



LEVERHULME CENTRE FOR THE
FUTURE OF INTELLIGENCE

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 16 NOVEMBER 2018

Dear Friends

Our Centre has just celebrated its second anniversary, and feels more necessary than ever. Two years ago there was a handful of us working at borrowed desks; today our group includes over 50 researchers and affiliates. The demand for work on the nature, impact and ethics of AI is growing exponentially. We have therefore created five programmes, and if you follow the link below, you can see the many exciting new projects we are developing under them.

I'm just back from visiting colleagues at Harvard's Berkman Klein Centre and MIT's MediaLab, while [Huw](#) has been visiting universities in China. The opportunities and challenges of AI reach across borders, so we must too — and you can read about some of our collaborations below.

In the next few months, we have two major reports coming out, plus a raft of papers. 2019 looks set to be the year when the debate on the ethics and governance of AI reaches a new level of maturity — and we look forward to working with you on it.

Stephen Cave
Executive Director

ANNOUNCING NEW LEVERHULME
CFI PROGRAMMES

We have recently organised our research agenda around five core programmes:

- ***AI: Futures and Responsibility*** looks at understanding how the long-term development of AI can be demonstrably safe and maximally beneficial to humanity. Programme Director: Seán Ó hÉigearthaigh.
- ***AI: Trust and Society*** examines the impact of AI systems on society today, and how these systems can be used in ways that preserve fairness, accountability and democracy. Programme Director: Adrian Weller.
- ***Kinds of Intelligence*** explores the nature of intelligence, through integrating the study of machines, humans and other animals. Programme Director: Marta Halina.
- ***AI: Narratives and Justice*** looks at understanding the cultural contexts shaping how AI is perceived and developed, and the consequences this has for diversity, cognitive justice and social justice. Programme Director: Sarah Dillon.
- ***Philosophy and the Ethics of AI*** uses the tools of philosophy to solve the ethical challenges posed by AI, data and algorithms. Programme Director: Anna Alexandrova.

For specific details of the programmes and the team members who work on them, please see <http://lcfi.ac.uk/projects/>.

BARONESS O'NEILL AND JAAN TALLINN JOIN OUR INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD

Onora O'Neill combines writing on political philosophy and ethics with a range of public activities. She was Principal of Newnham College, Cambridge from 1992-2006 and Honorary Professor of Philosophy in the University of Cambridge. She was President of the British Academy from 2005-9, chaired the Nuffield Foundation from 1998-2010, and has been a crossbench member of the House of Lords since 2000 (Baroness O'Neill of Bengarve). She chaired the UK's Equality and Human Rights Commission from 2012-16, and served on the boards of the

Medical Research Council and the Banking Standards Review until 2018. Recent publications address questions about accountability and trust, justice and borders, the future of universities, the quality of legislation and the ethics of communication.



Jaan Tallinn is a founding engineer of Skype and Kazaa. He is a co-founder of the Cambridge Centre for the Study of Existential Risk (cser.org), Future of Life Institute (futureoflife.org), and philanthropically supports other existential risk research organisations. Jaan is on the Board of Sponsors of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists (thebulletin.org), member of the [High-Level Expert Group on AI](#) at the European Commission, and has served on the Estonian President's Academic Advisory Board. He is also an active angel investor, a partner at Ambient Sound Investments (asi.ee), and a former investor in and director of the AI company DeepMind (deepmind.com).

We are also delighted to announce the most recent additions to Leverhulme CFI's associate fellowship programme, [Dr Jude Browne](#), [Dr Mateja Jamnik](#) and [Dr Jeffrey M. Skopek](#).

[Find out more about all the members of the Centre's team here](#)

LEVERHULME CFI AROUND THE WORLD



- The Global AI Narratives Project (a project within the AI: Narratives and Justice programme) organized two successful workshops this September in [Singapore](#) and [Japan](#) with local partners.

- Many of the team recently visited the University of Bonn for a collaborative Workshop on AI with professors and postdoctoral researchers to discuss their work and the potential for future collaborations.

- On 5-7 September, the Leverhulme CFI co-hosted a series of workshops with Cambridge's Centre for the Study of Existential Risk and the Singapore Government's Centre for Strategic Futures, in Singapore. The multi-stakeholder workshops explored the risks, opportunities and governance of AI.

- The first week of October saw the launch of the Cambridge² workshop series, which brings together researchers from the Leverhulme CFI with colleagues from the MIT-IBM Watson AI Lab in Cambridge, MA. The first workshop, hosted by MIT, was on 'Generality and Intelligence: From Biology to AI'.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

The Global AI Narratives team won a six-figure grant from the [Templeton World Charity Foundation, Inc.](#) to support work which aims to identify alternative narratives to those currently



TEMPLETON WORLD
CHARITY FOUNDATION



informing high-level international public discourse and AI policy. Postdoctoral Researcher Dr. Kanta Dihal will be the Project Director of this grant.

Leverhulme CFI Postdoctoral Researcher Dr. Karina Vold was the recent winner of a prestigious [Canada UK Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship](#) focused on the development of postdoctoral researchers to become successful leaders and entrepreneurs.



Leverhulme CFI Postdoctoral Researcher Dr. Rune Nystrup has been awarded a seed award in Humanities and Social Science by the [Wellcome Trust](#). The £86,500 grant will be used to fund the research project 'Understanding Medical Black Boxes: A philosophical analysis of AI explainability'.



Executive Director, Stephen Cave, and Programme Director of AI Futures and Responsibility, Seán Ó hÉigearthaigh, have been named on the list of top AI Influencers in the UK. Full report [here](#).

CFI Deputy Academic Director, Francesca Rossi; Associate Fellow, Kay Firth-Butterfield; Postdoctoral Researchers Kanta Dihal and Karina Vold; and Policy Officer and Research Associate, Charlotte Stix, have been named as some of the top 100 Brilliant Women in AI Ethics. Link [here](#). Additionally, Charlotte Stix has joined the



World Economic Forum's Global Future [Council](#)
[on Neurotechnologies](#).

EVENTS



On the evening of **29 November 2018**, the Centre will host an expert panel on **'The Future of Artificial Intelligence: Views from History'** featuring:

- Prof. Simon Schaffer (University of Cambridge)
- Prof. Murray Shanahan (DeepMind, Imperial)
- Prof. Margaret A. Boden OBE ScD FBA, (University of Sussex)
- Prof. Nathan Ensmenger (Indiana University)
- Pamela McCorduck (author of *Machines Who Think*, an authoritative history of AI)

Speakers will interrogate the past, present, and future of intelligent systems for a general audience, with an interest towards the nuanced power dynamics that have operated around such systems throughout the ages.

17.00 Panel, "The Future of Artificial Intelligence: Views from History"
The Babbage Lecture Theatre, New Museums Site, Cambridge

This event will commemorate the 60th anniversary of the landmark 1958 'Mechanisation of Thought Conference' held in Teddington, England; an event that served to establish artificial intelligence as a standalone field in the UK.

This public lecture will lead into a closed symposium on 30 November 2018 involving world class historians of technology from around the globe.

Tickets for the event are currently sold out, however you can join the waiting list at [Eventbrite](#).

This event is generously sponsored by [PwC](#).

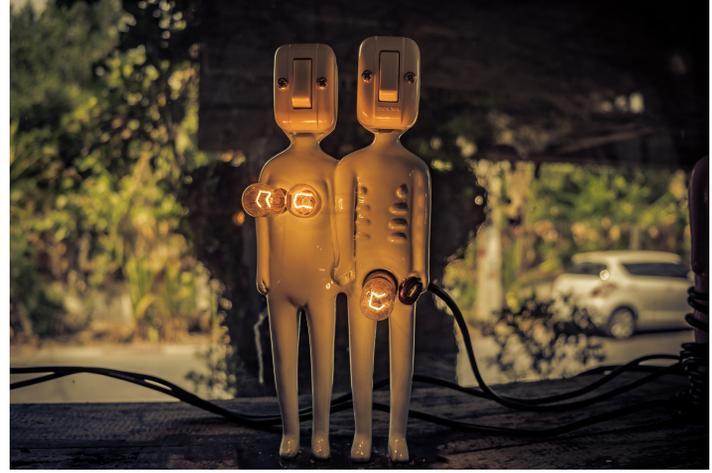


Dates for the diary in 2019



The Kinds of Intelligence team will host a conference from 18 - 21 June 2019. Details to come soon.

The AI and Gender project will be holding a workshop in Cambridge on Wednesday 20 February 2019. Save the date and more details will follow soon.

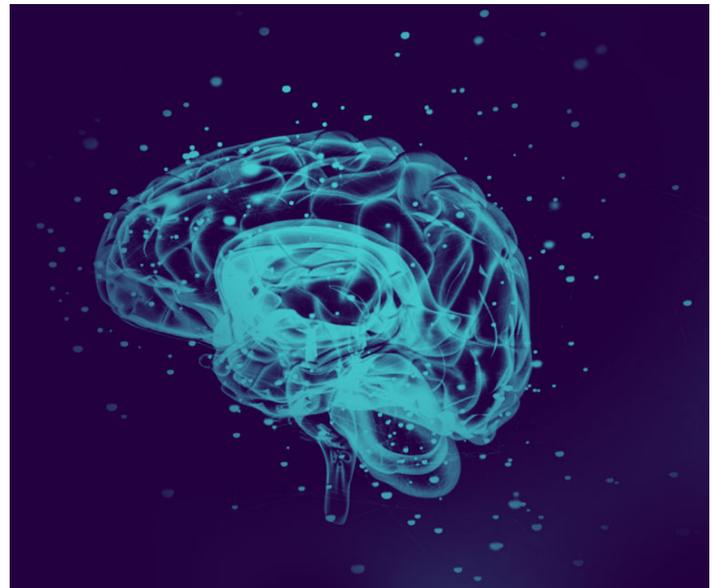


Regular Events

The Kinds of Intelligence reading group meets fortnightly on a Thursday at 11:00am in the Department of History and Philosophy of Science.



The Centre holds lunchtime seminars each Monday (during term time and beyond). Brown-bag lunch from 12:30 and a different weekly speaker from 13:00 - 14:30. Check the website for more information and schedules.



[See more details on upcoming events](#)

MEET THE TEAM

Get to know the exciting people who make up the Leverhulme CFI team in this behind-the-scenes interview feature.



Dr Sarah Dillon is Programme Director of the AI: Narratives and Justice Programme at the Leverhulme Centre for the Future of Intelligence, and a University Lecturer in Literature and Film in the Faculty of English at the University of Cambridge.

Tell us something unexpected about you.

I fell out of a moving car on a major roundabout when I was ten and miraculously survived even though my swimming kit, which fell out after me, was found under the wheels of the van behind us. My Mum found me standing at the side of the road, confused but unharmed.

What was the first book you read as a child?

*I can't honestly remember. Reading has always been such a big part of my life. I could read before I went to school and my Mum says I was disgusted when she picked me up on the first day because I'd be sent home with my first "reading" book, but it didn't have any words in it! One stand out from when I had just moved up to secondary school is William Horwood's *Skallagrigg* (1987). I must have read it close on publication because I was ten when it came out. It was influenced by Horwood's relationship with his daughter, who had cerebral palsy. It's a deeply moving book and, given I'd had a very sheltered small town life, it first opened my eyes to the fact that people experience the world very differently depending on how they are embodied.*

What inspires you about narratives?

I wouldn't say I'm inspired by stories, so much as fascinated, intrigued and deeply committed to their importance and value as a way of understanding and knowing the world. That's in essence what it is for me. I did Maths A-level, I started out doing Analytic Philosophy here at Cambridge, I was raised Catholic. I have experienced lots of different methods of making sense of the world, but in the end it was stories that offered me the most productive insight into all of the large philosophical questions I've always been interested in exploring in my personal and professional life.

What do you do outside of work?

I spend as much time as possible with my children and husband, who are three of my best

friends in the whole world. Fortunately, they love to do a lot of the things I love to do, so we spend a lot of time outdoors, especially if possible up mountains and/or in forests; we cook a lot – I'm a passionate cook, and especially love to bake; we play a lot of board games – Splendor is a current favourite; and we do a lot of sport. I'm a triathlete by trade although I haven't competed for a few years due to a knee injury. Surgery in July has hopefully fixed that so I hope to start racing again next Spring.

What is your favourite part of Cambridge?

We live outside of Cambridge and I don't actually come into central Cambridge very often outside of work. My day trip (at a stretch – best to camp overnight really) of choice is Holkham Beach in North Norfolk, one of my favourite places within striking distance of home.

WEEKEND READ

Ancient dreams of intelligent machines: 3,000 years of robots

Stephen Cave and Kanta Dihal revisit the extraordinary history of cultural responses to automata.



Season's Greetings from all at the Leverhulme Centre for the Future of Intelligence.

We'll be back with the next newsletter in the new year.

THE LEVERHULME CENTRE FOR THE FUTURE OF INTELLIGENCE IS A
COLLABORATION BETWEEN



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**We are grateful for generous support from
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