

AI & MENTAL HEALTH – TWO INTERDISCIPLINARY WORKSHOPS

I. The Politics of Digital Health

Date

November 8, 4-6:30 pm

Presentation of the first workshop

This first interdisciplinary workshop aims to clarify the political, social and economic implications of AI deployment in global health policy. It explores the politics of digital health as involving questions ranging from the privacy and fairness of AI systems, to the global regulation of technology companies, to the set of normative assumptions about social good, justice, and health underlying digital health policies.

Program

4 -5:15 p.m.: **Prof. Dr. Tamar Sharon**, Radboud University “*Towards a Normative Pragmatics of Justice for the Googlization and Digitalization of Society*”

Abstract: The digitalization of health and medicine has engendered a proliferation of new collaborations between public health institutions and data corporations, such as Google, Apple, Microsoft and Amazon. Critical perspectives on this “Googlization of health” tend to frame the risks involved in this phenomenon in one of two ways: either as predominantly privacy and data protection risks, or as predominantly commodification of data risks. In this talk I discuss the limitations of each of these framings and advance a novel conceptual framework for studying the Googlization of health beyond (just) privacy and (just) market transgressions. The framework draws on Michael Walzer’s theory of justice and Boltanski and Thévenot’s orders of worth to advance what I call a “normative pragmatics of justice” that is better equipped to identify and address the challenges of the Googlization of health and possibly of the digitalization of society more generally.

Prof Dr Tamar Sharon is Chair of the Department of Ethics and Political Philosophy and co-director of iHub, the interfaculty center for research on digitalisation and society at Radboud University. She studied history and political theory at Paris Jussieu and Tel Aviv University, and holds a PhD in interdisciplinary studies from Bar Ilan University in Israel (2011). Her research intersects philosophy of technology, science and technology studies (STS) and critical data studies, and focuses on the ethical and societal impacts of new technologies, mainly in relation to health and medicine. Tamar currently leads the ERC-funded project "Digital Good," which studies the “Googlization of health” – the growing involvement of large tech corporations in health and medical research – and what this means for the common good. She previously held positions at Maastricht University and a visiting fellowship at King’s College London, and was a member of the WHO European Advisory Committee on Health Research. To learn more, see <https://www.ru.nl/english/people/sharon-t/>

5:15 - 6:30 p.m.: **Dr. Saheli Burton**, University College London, *The Value of AI: the case of Mental Health*”

Abstract: Prevalent conceptualisations of value in narrow economic terms, especially for policy purposes, is increasingly under review by scholars and policymakers alike. This is reflected in recent policy initiatives such as the European Commission’s ‘Responsible Research and Innovation’ (RRI) framework, which urge the consideration of broader societal values in technology development processes and outcomes. Yet, the task of how one might incorporate the less-easily quantifiable non-technical considerations in technology development while delivering measurable outcomes, or which societal values should be prioritised, is not an easy one. In this discussion, I will consider these issues through the lens of how value is perceived by stakeholders in the specific case of emerging artificial intelligence (AI)-driven technologies in mental health using a political economic perspective. In particular, I will draw on the ongoing struggle to routinise AI-driven clinical prediction models (for brain disorders) in clinical practice to present the breadth of sociotechnical issues that need attention for more responsible and socially desirable technology development.

Dr Saheli Datta Burton is a Research Fellow at the Department of Science Technology Engineering and Public Policy (STePP) at University College London. She holds a PhD and MSc from King’s College London and a BA in Economics from Columbia University. Her research focuses on the geopolitics of emerging technologies specifically in the domain of health and medicine, in European, Asian, and transnational contexts. Saheli was a Newton Fellow (2015), a Visiting Research Fellow at the Department of Politics, University of Vienna (2018-present), and Editorial Board member of the Journal of Science & Technology Studies, European Association for the Study of Science and Technology (EASST) (2019-present). To learn more, see <https://petras-iot.org/person/dr-saheli-datta-burton/>

Practical Details

The workshop will be held in hybrid form and is open to everyone interested. If you would like to attend to the on-site event, please register in advance (cgauvry@uni-bonn.de) and ensure to comply with the 3G University rules: see <https://www.uni-bonn.de/en/university/coronavirus-information>

In presence: IZPH, Meeting Room (3d floor): Poppelsdorferallee 28 – D-53115

Online: Zoom Link:

<https://uni-bonn.zoom.us/j/92405835139?pwd=R09HN0xzTVkyQko5UHAzdDlaR292dz09>
ID: 924 0583 5139
Password: 695007