally-oriented understandings of ownership. Taking the Cambridge Analytica affair as an example, he noted the most salient question had been whether Cambridge Analytica obtained valid consent from individuals to use their personal data. Dr Chen suggested that the more important question was whether individuals should be allowed to give consent for the use of data that would have detrimental effects on our democracy. In some scenarios, different data governance structures that moved beyond individuals making all the decisions could be more suitable.

In the lively discussion and Q&A session that followed, our panellists considered ways to promote greater symmetries of information between actors, as well as how to protect sensitive data such as one’s gender identity or sexual orientation and prevent it from being misused. Without expertise, giving informed consent or even reckoning with the myriad ways our own data is used is tricky. Professor Delacroix suggested an intermediary professional ‘data trustee’ who could stand between private individuals and data collectors.

Promoting greater symmetries could also entail reversing the flow of data in normal transactions, and here Dr Chen talked about personal information management systems that would keep one’s information ‘on the edge of the internet’, and instead require service providers to share their algorithms with us. One obstacle to companies being transparent with the data they have already collected is a deeper epistemic issue, Dr Tempini noted. As data is collected and distributed across a vast range of different automated systems, companies

themselves may well lack consolidated knowledge about the data of individual end-users. In closing, the panellists spent some time considering what ideal regulatory frameworks they would recommend to

bridge such gaps and other issues related to personal data.

Nicole Doyle

Prof. Sylvie Delacroix

Professor Delacroix focuses on the intersection between law and ethics, with a particular interest in data and machine ethics. She currently researches the design of computer systems meant for morally-loaded contexts, and the potential of 'bottom-up' Data Trusts to address power imbalances between data-subjects and data-controllers. Professor Delacroix has served on the Public Policy Commission on the use of algorithms in the justice system and the Data Trusts Policy group. She is a Fellow of the Alan Turing Institute and a Mozilla Fellow.



Dr Jiahong Chen

Dr Chen is a Lecturer in Law at the University of Sheffield, and previously a Research Fellow in IT at Horizon Digital Economy Research, University of Nottingham. His research interests include data protection law, cybersecurity law, law and AI, data ethics and internet regulation. He completed his PhD on big data and data protection law at Edinburgh Law School, where he also served as the Editor-in-Chief of *SCRIPTed: A Journal of Law, Technology and Society*.

Dr Niccolò Tempini

Dr Tempini is a Data Studies scholar interested in the intersections between epistemological, organisational and societal issues in data science and artificial intelligence research. His background is interdisciplinary – he holds degrees in both Philosophy and Information Systems, and these components are seen throughout his work. He is a Senior Lecturer in Data Sciences at the Egenis Centre for the Study of the Life Sciences, University of Exeter, and a Turing Fellow at the Alan Turing Institute, the UK's national institute of data science and artificial intelligence research.



Tokyo Event, Promotion at UT-BASE

In 2021, UK-JP conducted promotional outreach during two online promotional events organised by UT-BASE, which is a student-media organisation based in the University of Tokyo. The occurrence of these events in March was ideal, as we opened applications for the 2021 conference in late April. At the same time, the events coincided with the start of the Japanese academic year, when students search for new societies to join.

The first type of event was targeted at university students who were interested in student organisations and societies with an international focus. Our presentation was held on 25th March from 20:00. This event included an opening talk; a promotional video, which UT-BASE streamed on their website beforehand during freshers week; and a Q&A session, where students were able to ask committee members questions related to the conference.

The second type was similar but involved all kinds of student organisations and societies. We conducted multiple presentations on 4th April at 12:00-12:20 and 12:40-13:00, and on 11th April at 12:00-12:20, 12:40-3:00, and 13:20-13:40. These included our promotional video and Q&A sessions. Our presentation featured the mission of UK-JP; how we had adapted to COVID-19; reflections from the fourth Conference in 2019 in Hiroshima, which was the last in-person conference; reflections from the Online fifth Conference in 2020; as well as an introduction to the sixth Conference theme, “Ethics and Technology”; and finally, the application processes. The drop-in Q&A session turned out to be useful for many students, because our committee members were able to share insights from the participants’ perspective and help interested students better understand the conference.

UK-JP publicised these events via our Facebook, Instagram and Twitter accounts in Japanese to make the event accessible for students in every university. In addition, our social media following almost doubled in

2021, ensuring we had an even greater reach compared to prior years.

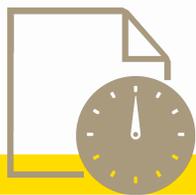
Overall, we believe these events contributed to a wider recognition of UK-JP as an international student organisation for Japanese students interested in global exchange opportunities. Since we were able to receive many applicants from Japan this year through these events, we are planning to reach out to a wider range of Japanese universities in 2022, in order to become a well-known student organisation among Japanese university students.

Mizuho Ina



Summer Conference

Programme structure



Preliminary Sessions

Online preliminary sessions equip attendees with foundational knowledge of ethics and technology. They involve several readings: academic articles, reports, news articles, etc. Participants are invited to construct their own responses through discussions in small groups.



Seminars

Our speakers are our key educational resource, introducing core concepts that serve as building blocks for discussions and presentations. The seminar topics are deliberately diverse and involve unexpected angles to encourage curiosity and intellectual openness. Each lecture is followed by a Q&A session, allowing attendees to direct the conversation in accordance with their interests.



Cultural Exchange

We supplement the academic experience with fostering mutual understanding between participants that helps building long-term relationships. Cultural exchange plays a key role in learning about each other's backgrounds.



Group Presentations

Presentations are the heart of the learning experience in the conference. They challenge each participant to actively engage with pressing contemporary problems and formulate responses to them. The final group presentations showcase conclusions formed during the fieldwork, seminars and workshops. Participants propose a viable solution they analysed and delineated together.



Workshops

Workshops are interactive sessions where participants actively contribute towards research and data analysis in groups.



Policy-Making Exercise

As we explore the contemporary legislative ecosystem, we envisage better alternatives. The conference is a space of possibility where participants are invited to complete a policy-making exercise, targeting any area of the topic under investigation.



Schedule

AUG 18

AUG 19

AUG 20

AUG 23

AUG 24

AUG 25

AUG 26

9am BST - 5pm JST

**Mr Zak
Weston**
Good Food
Systems

**Mr Aaron
Gertler**
Effective
Altruism

**Dr Shahrar
Ali**
Climate
Change

**Dr Andy
Miah**
Social Media &
the Olympics

**Dr Emmanouil
Tranos**
Technology &
Urban Design

**Dr Elisabetta
Versace**
AI & Animal
Research

UK-JP
Group
Discussion

Break

11am BST - 7pm JST

**Mr Rob
Black**
Cybersecurity &
Deception

UK-JP
Podcast:
User Not Found

UK-JP
Group
Policy-making

UK-JP
Film Screening:
Life in a Day

UK-JP
Group
Policy-making

**Ms. Jodie
Ginsberg**
Online
Censorship

UK-JP
Group
Presentations

Sponsors

We would like to thank our sponsors and partners for making this conference possible in such a challenging year. We send our gratitude to Mr Akihiro Ozawa from Route H and Mr Shinosuke Tsujimura from GLC for their commitment and continued support for UK-JP, as well as their collaboration on events for high school students.



Route H



Sojitz Foundation



Benesse



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LEARNING
CENTER



国際交流基金

Preliminary Study Session

Preliminary sessions hold academic importance: it's the first time participants grapple with the subject together, thinking through Ethics and Technology by analysing assigned readings. We held the sessions over Zoom, using Google Jamboards as a conversational aid to encourage engagement from participants who preferred writing instead of speaking. The meeting also holds social significance as the first occasion for attendees to meet each other and exchange ideas in small groups. They constitute a chance to familiarise themselves with fellow UK-JPers, which supports future conference group discussions.

The preliminary session began with a consideration of the historical context and significance of the current moment in technological development. We analysed the concept of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, which tries to capture the effects of emerging technologies on human societies. The core argument is that at certain historical junctures, advancements have a revolutionary effect on social norms, political relations, economic development, causing a decisive break with the past. The term draws attention to the potential that blockchain, neurotechnologies, genome editing, and artificial intelligence could change the world, and asks us to consider how we can shape that change. Together with participants, we discussed if we believe in such a decisive break with the past, or if the distinction between the Third and Fourth Industrial Revolutions is exaggerated. We then examined what a fairer, more prosperous future would look like, and how current and emerging technologies could actualise these ambitions.

The discussion then moved to more practical spheres as we pondered the risks that arise from innovation. We considered the implications of diffused data-driven systems of governance on human rights, justice, and accountability. The dark side of technological advancements has immense ethical

implications: stifling political dissent, reifying prejudice within the justice system, limiting labour rights with the threat of automation and many others. We examined which tensions were revealed during the coronavirus pandemic. The employment of test and trace apps, quarantining surveillance, the development of the vaccine and the ways in which information spread on social media show the importance of technologies in our global response. Our conversation moved away from naïve tech solutionism to recognise the importance of civil society and the policies that regulate such technologies. The session ended with a reflection on the lessons of the pandemic, and what they herald for the future of our digital society.

Assigned Readings

Bucher, T. (2012). Want to be on the top? Algorithmic power and the threat of invisibility on Facebook. *New media & society*, 14(7), 1164-1180.

Cinelli, M., Quattrocioni, W., Galeazzi, A., Valensise, C. M., Brugnoli, E., Schmidt, A. L., ... & Scala, A. (2020). The COVID-19 social media infodemic. *Scientific Reports*, 10(1), 1-10.

Land, M. K., & Aronson, J. D. (2020). Human Rights and Technology: New Challenges for Justice and Accountability. *Annual Review of Law and Social Science*, 16, 223-240.

Thomas, P., & Nicholas, D. (2018). The Fourth Industrial Revolution: Shaping New Era. *Journal of International Affairs*, 72(1), 17-22.





Zak Weston

Manager of Foodservice &
Supply Chain,
The Good Food Institute

Zak Weston works at the Good Food Institute (GFI), an international nonprofit focused on creating a healthy, just, and sustainable food system through innovation in meat, egg, and dairy alternatives. He works with manufacturers, suppliers, and upstream companies to scale innovation and infrastructure investment throughout the alternative protein supply chain. An active member of the Effective Altruism community, Zak holds a B.A. in business management and joined GFI after several years of experience in sales and working with startups.

Mr Weston's talk centred on creating a good food system, mainly focusing on alternative proteins. Globally, 350 mmt (million metric tons) of meat is produced every day and production is only expected to increase. However, there are good reasons to rethink worldwide meat consumption. Firstly, animals are inefficient bio-processors of plant matter and only a small proportion of the energy in animals gets passed on to humans, which leads to 87–97% food waste in production. Secondly, industrial animal agriculture is plagued by a multitude of issues, such as environmental devastation, the risk of precipitating the next global pandemic, and frequently, inhumane production processes that give rise to animal suffering.

Compounding all these challenges is the question of how will we feed 10 billion people by 2050, when so many people already struggle to put enough food on the table? Since we cannot afford to rely on meat consumption, it is necessary to devise sustainable ways to feed global populations that can be scaled up as populations grow, all while ensuring nutritional needs are met. The Good Food Institute, which Mr Weston works for, is taking the approach of growing the market share of alternative proteins in order to diversify consumption patterns. Alternative proteins can be categorised into three groups, namely, plant-based, fermented (using microorganisms and bacteria) and cultivated (using samples of animal cells).

Considering how alternative proteins contribute far less to global warming and climate change than conventional meat, a promising development is that the demand for these proteins is no longer driven only by vegans and vegetarians. An increasing number of people have become what we call “flexitarians”, which involves a commitment to reduce one's meat consumption. Switching from one diet to another is no longer the only solution to global food security and climate change, rather, people can take small initial steps by incorporating some plant-based products into their diets. Therefore, alternative proteins are now targeted not just at vegans and vegetarians but also at flexitarians, expanding the market and thus supporting the rapid growth of sustainable businesses.

The production of alternative proteins yields many benefits. Firstly, complete customisability and control would be developed even more. Not only does this entail increasing shelf life and enhancing food safety, but we will also be able to ramp up the nutritional value of these food items. This would be immensely beneficial for feeding millions of people in developing countries or those that are struggling financially, who are at greater risk of food insecurity. Secondly, we will be able to cultivate just the highest-value meat cuts to avoid raising entire animals only to waste large portions of their meat. The production process would be easier and faster, adding an extra advantage in ageing societies like Japan or the UK due to the need to make it more efficient because of the shrinking labour force.

In the end, we had a vibrant Q&A session with Mr Weston. One issue that was raised was the hesitancy to adopt alternative proteins because of cultural and religious reasons. Mr Weston explained how the industry is still at an early stage of development and as it matures, there will be a wider variety of products that are tailored to everyone's needs and preferences. Other hindrances and barriers include cost and regulatory approval, which Mr Weston believes can be overcome with time and the degree of attention put towards incorporating more alternative proteins into our diet. Given the significant and growing appeal of alternative proteins, more R&D funding will hopefully be directed towards the advancement of technology in this field, ultimately decreasing the cost of manufacturing.

Despite the fact that global livestock emission is one of the leading causes of climate change, it seems there is under-investment in alternative proteins as a technological solution. It is regrettable that the allocation of funding to an alternative food source that is so full of potential should be so inadequate. In the near future, I believe we will stop using the term “alternative” proteins and come to think of them as just another type of meat.

Mai Sugimoto



Rob Black

Deputy Director,
UK National Cyber Deception
Laboratory



Rob Black is the Deputy Director of the National Cyber Deception Laboratory and a Lecturer in Information Activities at Cranfield University, based within the Defence Academy of the United Kingdom, where he teaches on the Cyberspace Operations Masters Programme. Rob also works for Artifice, a specialised adversarial behaviour change company, providing training and consultancy support to defence and security organisations on the application of deceptive thinking and influence. Separate to this, Rob is also the Director of the UK Cyber 9/12 Strategy Challenge.

In a conference first, UK-JP participants attended a presentation previously seen by UK's military forces. Robert Black from the National Cyber Deception Laboratory firmly embedded psychological considerations in his lecture about cybersecurity and its ethical implications. He traced the significance of living in a cyber world, where contests between geopolitical forces are no longer confined to geographical locations and traditional military tactics, but also permeate online spaces, where "the fundamental principles of time, space, and physicality no longer apply." Here, there are no established norms and clearly defined ethical boundaries. In defending ourselves against the unprecedented, we have to re-evaluate our tactics and ethical frameworks to establish if they are capable of responding to novel contexts.

The standard model of cyber defence takes an antiquated "fortress" worldview, where we build walls around our networks to prevent would-be perpetrators from entering. It assumes that these trespassers can be kept out, or at worst, that they will face consequences in court. Neither of these claims stand up to scrutiny. Security breaches are common and their scale and gravity can be extreme. In 2020, attackers included malicious code in software updates sent by SolarWinds and Microsoft to their customers, infiltrating systems and evading detection for over 8 months. In the US, breaches were confirmed in the Pentagon, the Treasury, the National Institutes of Health, the National Nuclear Security Administration and thousands of private companies. The hackers have not been identified. Even though the US and UK pointed towards Russia's security forces, we don't yet have the legislation to respond. The passive "fortress" approach confines us to merely reacting after a breach has been discovered. Is this enough, when perpetrators spend an average of 70 days within networks before being detected? Or should we change our strategy and act preemptively, as if our systems have already been compromised?

Mr Black declared that our context demands a shift towards cyber deception. If the walls of the fortress

will inevitably be breached, we must make the data within them less useful. Imagine if we deliberately planted documents with false information alongside legitimate ones, or created weaknesses in our systems that appear real but aren't. Deception as a means of deterrence relies on a complex understanding of human nature. It engages with the psychological aspects of the interaction and disrupts sense-making, interfering with the adversary's perception of the situation. Can the information they extracted be trusted? Is this a trap? Are they being lured by a false lead? Have they entered a part of the network that has alerted the target of their presence? From the standpoint of the attacker, penetrating a network would no longer be an assured success, instead becoming a constant uncertain process.

A step further from anticipatory preparation is the ethical considerations of a response. The UK government policy doesn't permit hackback, or cyber retaliation. It also forbids compromising files within our own network that once transported to a foreign system can reveal the attacker's identity or harm their networks. Currently, many decisions are delegated to technical contractors from civilian backgrounds, and Mr Black argues that only military personnel have the necessary training to make complex decisions in the national interest. He believes we should change policy to allow national forces to return fire when under attack. As with conventional warfare, responding when besieged can become a moral imperative, while protecting digital territorial boundaries and the data of the citizens and entities within them a national duty. The threat of retaliation and the willingness to enact it can paradoxically prevent conflict, providing the necessary risks and incentives to limit interference by bad actors. The counterpoint is that a move towards an active paradigm may result in a cyber arms race, and leave all nations in more danger. The novelty of the context we find ourselves in demands open discussion and active engagement with ethical implications, and we thank Mr Black for his insights.

Madalina Benderschi



Aaron Gertler

Content Specialist,
Centre for Effective Altruism

Aaron Gertler works at the Centre for Effective Altruism (CEA), where he runs the EA Forum, the EA Newsletter, and a variety of other content projects. His work in the movement began in 2014, when he founded one of the first college-based EA groups at Yale University. Before joining CEA, he worked in freelance positions throughout the EA community and spent a year earning-to-give at a software company. He holds a BA in cognitive science from Yale University, where he wrote a thesis on how charities can improve their communication with donors.

“People tend to focus on problems that only affect them.” Mr Gertler’s opening statement kick-started his talk with an accurate, if unfortunate observation of human nature. In today’s world filled with countless pressing problems to solve, we are faced with the difficult situation of choosing which issues to prioritise. To tackle this dilemma, Mr Gertler introduced two key ideas – “cosmopolitanism” and “cause prioritisation”. Cosmopolitanism involves looking beyond national borders and viewing people in other countries as equally morally significant. Meanwhile, cause prioritisation emphasises addressing problems according to their impact, rather than how new or popular they are.

These are the main elements of the concept of effective altruism, which was the main focus of Mr Gertler’s lecture. Effective altruism is about doing as much as you can, using evidence and reason. The world we live in today is a complicated one, and we need to keep learning and improving. We are also obliged to seek the best evidence we can, even if it proves us wrong. On the same note, I think that we do not reflect enough on the goals that we set for ourselves. It is necessary for us to review our goals and aims from time to time, because our environment as well as our circumstances can change.

Mr Gertler proceeded to talk about how our career choice is the largest ethical decision an individual can make in their life, because what we work on as individuals makes a huge difference to the world. In order to decide what we should be working on, he suggested using a three-factor model, which consists of scale, solvability and ‘neglectedness’. Scale is about how big the problem is, solvability is about how much we can do, and ‘neglectedness’ is about how much is being done for the problem already. By applying this model, we can objectively decide which problem comes at the top of the prioritisation list. However, I believe that as these three factors (scale, solvability and neglectedness) can vary when emotional, cultural and religious aspects are involved, it is not always easy to quantify them numerically. Having said that, although the three-factor model

may not completely relieve us of deciding what to prioritise, it is certainly a practical and truly effective concept we should be using to maximise our impact on society.

Towards the end of the presentation, Mr Gertler touched on biosecurity and engineered pandemics. The advancement of technology can lead to the possibility of engineered pandemics arising in the future, which could be much more catastrophic than natural ones. Additionally, risks from super-intelligent AI must not be neglected. On top of the risk that AI might be unaligned from human values and weaponised, they are full of other uncertainties. By definition, it is hard to understand the capabilities and motives of something more intelligent than us, and that is dangerous. In order to tackle these problems, we first need to draw people’s attention toward them. As governments and large corporations have strong incentives to rapidly develop more capable systems that can have a huge power over a wider population, it is crucial to spread awareness effectively so that funding is allocated to the most pressing problems. These daunting problems may seem massive and beyond our own abilities to help. Finding and choosing impactful career paths, however, is something that we, as students, can start with in order to build a brighter future.

Mai Sugimoto



USER NOT FOUND

Virtual Podcast by:
Dante or Die

For the second session of Day 2, we watched the video podcast 'USER NOT FOUND' created by UK-based theatre company, Dante or Die. The podcast explores the questions of ethics and ownership of data in relation to the deceased, those who leave behind inactive accounts full of posts and photos. It asks what exactly should be done with all of this information. The narrator of the piece is suddenly burdened with the responsibility of this decision as he finds himself the sole executor for his ex-boyfriend's digital assets. At this point in the narrative, the couple have been separated for at least six months and have not had any contact in that time. It is this estrangement which brings up further questions for the narrator, and the viewer, about who can ultimately be entrusted with the decision of what should happen with your data. The narrator feels the weight of this decision keenly and spends considerable time deliberating. There are very few options available, with the main decision revealing itself to be between leaving the profile accessible but archived online or for everything to be permanently deleted.

The narrator in the piece reflects on how, as individuals, we use social media and how we engage with others online. In particular, he suggests that these online, 'social' platforms, designed for the sharing of information and communication, are in fact a place where users go to be alone, yet together. This perspective of social media as a detached reality from the offline world, one which may host a version of our lives but can never truly do it justice, is one which eventually helps the narrator in 'USER NOT FOUND' make his decision. Concluding that the version of his ex-partner which remains online does not reflect the person he once knew so intimately, the narrator therefore decides to delete everything.

During the discussion that followed our viewing of the podcast, we began by asking ourselves what we would want to happen with our data and our subsequent digital legacy. This in turn sparked further consideration of the very limited array of options that are currently available to social media users in this regard. For many of us, this was the first

instance in which we had considered our social media legacy and the data we will leave behind, which then raised questions around the wider awareness of this issue.

We hypothesised that the general lack of awareness around this issue could arise from the fact that the presence of social media in our lives is still a fairly new thing. As time goes by, however, the matter of our data being ethically maintained after our passing will become even more pressing as more and more accounts are left inactive. A question raised during the discussion asked if being conscious of the digital data we leave behind would change the way we posted online: would this make us more selective or would it have no effect? Perhaps this awareness would indeed affect some users' behaviour as they may be more selective about what they share but for some I am sure it would have little effect at all. It is these differences in behaviour and opinion, as expressed through this podcast, that highlight the need for a wider range of options in this area.

Angel Rose





Dr Shahrar

Ali

Spokesperson for Policing and
Domestic Safety,
Green Party



Dr Shahrar Ali is Green Party spokesperson and its former Deputy Leader 2014-16, the first BME deputy of a UK parliamentary party. Shahrar trained as a biochemical engineer and philosopher. His PhD tackled the morality of lying and deception in public life. He worked as a researcher in the Science and Technology options assessment unit of the European Parliament and is author of two popular books in Green politics. A staunch advocate of the power of reasoned debate, he regularly appears in broadcast media and public festivals, from the Bloomsbury Festival and Battle of Ideas to the Royal Academy of Arts and Ted talks.

On Day 3 we welcomed Dr Shahrar Ali who spoke to us candidly about his perspective on engaging with the rhetoric around climate change, as well as the presence and purpose of technology in this conversation. As a spokesperson for the Green Party, Dr Ali has extensive experience working in this area and was able to provide participants of the conference with a unique insight into the environmental and technological discourse taking place in this space. He spoke about the anthropocentric nature of our current approach to tackling climate change and the efforts made in regard to developing an inclusive atmosphere which can facilitate effective change.

Notably, Dr Ali referenced the motivational power of facts in encouraging people to participate in this ongoing conversation but simultaneously questioned this power. Particularly in national and international political discussions today, we are seeing that the sharing of facts and research by advancing scientific explanations cannot be relied upon to appeal to a universal crowd. This topic sparked questions about what the best way to communicate with each other about the steps that we need to take as a society in order to tackle climate change and its related problems is. To this, Dr Ali suggested a proactive, determined approach that would treat climate change as the mortal threat it is and that we should come together to defend ourselves in a universal, international effort against these negative impacts. Only in this way, by collectively fighting this issue, will climate change be tackled effectively. The power of facts is undeniable but by building on them a universal offensive their momentum and power can be increased to attract more active participants. This sentiment in particular links strongly with this year's conference theme as one of the praised features of current technology is the ability to connect with the rest of the world, almost universally, and therefore its place in this collective fight appears both significant and necessary.

As the discussion continued however, the purpose of technology in our society today was brought into question by Dr Ali. In a society that continually

pushes performance and productivity, our tech is but another reflection of this, as the selling point of any new product tends to revolve around it being faster or more efficient at completing tasks than its predecessor. We seem fixated on saving time, but for what purpose?

Perhaps as a society we are prioritising the wrong qualities in our technologies and if we were to only shift our perspective to focus not on speed but on other factors, we might find there is much potential for new and interesting developments. Continuing on with our debate about the purpose of technology and its place in society, Dr Ali also pointed out that one of the other ways in which we currently use our tech could hinder progress in more ethical and advantageous directions as our phones, computers, and other devices act purely as status symbols. By valuing these technologies for aesthetics alone, we are severely limiting their potential which could put us at a disadvantage in this fight against climate change.

Angel Rose





Prof. Andy Miah



Bioethicist, academic, journalist
University of Salford

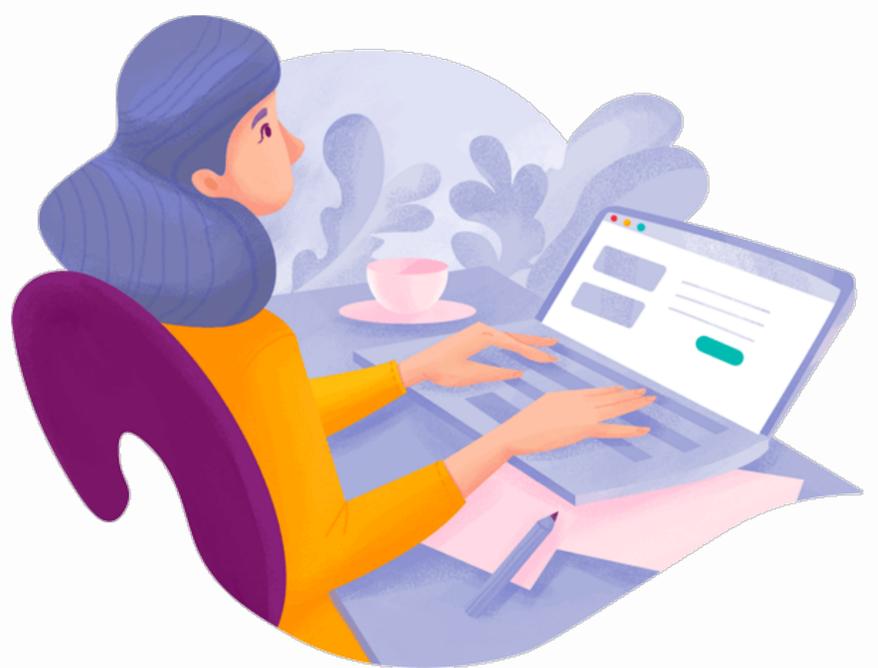
Professor Andy Miah (@andymiah) is Chair of Science Communication & Future Media at the University of Salford, Manchester. His research examines the philosophical implications of technological change, from artificial intelligence to gene editing. As author of 10 books, he is widely regarded as an authority on the future of humanity. Professor Miah is also a passionate public communicator; appearances include BBC Newsnight, Andrew Marr, BBC News 24, over 300 national news outlets, from Vogue to the Guardian.

Professor Andy Miah's presentation focused on the philosophical elements of technological development, with the occasional nod to the historical importance of technologies alongside societal advances. He began by acknowledging that technology has always been a part of the human journey, even if today we tend to limit its definition to the digital, robotic, or artificial. This latter definition makes it easy to feel overwhelmed by the recent expansion in these fields. I found that reminding myself that technology has always been there (together with our human desire to explore and create) helps to envision technology as a continuous part of our journey and less of a new and scary thing. Professor Miah's emphasis on the intrinsic human connection we have with technology was linked with its omnipresence in modern society. Subsequently, it must be considered within a political system; if tech is part of human development, it cannot escape the nuances of our society. No matter how hard we may try, our societies affect our technological developments and vice versa, and for this reason no technology we create can be unbiased or remain unaffected by human influence.

However, it is not just the human experience which technology is intimately connected to, but also the natural world. Professor Miah advocated for the inclusion of nature when it comes to making ethical decisions in regards to technology, indicating that we should not focus solely on human needs but instead be inclusive of all the aspects of our planet which our technology inevitably disrupts. With the connections between technology and nature established, we began to consider at what intersections they overlap, and whether it is possible to replicate or simulate nature using technology. When asking this question, Professor Miah directed us to ongoing developments in nanotechnology and proposed that the smaller our technology becomes, the closer it comes to mimicking the natural world around us. This sparked many thoughts about whether we regard technology as a part of nature in the same way that we see its development as a part of human nature.

Moving back to the material world and the presence of technology within it, Professor Miah touched on the topic of ethics and ownership when it comes to our online data, as well as possessing the technologies themselves. When it comes to prosthetic limbs which are vital to a person's independence, there are issues around who owns them. Although the individual who uses them experiences their benefits, there is a worry around the true owner of the aid. If the situation arose, users could be at the mercy of the manufacturer who may claim to be the true proprietor of the tech. In examples such as this, alongside issues of data ownership across social media, the problems that arise stem from the user of the service or product being unable to have a say in how it is used. Professor Miah emphasised this during his presentation, noting that our role as the user, maintainer, or developer is always present and cannot be erased entirely. It pays to remember that even when it appears we are surrounded by technology, the human element is never too far away.

Angel Rose





Dr Emmanouil Tranos

Reader in Quantitative
Human Geography,
University of Bristol



Dr Emmanouil Tranos is an economic geographer focusing primarily on the spatiality of the digital economy. He has published on issues related with the geography of the internet infrastructure, the economic impacts that this digital infrastructure can generate on cities and regions and the position of cities within spatial, complex networks. Emmanouil has also a strong interest and expertise on the use of new sources of big data, such as data from mobile phone operators, as a means to improve our understanding of the complexities of cities and urban systems.

The fifth day of the conference opened with Dr Emmanouil Tranos from the University of Bristol delivering a lecture regarding digital activities on the internet. More specifically, the lecture was about using the data gathered from commercial hyperlinks to analyse and predict the regional trade patterns in the UK. By understanding regional trade flows, we will be able to compare the differences in economic activities between regions, which could also help address place-based developmental issues.

Dr Tranos was able to design a model utilising digital traces from the internet, specifically hyperlinks between and to commercial websites. Additionally, the data source for these hyperlinks was from the Internet Archive, which was a very interesting discovery for some of us who did not previously know of the existence of such a useful tool on the internet. After a brief exploration with Dr Tranos on the Internet Archive, we proceeded to consider the design of the model in this study. We were introduced to several technical terms in the field of econometrics, which Dr Tranos patiently and clearly explained.

The results revealed were very convincing; it seems that the model's predictions corresponded with actual online activities and even predicted trade activities from the time period of year $t+2$ with high accuracy. This would also mean that by carrying out the model, we are able to guess how the businesses operate in the UK context, and it also allows us to detect the outlier businesses more easily in the near future. Dr Tranos also made an additional observation that the higher the number of internet users, the heavier the use of such commercial hyperlinks, which would enhance the precision of this model in predicting regional trade activities.

During the Q&A session, one of the questions was if this model was still analytically useful and relevant under the current global pandemic situation. Unfortunately, the answer remains unknown as the rise of COVID-19 has caused many changes in business and even across the digital world. Nevertheless, the study at the heart of this lecture

helped us realise the potential of utilising digital traces on the internet, which could result in numerous interesting studies of human behaviour.

Given the conference theme of “Ethics and Technology”, we naturally noticed the potential issues of certain malicious actors using the open source data from not just the Internet Archive, but also the internet and the digital world as a whole. Considering how relatively uneducated the general public is regarding various technologies and their use, this is even more worrying. Dr Tranos mentioned that it would be helpful if more people could improve their understanding of technology and the digital world so as to tackle various ethical issues, such as data privacy. However, we should not only view technology as a source of ethical headaches, but as a vital means by which to progress. With the increase in digital literacy, complemented by awareness of ethical issues, there is no doubt that we will be able to carry out many more exciting experiments like Dr Tranos has done that allow us to analyse our reality.

Yee Hang Chong



LIFE IN A DAY

Film by:
Tegan Bukowski, Loressa Clisby,
Kevin Macdonald

After several days packed with informative lectures, we had an enjoyable change of pace with a film screening selected for the conference. It was a 2011 documentary film on YouTube called “Life in a Day,” produced by Ridley Scott and directed by Kevin Macdonald, lasting about one and a half hours. The filmmakers collected and featured crowd-sourced footage from all around the world to show future generations what it was like to be alive on the 24th of July, 2010.

Although this year’s conference had to be held online, we were able to appreciate the film together as a group by counting down the exact timing to press the play button on the YouTube link received on Zoom. After a short “3, 2, 1... and Go!”, we simultaneously entered the realm of the film. Moreover, I personally tried to engage with other participants during and after the film using the chat box ‘direct message’ feature to have conversations. Some of us also reacted with emoticons on Zoom during particular scenes in the film. It really is wonderful how technology has enabled human interactions in digital spaces.

The movie was a great splendour of beauty. From beginning to end, we were able to watch many candid clips and real footage submitted by people all around the world. Underpinning the film were three main questions that every participant who contributed to making the movie was asked to answer: “What’s in your pocket?”, “What do you love?”, and “What do you fear?”. Everyone, when asked these questions, gave genuine reactions, and as expected, people responded to these questions with different answers. To the first question, for instance, some carried an iPod in their pocket; others carried guns to protect themselves while walking in their own neighbourhood; and some had absolutely nothing, asked this question on the way to work in an effort to change this.

The film was not afraid to show us certain ugly or hard truths. It showed us the footage of the slaughter of a cow that was shot while still alive; someone who was in the midst of heartbreak; someone who was

slowly losing their life to terminal illness; a multiplicity of scenes of conflict and destruction; as well as many moments of despair.

Against these darker moments, the hopes and love featured everywhere in the movie shone that much brighter to us. There were people who were happy and content with what they had, be it a badge, the positive result of the pregnancy test, their loved ones. Watching the movie also made many of us reflect on our personal situations and think about how fortunate we were to be able to do what we are doing today. For those of us from Japan, for example, while we were participating in the conference, the country was dealing with the sudden surge of COVID-19 cases. The fact that we were still able to carry on with the conference, albeit online, was a blessing in the middle of this pandemic.

In the discussion session after the film, we talked about what we liked and what we didn’t, while pondering the theme of this movie. It seemed to us that love and relativism were the two major ideas the movie wanted us to think about. One person’s great day might be another’s worst day in their life. Nevertheless, life carries on. We still have to learn to love our day and our life. In this spirit, the final scene of the movie shared a great message for everyone living their life: “...and today, even though nothing really happened, tonight, I feel as if something great happened.” And perhaps, having a stable day in which nothing special happened while simply being alive is already a good enough cause to celebrate.

Yee Hang Chong



Dr Elisabetta Versace

Behavioural neuroscientist
Queen Mary, London
Alan Turing Fellow



Dr Elisabetta Versace is a behavioural neuroscientist fascinated by animal and artificial intelligence. To understand where ideas come from, she investigates skills available at the beginning of life in different species. Her research group is based at Queen Mary University of London. She is an Alan Turing fellow and has been awarded the 2021 Royal Society Royal Society Leverhulme Trust Senior Research Fellowship.

In her insightful lecture, Dr Elisabetta Versace walked the participants through the key areas in which animals and technology interact. As with so many other things in our modern society, technology has been increasingly applied to animals for a myriad of purposes. These include monitoring animal welfare, providing them better living conditions, and the automation of the agricultural industry through the deployment of robots for ranching.

However, the relationship between technology and animals is not a simple unidirectional matter. Dr Versace proceeded to examine how new technology is developed by studying animals. Through an engaging thought experiment, she demonstrated the gulf between human intelligence and artificial intelligence that researchers are hoping to bridge in order to make AI 'smarter'. Dr Versace's own laboratory experiments studying animal behaviour immediately after birth have provided hints for how certain processes like pattern recognition or generalising abstract concepts might be taught to AI systems.

At the core of her presentation was an examination of the ethical principles that underpin research on animals, principles which guide her own day-to-day work. The most fundamental of these was the 3Rs: Replacement, Reduction, and Refinement, which govern the design of experiments. The 3Rs require a researcher to consider replacing or reducing animals intended to be used in experiments, and subsequently refining the experiment so that the animals that are ultimately used have their suffering minimised and their welfare maximised.

One key takeaway from her talk was just how dynamic the ethical principles governing the interactions between animals and technology are. The open-ended debate on ethics is indicative of a healthy recognition of the way human morals are not static, and that there is a key imperative to ensure that these principles remain adequate as humanity and research progress. One question that was raised during the Q&A session concerned the suitability of

the 3Rs, given that they were originally devised in the 1950s. Dr Versace explained how as animal rights activism advanced over the subsequent decades, new ethical prescriptions evolved around the 3Rs, such as greater information transparency in experiments.

While it is good that there is an open-ended debate on ethics guided by an ethos of continual improvement, I think we must take care to recognise how animals naturally cannot participate in this debate. This means that humans have an ever greater moral duty to ensure that we take every possible means to consider the perspective of animals. Dr Versace touched on this during the Q&A session and reminded us not to fallaciously assume that animals have the same preferences as humans. When we seek to raise animal welfare, we shouldn't uncritically apply our own notions of welfare. An example was providing suitable environments for chicks used in labs. From a human perspective, we might think that they prefer clean linoleum floors which don't smell bad and are more hygienic. As it turns out, chicks actually prefer mesh flooring which they can grasp or perch on, and that clean, smooth floors are disorienting for them.

In closing, Dr Versace noted discrepancies between the UK and Italy in which regulations prevented her from donating the chicks used in experiments in the UK, when she previously could in Italy. This was to me, a good example of why legislators and animal rights activists must look beyond their national borders when thinking about animal rights and ethics. By studying best practices in other countries, we may gain valuable insights about how to change our relationship with animals.

Nicole Doyle



Jodie Ginsberg

CEO, Internews Europe
Former CEO,
Index on Censorship

Jodie Ginsberg is the Chief Executive of Internews Europe. She is the former CEO of Index on Censorship, which publishes the work of censored writers and artists and campaigns for free speech worldwide. Jodie was previously London Bureau Chief for Reuters news agency and spent more than a decade as a foreign correspondent and business journalist. She has also worked for the think tank Demos and girls' education charity Camfed. She sits on the council of global free expression network IFEX and the board of the Global Network Initiative, and is a regular commentator in international media on freedom of expression issues.

Prior to joining Index, Jodie worked as a foreign correspondent and business journalist and was previously UK Bureau Chief for Reuters.

Ms Jodie Ginsberg began her fascinating talk by tackling the widespread myth that the right to free expression exists in an inherently conflictual relationship with other crucial rights, such as that to privacy. Rather, she stressed that in this information age, free speech and privacy exist in a mutually reinforcing symbiotic relationship. She reminded us to consider why it is that we value free speech in the first place, by drawing on the thought of John Stuart Mill – that the free exchange of ideas is “fundamental to the permanent interest of man as a progressive being”.

In addition, Ms Ginsberg cautioned against thinking that it is easy to regulate speech so that only harmful speech is prevented, while otherwise allowing the flourishing of legitimate expression. Legislation aimed at tackling harmful speech or disinformation could easily be (and already has been, in some countries) manipulated to censor legitimate expression for political ends.

Moreover, the problems on the internet that have led some to demand limits on free expression, Ms Ginsberg stressed, are not technological in nature, but fundamentally human. It is thus misguided to seek technological solutions, like algorithms or filters, to these problems. Ms Ginsberg provided a great example of the weaknesses of technological solutions from a study by the Electronic Frontier Foundation about filters installed in public libraries in America. While supposed to protect children, they failed to block obscene content and also incorrectly blocked a whole plethora of harmless and even useful content, like websites combating teen smoking.

Hearing this from Ms Ginsberg also made me think of how, in some countries like Russia, Hungary, or Singapore, LGBT themes in media are legally treated as ‘adult content’ and thus, otherwise perfectly age-appropriate material is either locked behind a mature age rating or outright censored. In such a context, I worry about how adult content filters introduced by social media companies could be used to strengthen the enforcement of these discriminatory laws, which

alienate LGBT youth while marginalising the wider LGBT community.

During the Q&A, Ms Ginsberg provided a critique of the lack of nuance in the term ‘cancel culture’, which has gained traction lately. While ostensibly being deployed to protect free speech, the term ‘cancel culture’ has also been used to obfuscate and deflect legitimate calls for accountability from public figures or corporations. I concur with this observation, and believe it would be more productive to use existing vocabulary for distinct types of behaviour. Some may be clearly harmful to free speech, like targeted harassment and doxing; others are acts of legitimate protest, like boycotting; still others remain controversial, as with the issue of de-platforming certain public figures on social media. By using the proper terminology, we will be able to respond appropriately, rather than being swept up in the polarising currents surrounding discussions on the nebulous spectre of ‘cancel culture’.

Ultimately, if we can’t rely on easy legal or technological fixes to deal with the various problems of the internet without undermining free speech, what hope do we have? Ms Ginsberg highlighted that the potential for change lies with us, the humans at the core of social media and online interaction. We ought to empower people by training them in skills necessary to navigate the open web and protect themselves online. Personally, I would welcome the return of smaller online communities like web forums that were popular prior to mass social media websites. These forums had dedicated community-based moderators that were much better than top-down social media moderators at fostering healthy online interaction.

Nicole Doyle

Social Events

In 2020, our conference on Climate Change constituted our first online experience, in response to COVID-19. Overall, it was a success, however, we wanted to dedicate more time for conversation and interaction to foster closer ties between participants. Therefore, we created the Saturday Social in 2021. The Saturday Social was composed of three sections, namely the Japan Social, the UK Social, and the UK + Japan Social, in order to accommodate time zone differences between the two countries.

The Japan Social was held at 13:00-15:15 (JST) / 05:00-07:15 (BST) and was conducted entirely in Japanese, welcoming Japanese-speakers and language learners alike. Since this was rather early in the UK, all the participants were based in Japan. We had a free talk session and an online game session, both an hour long. In the free talk session, we used Zoom breakout rooms and switched participants around after 15 minute intervals. As for the online game, we used “Gartic”, which is a writing game. This allowed participants and committee members to get to know each other much better. According to the post-event survey, many participants were satisfied with this event and wanted to have similar meetings again. In response, we held one more free talk session during the conference.

In the UK, the Social was held in-person as the COVID-19 situation in the UK had improved. This event was held in the afternoon, at the Mercato Metropolitano in London, where participants and committee members alike came together to talk and connect with each other. The opportunity to meet in person and talk outside of a formal conference setting had a great impact on participants, especially considering the way the pandemic had previously prevented such social activities, and we hope everyone had a great time.

Finally, the UK + Japan Social held at 10:00-12:00 (BST) / 18:00-20:00 (JST). During the UK + Japan Social, we allotted time for self-introductions, and subsequently a casual chat session and an online game session, both an hour each. We wanted to give participants the opportunity to make proper self-introductions in a more relaxed setting outside of the conference lectures. Through both the self-introductions and the casual chat session, participants were able to get to know each other better and also experience cultural exchange, with the conversation bringing out interesting comparisons between the countries we came from.

For the online game, we played the recently popular “Among Us”. It created a great space in which participants could communicate in a more friendly way. We also played “Gartic” with the theme ‘UK-JP’, where we drew objects related to the UK and Japan. Overall, through the multiple Saturday Social sessions we fostered happy moments, stronger connections, and an informal shared understanding towards each other’s culture.

Mizuho Ina



Policy Summaries

Examples by Participants

Managing Digital Legacies

The idea of a digital graveyard is slowly becoming a reality, as the accumulation of an enormous number of dead social media profiles becomes impossible to ignore. These issues worsen once we acknowledge the low digital literacy rate in the general public. The universal approach to a deceased user accounts' social media also results in difficulties in encouraging discussions around digital legacy.

Our full policy recommendations expanded on the following three steps for a more ethical management regarding digital legacies:

- (1) Expansion of topics in the general digital education system;
- (2) Formation of a general ethics committee based on the universal ethical codes;
- (3) Creation of a digital archive for better data preservation.

Nevertheless, as social legacy in the digital world is still a relatively new field, more research would be necessary to improve on the limitations of this study.

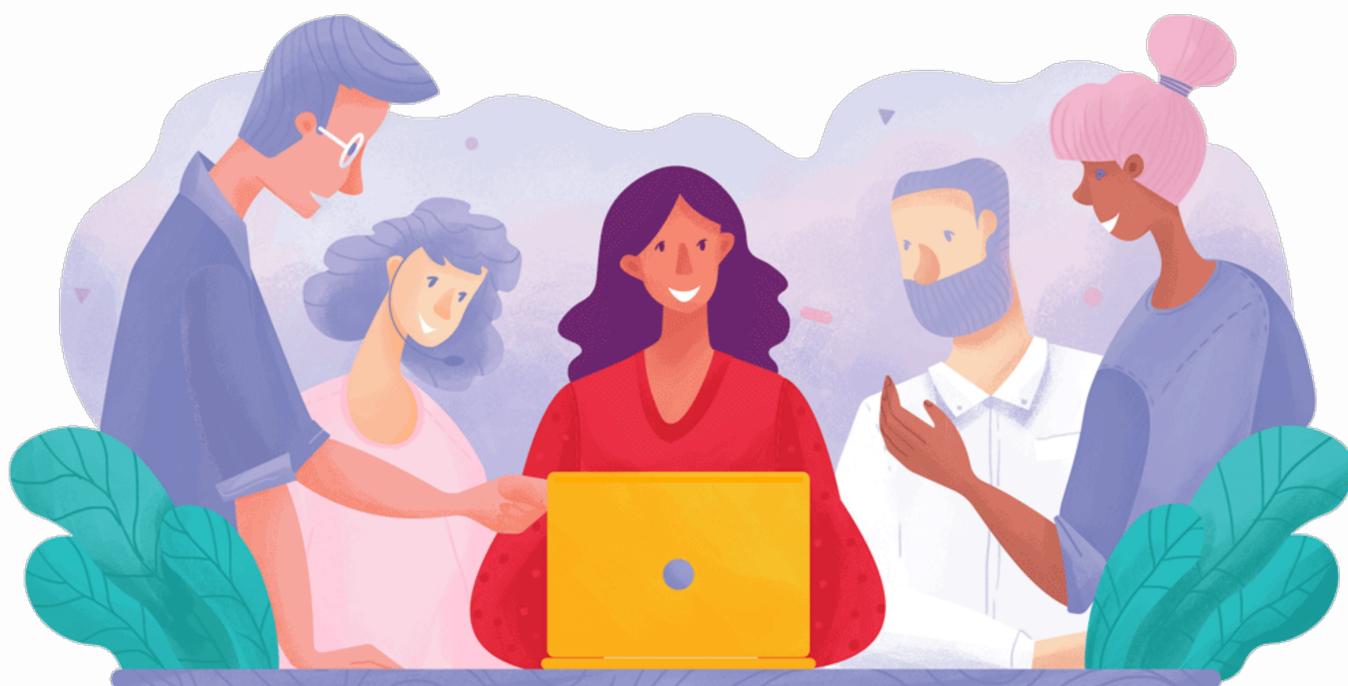
Yee Hang Chong

Palm Oil Policy

This policy recommendation dealt with the subject of Palm Oil and how to improve the management of Palm Oil plantations. It targeted the Indonesian Government, major firms in the Palm Oil industry and International Organizations like the UN & the EU.

The current situation and the need for this improvement is then reviewed to highlight the importance of this change while alternatives to Palm Oil are further discussed and considered. The final sections of the policy look at the negatives and the likelihood of success of this policy. With the conclusion being reached that the problem is multi-faceted and for improvements to be made and maintained, each of the targets of this policy need to invest more, commit more and build on the successes that have already been made.

David Watson



Conference Details

Committee Members

Madalina Benderschi	University College London	BSc Anthropology
Ayaka Naota	University College London	MA Legal and Political Theory
Haleigh Kling	City University London	MA Culture, Policy and Management
Aidan Gilbert	University of Edinburgh	BA Japanese Studies
Nicole Doyle	University of Oxford	BA History and Politics
Kanako Hara	University of Cambridge	BA Land Economy
Yume Araki	Sophia University	BA International Legal Studies
Mizuho Ina	Nanzan University	BA American and British Studies
Eliana Harrigan	Imperial College London	MSc Environmental Technology
An Yokota	King's College London	BSc History and Political Economy



Participants

Akihiro Watanabe	University of Tokyo	Economics
Angel Rose	University of Kent	Medieval and Early Modern Studies
Brahma Mohanty	University of Oxford	History
David Watson	Aston University	International Business, French and Spanish
Govinda Finn	University of Kobe	Economics
Holly Web	University of Cambridge	Japanese Studies
Juri Iijima	University of Tokyo	Liberal Arts
Koh Karube	St. Louis School of Milan	Economics
Koki Matsuzawa	De La Salle Manila College of Saint Benilde	Human Resource Management
Mai Sugimoto	Queen Mary University of London	Medicine
Miku Matsubara	Sophia University	International Business and Economics
Momoko Nakamura	University of Yamanashi	Medicine
Motoki Nakagaki	Hosei University	History
Qinyi Liu	University of Edinburgh	Social Research
Risa Takagi	Tokyo Woman's Christian University	International Relations
Yee Hang Chong	Shiga University	Economics
Yoshiho Nishikawa	Doshisha Women's College of Liberal Arts	International Studies, Liberal Arts
Yuichi Masaoka	University of Tokyo	Arts and Sciences

Concluding Remarks

The sixth UK-Japan Student Conference 2021, a mind-expanding programme on “Ethics and Technology” enabled by online connectivity, concluded on the 26th of August. We adopted a wide interpretation of what ‘Technology’ can mean, to answer questions including how do we increase human wellbeing? How do we feed the world in a way that is kind to people, animals, and our planet? How can we ensure scientific progress by building rigorous ethical principles into our use of AI?

Our second year online has presented new challenges and an exciting space for experimentation. We thank UK-JP committee members, a small group with disproportionate amounts of passion and motivation, for rising to the challenge presented by the steep learning curve in improving the format and experience of the conference. Equally, we are endlessly grateful to our participants for persevering in an application process that involved writing essays, attending interviews and engaging with their peers during a preliminary session. Above all, we thank them for their trust in dedicating a slice of their summer to our programme. We hope they have found it an intellectually worthwhile, engaging week.

We extend our deepest gratitude to our exceptional speakers: Mr Zak Weston, Mr Robert Black, Mr Aaron Gertler, Dr Shahrar Ali, Professor Andy Miah, Dr Emmanouil Tranos, Dr Elisabetta Versace, and Ms Jodie Ginsberg. They have been incredibly generous with us, and their ideas are firmly planted in our minds and will continue to shape our thinking long after the conference. The frameworks shared have inspired us and we hope to translate their wisdom into action.

UK-JP would not have been possible without our partners and sponsors: Benesse Corporation, the Sojitz Foundation, Route H, Global Learning Centre, the Japan Foundation and the Japan-UK Season of Culture. Thank you for gifting us your trust and support in a financially challenging year. We value the relationships we’ve built more than words can express, and are grateful for your support in bringing the conference into the world.

Lastly, we would like to give special thanks to Ms Madalina Benderschi, Mr Yee Hang Chong, Ms Nicole Doyle, Ms Mizuho Ina, Ms Angel Rose, Ms Mai Sugimoto, and Mr David Watson for crafting this year’s final report.

We hope to continue the tradition of seeing familiar faces in forthcoming conferences, and we urge you to join us for UK-JP 2022, where our discussions will pivot around “Building the Future, Together.”

