STATUS REPORT SHAPE
2022 – 2025

SHAPE
SHAPING
DIGITAL
CITIZENSHIP

AARHUS UNIVERSITY

SHAPE STATUS REPORT 2022-2025
Produced by SHAPE – Shaping Digital Citizenship
Edited by Simone Bech

Contents

WORDS FROM THE DIRECTOR

Since 2022, we at SHAPE have been working purposefully to strengthen digital citizenship at a time when technology and democracy are increasingly intertwined. We have done this by developing relevant research knowledge, establishing interdisciplinary networks, working closely with organizations and companies, and being a strong voice in the public debate.

From the outset, we have seen ourselves as a dynamic research platform, where some projects have been run continuously, while others have been more limited in nature. With this approach, we have been very successful in bringing together researchers and practitioners across disciplines to explore the issues that digitalization raises for democracy and citizenship – among other things through our close collaboration with the Aarhus Institute of Advanced Studies (AIAS).

Many of our projects have also been carried out in close collaboration with authorities, organizations, and citizens - an experience that clearly shows that work on digitalization, democracy, and citizenship extends far beyond the university setting. At the same time, collaboration with practitioners and researchers across disciplines shows that there is rarely as much distance between them as one might initially think.

I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to shaping SHAPE as an open, curious, and socially engaged center - and emphasize that even though SHAPE as a platform is now coming to an end, the work continues. This is reflected, for example, in several of our ongoing projects, including *The Digitally Supported Democratic Dialogue*, which examines how digital tools can strengthen the dialogue on urban development, and *Still Learning? AI in Educational Settings*, which looks at how artificial intelligence can be integrated critically and responsibly into primary schools.

The experiences, partnerships, and insights we have built up thus form a strong foundation for future projects and new initiatives that will continue to promote a responsible and inclusive digital future - and I look forward to following how the work develops in the coming years!

Enjoy reading.

Read more about our work in previous annual reports here.

Peter Lauritsen,
Professor & centre director

CENTER ADMINISTRATION

Peter Lauritsen, Professor & centre director

Simone Bech, Academic employee

Rasmus Kornbek, Research assistant

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RESEARCH

Below is an overview of the research in SHAPE.

2022-2023

In 2022, the center's work was structured around four key research projects: 'Digital Citizenship', 'Digital Activism', 'Digital Technologies and Collective User Behavior', and 'Digital Literacy and Machine Learning'. In addition, during 2022 and 2023, SHAPE awarded seed funding to a total of 21 projects at AU with the aim of strengthening understanding of and supporting the development of digital citizenship.

In the spring of 2023, SHAPE was expanded with an independent project on digital patient communities, 'The Invisible Men' (TIM), as well as several affiliated projects across faculties at Aarhus University. In September 2023, the center also welcomed five AIAS-SHAPE fellows, who, with their individual research projects, are part of an interdisciplinary research group at the Aarhus Institute of Advanced Studies (AIAS) led by SHAPE.

Below you can read more about the center's research projects during this period.

THE CENTER'S RESEARCH PROJECTS

Digital Citizenship

The project aims to promote our knowledge and understanding of what it means to be a citizen in a society where we have an increasingly comprehensive digital representation – a "digital doppelganger" – in public systems. The focus of the project is to develop our knowledge of how citizenship is affected and transformed by digitalization. Focus is placed on vulnerable citizens' experiences with digitalization and different types of vulnerability. In addition, the project will actively involve citizens and participate in the public debate on how digital infrastructures and data affect society, democracy, citizenship and subjectivity. The aim of the project is therefore to highlight the opportunities, power, and policies that exist in datafication and digital infrastructure. In this way, the project helps to ensure access to knowledge and opportunities for debate in public discourse.

Project participants: Peter Danholt (Associate Professor, Department of Digital Design and Information Studies, Arts), Antoinette Mary Fage-Butler (Associate Professor, English Business Communication, Arts), Peter Lauritsen (Professor, Department of Digital Design and Information Studies, Arts), Patrick Heiberg Kapsch (Postdoc, Department of Digital Design and Information Studies, Arts), Mikkel Rask Pedersen (Postdoc, Department of Digital Design and Information Studies, Arts)

Digital Activism

The project consists of two related experimental research projects and a series of activities focused on the grassroots and activist potential of digital and web infrastructures. The overall objectives of the project are:

- ❖ To develop new theoretical and analytical understandings of what democratic civic engagement and participation are considering changes in digital infrastructures.
- ❖ To investigate, in a practical and experimental manner, how grassroots technological infrastructures potentially create new visions and practices for civic engagement and participation.
- ❖ To communicate grassroots technological practices and reflections on their value to a wider public.

The study follows two tracks: 1) Search infrastructures and 2) Publishing infrastructures.

Project participants: Christian Ulrik Andersen (Associate Professor, Department of Digital Design and Information Studies, Arts), Winnie Soon (Associate Professor), Pablo Velasco (Associate Professor, Department of Digital Design and Information Studies, Arts) and Renée Ridgway (Postdoc, Department of Digital Design and Information Studies, Arts & BTECH, BSS)

Digital Technologies and Collective User Behavior

Digital technologies and their algorithms play a significant role in our democracy and social cohesion. On the one hand, they provide a space for behavioral optimization, collaboration, and the exchange of opinions, but on the other hand, they can potentially be used as instruments to reinforce bias, segmentation, and discrimination and to spread misleading or outright disinformation from, for example, influential individuals and coordinated networks. This project aims to investigate and thereby document and highlight such potential collective user behavior patterns.

Project participants: Anja Bechmann (Professor, Media Studies, Arts), Marina Charquero Ballester (Postdoc), Jessica Gabriele Walter (Postdoc, Department of Media Studies and Journalism, Arts), Anton Elias Holt (Research Assistant, Media Studies, Arts), Mathias Holm Tveen (AC-TAP)

Digital Literacy and Machine Learning

The project aims to develop concrete, hands-on courses in digital technology literacy focused on artificial intelligence and machine learning for Danish citizens aged 40-70 with a view to supporting active citizenship, creativity, and empowerment in a digitalized society. In collaboration with relevant partners, SHAPE will accelerate public education about digital technology and, more specifically, artificial intelligence and machine learning. This will

take place in libraries and under the auspices of trade unions, where we will focus on constructive, critical, and creative processes in specific workshops, giving citizens a hands-on understanding of the possibilities and consequences of technology.

Project participants: Ole Sejer Iversen (Professor, Department of Digital Design and Information Studies, Arts), Peter Dalsgaard (Professor, Digital Design and Information Studies, Arts), Christian Dindler (Associate Professor, Digital Design and Information Studies, Arts), Magnus Høholt Kaspersen (Postdoc, Department of Computer Science, Natural Sciences).
Affiliates: Marianne Graves Petersen (Professor, Department of Computer Science, Natural Sciences), Lina Have Musaeus (Postdoc, Department of Computer Science, Natural Sciences), Karl-Emil Kjær Bilstrup (Postdoc, Department of Computer Science, Natural Sciences)

The Invisible Men (TIM)
Research indicates that participation in online communities with peers can provide citizens with chronic illnesses with knowledge and care in ways that family and friends cannot. However, there is a significant gender imbalance in these online communities, which are predominantly dominated by women. In Scandinavia, we have a strong tradition of democratic participation and citizenship. A tradition that the ever-increasing digitalization of society both expands and challenges. The project focuses on shedding light on this gender imbalance in digital participation by investigating why so few men choose to share their illness stories in online patient-led communities and what consequences this may have from a digital citizenship and gender equality perspective.

Project participants: Amanda Karlsson (Postdoc, Department of Digital Design and Information Studies, Arts)

AIAS-SHAPE FELLOWS 23/24

AI-Supported Citizenship and Democracy
Concerns about the state of democracy have grown, as many citizens do not value democratic principles or accept election results. The project asks whether an increased perception of the central importance of ethnic minorities to the nation can strengthen citizens' commitment to democratic principles. According to the theoretical framework, individuals often justify sacrificing democratic principles by denying votes and rights to opposition groups, whom they perceive as second-class citizens. Perceived hierarchies of national belonging can thus help justify support for undemocratic measures. Experiments in India and the US are investigating whether inclusive historical narratives can change minorities' perceptions of their place in the nation and majority members' democratic engagement.

Project participants: Nicholas Haas (AIAS-SHAPE fellow 23/24, Department of Political Science, BSS).

Ethics and Digitalization in the Welfare State

Digital technologies raise both hopes and concerns about how they may change democracy, healthcare, working life, and the legal system. One hope is that algorithms will ensure a more fair, inexpensive, and efficient public administration, while the concern is that they may destroy the moral ideals of the welfare state through discrimination, social inequality, and lack of transparency. Denmark is at the forefront of the digitalization of the public sector, and moral changes are likely to manifest themselves here. Through interviews and philosophical analyses, the project investigates whether there are indications of changes in the moral landscape of the welfare state. The output is the conference 'The Data-Driven Welfare State II' on April 18, 2024, at Aarhus University, as well as a research article presenting the project's findings.

Project participants: Cecilie Eriksen (AIAS-SHAPE fellow 23/24, Philosophy, Arts).

From Smart Campuses to Smart Cities

The purpose of the project is to examine the relationship between digital technology and higher education through a comparative analysis of smart campus initiatives in Europe and the US. The initiatives use digital tools to monitor and automate learning, manage facilities, generate revenue, and improve safety and well-being, but they can also perpetuate inequality and intensify data surveillance. The project focuses on smart campus initiatives in Denmark and Scotland in comparison with the US and assesses their impact on privacy, working conditions, and academic freedom. It also examines the connections between smart campus and smart city initiatives and the ethical implications of industry's power over universities. The project concludes with a hybrid workshop where students and teachers from Aarhus University and Purdue University work together on ethical approaches to smart campus initiatives.

Project participants: Lindsay Anne Weinberg (AIAS-SHAPE fellow 23/24)

Co-creation between Humans and AI

Co-creation between humans and AI aims to engage political decision-makers, the public, and researchers in societal issues. The project explores the use of co-creative tools between humans and AI to promote public engagement in critical societal dialogues. AI technologies have made remarkable progress, especially in computer-based creativity, where algorithms autonomously generate human-level products. A computational co-creativity tool called crea.visions is used as a starting point, enabling the public to generate images and narratives related to societal issues, tested with over 1,000 participants and 25,000 images. The platform has been used in international and Danish events, including Aarhus Municipality, to involve stakeholders in socio-technical change processes.

Project participants: Janet Frances Rafner (AIAS-SHAPE fellow 23/24, Department of Management, BSS)

Social media and Democratic Citizenship

A personal narrative in the form of a specific person's experiences can make complex social issues more understandable and interesting. The project examines why some personal narratives on social media trigger digital engagement and shape perceptions of social issues and political responsibility, while others have no influence. It also asks how the impact of misleading, unrepresentative narratives can be reduced. The results increase knowledge about the degree of diversity in how social problems are illustrated on social media, how narratives shape democratic engagement, and the digital sources of mobilization, misperceptions, and political responsibility.

Project participants: Lene Aarøe (AIAS-SHAPE fellow 23/24, Department of Political Science, BSS)

AFFILIATED PROJECTS

Testing Democracy from the Bottom Up: Plans and Reality for Civil Defense in Aarhus during the Cold War

While urban planners who designed civil defense facilities previously had to guess people's movements by looking at the distribution of locations on maps, today we can use mobility statistics, 3D models, and road networks to quantify people's daily movements through the urban landscape and the accessibility of shelters. Using computer simulations and agent-based modeling (ABM), the project aims to assess the evacuation potential of Aarhus' shelters to evaluate how effective, even, and complete their coverage was in relation to the population and building distribution of the 1970s and 1980s.

Project participants: Adéla Sobotkova (Associate Professor, History, Arts), Rosanna Farbøl (Assistant Professor, History, Arts), Petra Hermankova (Assistant Professor, Classical Archaeology, Arts)

AI Image Practices as Digital Citizenship (AIIM)

The technological background to the project is the emergence of new AI computer models that are capable of automatically generating synthetic images that are indistinguishable from real photographs, or that convert text input into images with ever greater detail and syntax. This raises several questions about how these 'artificial' image practices – through their training based on collected big (image) data – are shaped by specific existing image cultures, and how synthetic images will shape our visual citizenship in the future. The democratic challenge here is that everyone potentially participates in the creation of

these images (e.g., through their data), but that the premises for active participation are at the same time opaque.

Project participants: Lotte Philipsen (Associate Professor, Center Director, Center for the Aesthetics of AI Images (AIIM), Arts)

Amplifying Data Rights

Data rights have existed in Europe for more than fifty years, but studies show that data controllers often fail to comply with them, e.g. by lacking understanding, failing to respond within the deadline, or failing to include the required information. This undermines the GDPR's purpose of strengthening individual rights and improving control over one's own data. The project will build a digital service, datarettigheder.dk, to help Danish citizens exercise their right of access, right to be forgotten, and right to rectification. The service helps create requests, contact data controllers, check responses, and report violations to the data protection authority. Datarettigheder.dk consists of two core elements: the user-to-regulation interface and correspondence with the data controller.

Project participants: Jonas Frich Pedersen (Assistant Professor, Department of Digital Design and Information Studies, Arts), Midas Nouwens (Assistant Professor, Department of Digital Design and Information Studies, Arts)

The Population's Use of Social Media in the 2022 Election Campaign

Although citizens often support measures to achieve the green transition on a general level, their tolerance or approval is not automatically given when it comes to 'their own backyard.' The project proposes an interdisciplinary approach in which the social sciences build bridges between the technical sciences and the public by offering virtual reality (VR) experiences of socially necessary, system-disrupting innovations. This allows citizens to experience and interact with 360-degree visualizations of innovations under development.

Project participants: Jakob Linaa Jensen (Associate Professor, Department of Media Studies and Journalism, Arts)

The CAVA Project: Comparing Adverse Vaccine Event Reporting – an Interdisciplinary Study of Early 21st Century Digital Health Citizenship in Denmark

The project examines what happens to active citizenship, inclusion, and representation in digital marketplaces. One in five people worldwide live with a disability. Yet people with disabilities remain one of the most marginalized groups in the world. Previous studies have shown that (lack of) adaptation in physical marketplaces has a profound impact on the well-being of people with disabilities. Through an interdisciplinary approach combining inclusion/exclusion of people with disabilities, user welfare, digital consumption, retail, event management, and transformative marketing, the project aims to investigate the inclusion

of people with disabilities in metaverse marketplaces and how this shapes their well-being and behavior in the marketplace.

Project participants: Marie Louise Tørring (Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology, Arts)

Center for Language Generation and AI (CLAI)
The Center for Language Generation and AI (CLAI) is organized around five key topics: benchmarking and development of large language models, linguistics and cognitive science, creativity and thinking, education and pedagogy, and trust and authority. CLAI is housed at the Department of Communication and Culture and has members from all three departments at the Faculty of Arts, Aarhus BSS, and the Aarhus Institute for Advanced Studies. With ten professors, four associate professors, and eleven additional staff members, the center has a strong foundation across the disciplines necessary to understand and promote automated language generation, one of the most influential technologies of our time. Researchers from fields such as linguistics, humanities computing, cognitive science, philosophy, media studies, and education will work together to generate knowledge about the development and implementation of automated text generation.

Center directors: Mads Rosendahl Thomsen (Professor, Literary History, Arts), Rebekah Brita Baglini (Associate Professor, Linguistics, Arts)

The Watchdogs of Democracy – the Relationship between Journalists and Researchers in a Changing Media Environment
The project focuses on the viability of the relationship between journalists and researchers. Journalists and researchers act as 'watchdogs' who speak truth to power. Although journalists and researchers pursue different ideals of truth, studies generally show that in well-functioning liberal democracies, the relationship between journalists and researchers also works well. In recent years, however, the watchdog role has been subjected to increased pressure from political and commercial stakeholders, reinforced by the digital revolutions. These processes are eroding the foundations of both the media and research institutions and opening the floodgates to 'alternative' interpretations.

Project participants: Morten Brænder (Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, BSS), Lene Kühle (Professor, Department of Religious Studies, Arts)

Digital Participation for Young People with Disabilities
For young people, digital technologies are an integral part of everyday life. Young people with disabilities use digital technologies in line with other young people, but there are differences in both access to and use of these media. This points to a digital divide, where some groups of young people with disabilities experience difficulties, discrimination, and inequality in their opportunities for digital participation. Social media can offer solutions to

practical challenges and strengthen young people's social connections, but at the same time, young people with disabilities also experience a higher incidence of, for example, digital bullying. The project aims to strengthen research into media and disability, which is under-researched in a Danish context, and to establish an interdisciplinary focus on media and disability at Aarhus University.

Project participants: Louise Bøttcher (Associate Professor, DPU, Arts), Stine Liv Johansen (Associate Professor, Center for Children's Literature and Media, Arts)

Digitalization and Access to Justice

Several studies have shown that there is a digital divide, that some citizens find it easier than others to use digital solutions in public administration, and that some find it more difficult to access relevant information and obtain the rights and social benefits provided for by law. Digitalization can therefore be a barrier to some citizens receiving the services to which they are entitled. This is particularly problematic if it is citizens with a special need for assistance who are excluded. There is thus a risk that social inequality will be exacerbated by digital inequality. The purpose of the project is to analyze legal developments, including possible implications for the concept of law and the application of law.

Project participants: Bettina Lemann Kristiansen (Professor, Department of Law, BSS)

Mapping Socially Marginalized People's User Journeys to Digitized Services

The project aims to develop a better understanding of the challenges socially marginalized citizens face in accessing digitized welfare services. This is done through an ethnographically informed mapping of the obstacles that people at the intersection of homelessness and drug use encounter when trying to access digitized services. The overall goal is therefore to achieve a more nuanced understanding of the consequences of marginalized citizens' exclusion from digital citizenship.

Project participants: Maj Nygaard-Christensen (Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, BSS)

Curating Data – Developing a Toolbox for Data Literacy

The project investigates what happens to active citizenship, inclusion and representation in digital marketplaces. One in five people worldwide live with a disability. Yet people with disabilities remain one of the most marginalized groups in the world. Previous studies have shown that (lack of) adaptation in physical marketplaces has a profound impact on the well-being of people with disabilities. Through an interdisciplinary approach that combines inclusion/exclusion of people with disabilities, consumer welfare, digital consumption, retail, event management, and transformative marketing, the project aims to investigate the inclusion of people with disabilities in metaverse marketplaces and how it affects the well-

being of people with disabilities. user welfare, digital consumption, retail, event management, and transformative marketing, the project aims to investigate the inclusion of people with disabilities in metaverse marketplaces and how it shapes their well-being and behavior in the marketplace.

Project participants: Magdalena Tyzlik-Carver (Associate Professor, Department of Digital Design and Information Studies, Arts)

The Impact of Metaverse Marketplaces on People with Disabilities

The project examines what happens to active citizenship, inclusion, and representation in digital marketplaces. One in five people worldwide live with a disability. Yet people with disabilities remain one of the most marginalized groups in the world. Previous studies have shown that (lack of) adaptation in physical marketplaces has a profound impact on the well-being of people with disabilities. Through an interdisciplinary approach combining inclusion/exclusion of people with disabilities, user welfare, digital consumption, retail, event management, and transformative marketing, the project aims to investigate the inclusion of people with disabilities in metaverse marketplaces and how this shapes their well-being and behavior in the marketplace.

Project participants: Lizette Vorster (Assistant Professor, English Business Communication, Arts), Anne Odile Peschel (Senior Researcher, Department of Business Management, BSS)

Methods and Approaches to the Study of Activism and Social Movements

Over the past few decades, researchers in social movements have become fascinated by the connections between digital technologies and activism. Technologies have become embedded in social movements, posing ethical, methodological, and theoretical challenges. Against this backdrop, the project organized a two-day seminar on research into digital activism at Aarhus University in 2023, with a particular focus on algorithms and contested data in social movements. The aim was to provide researchers with a useful toolbox when facing the challenges of studying digital technologies and social movements, as well as to strengthen ties and build research networks with leading international researchers.

Project participants: Cristina Flesher Fominaya (Professor, International Studies, Arts), Natalia Miranda (Postdoc, International Studies, Arts)

Experience of and Resistance to Technologies for Confinement, Surveillance, and Data Extraction

Over the past decade, new automated technologies have multiplied methods of confinement through identification devices that support exploitation. Ethnic or religious groups, undocumented migrants, and criminalized citizens are increasingly held in prolonged captivity, while digital technology is used for control and data extraction. Today, technology

companies collect vast amounts of data with sophisticated software, often without consent and for profit. The project held workshops and keynotes that brought together researchers and practitioners. The focus was to contribute to public debate and social change in the areas of citizenship, detention, and migration control, which are rapidly being transformed by digital technologies.

Project participants: Carolina Sanchez Boe (Postdoc, Interacting Minds Centre)

Socratic Ignorance in Working with Generative AI Chatbots

The project explores generative AI chatbots as learning tools to improve digital citizenship through Socratic ignorance. Like the Socratic dialogues of ancient Greece, ChatGPT works by answering questions about knowledge and learning, and the project examines the moral and educational questions this raises. Students assign tasks to the GAI, read the generated essays, and develop their Socratic ignorance by reflecting on what was new, what they question, and what sparks their curiosity. The essays are evaluated based on their ability to formulate questions for the GAI, analyze the GAI text, and reflect on what they have learned about knowledge. The focus is on understanding what it means to know something and how to be sure of knowledge, both one's own and that of the GAI.

Project participants: Maja Hojer Bruun (Associate Professor, Educational Anthropology, Arts), Cathrine Hasse (Professor, Educational Anthropology, Arts), Christian Christrup Kjeldsen (Associate Professor, Educational Sociology, Arts)

Strengthening Active Citizenship through Virtual Reality (VR) Experiences: New Opportunities for Solving Problems with Social Acceptance of Innovative Renewable Energy Systems

Although citizens often support measures to achieve the green transition on a general level, their tolerance or approval is not automatically given when it comes to 'their own backyard'. The project proposes an interdisciplinary approach in which the social sciences bridge the gap between the technical sciences and the public by offering virtual reality (VR) experiences of socially necessary, system-disrupting innovations. This allows citizens to experience and interact with 360-degree visualizations of innovations under development.

Project participants: Jessica Aschemann-Witzel (Professor, Department of Management, BSS), Anne Odile Peschel (Senior Researcher, Department of Management, BSS), Gabriele Torma (Postdoc, Department of Management, BSS), Marta Victoria (Associate Professor, Department of Mechanics and Production, TECH)

Social Media in Indonesia – Trends and Challenges

Social media has taken on a unique role in Indonesia's social, economic, religious, and political life, changing the country in ways that are still poorly understood. It is reshaping social relationships, disrupting and creating new opportunities, for example in business. At the

same time, social media is being used to restrict democratic processes, as interest groups and 'buzzers' manipulate public opinion and influence elections. The purpose of the workshop 'Social media in Indonesia: Trends and challenges' was to bring together researchers and critically examine the influence of social media on Indonesian society, economy and politics. The workshop took stock of how social media is changing Indonesia and its significance on a global scale.

Project participants: Nils Ole Bubandt (Professor, Department of Anthropology, Arts)

2024–2025

During this period, research projects were organized into four thematic tracks: 'Welfare', 'Inclusion', 'Dialogue, and 'Knowledge'. Several of the projects that were affiliated with the center in 2022 and 2023 continued into this period. In addition, the following new projects were affiliated with SHAPE in 2024: 'Another AI', 'Digitalization of the Law – the Significance for Practical Legal Work', 'Network for Digital Vulnerability', 'The Digitally Supported Democratic Dialogue about Urban Development', 'Digital Technologies and Infrastructures as Significant Others', 'Cybersecurity from a Humanistic Perspective', 'The Digital Citizen in Social Work', 'History of the Civil Registration Number', 'Still Learning? AI in Educational Settings', 'Knowledge Infrastructures in Search', 'Knowledge Servers' and 'YouTube as an Infrastructure for Influencing Citizens' Beliefs and Behavior'. The projects 'Digital Literacy and Machine Learning' and 'CLAI', on the other hand, were completed under SHAPE in 2023.
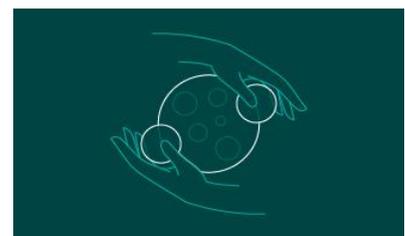
In September 2024, the center also welcomed five new AIAS–SHAPE Fellows.

Below you can read more about the center's research projects during this period.

INCLUSION

The theme 'inclusion' explores how digitalization can, on one hand, strengthen equality, accessibility, and representation, while on the other hand, challenge societal cohesion. Unequal internet access, limited technological capabilities, and lack of influence over digital developments make it difficult for marginalised groups to participate in the digital transformation.

This theme includes research projects that explore these challenges and develop solutions to make digital technologies more equitable, accessible and relevant for all. These projects are presented below.

AI Image Practices as Digital Citizenship
Read about the project here.

Another AI
AI is often understood across scientific fields as a Western phenomenon. The project uses analytical and experimental practices from the humanities and social sciences to develop an understanding of AI in the Global South and assess its impact on democracy and colonial divisions. Through analysis of the relationship between modernity, democracy, colonialism, and AI in the Global South, the project examines how AI is seen both as an opportunity for innovation and an obstacle to decolonial ambitions. The project uses fieldwork, document analysis, and a strategic framework for democratic social engagement. The aim is to question the techno-, knowledge-, body- and geopolitics of AI, assess current AI policies, and inform the future design and governance of AI from a decolonial and democratic perspective.

Project participants: Pablo Valesco (Associate Professor, Department of Digital Design and Information Studies, Arts), Christian Ulrik Andersen (Associate Professor, Department of Digital Design and Information Studies, Arts), Rachel Charlotte Smith (Associate Professor, Department of Digital Design and Information Studies, Arts), Kasper Hedegaard Schiølin (Associate Professor, Department of Digital Design and Information Studies, Arts)

Digital Participation for Young People with Disabilities
Read about the project here.

Digitalization and Access to Justice
Read about the project here.

Digitalization of the Law – its Significance for Practical Legal Work
This project concerns the preparation of a textbook. It is intended as a basic guide providing a fundamental introduction to what digitalization is and its implications for the law and for practical legal work. The topics covered in the book span various areas of law and deal with digitalization in different forms of practical legal work, e.g., in public administrative authorities. The contributors to the book are leading legal researchers in the field as well as practitioners with special experience in the respective forms of practical legal work, including lawyers. The primary target audience is law students and lawyers who work with digitalization or in areas of law where digitalization is taking place or has taken place.

Project participants: Bettina Lemann Kristiansen (Professor, Department of Law, BSS)

Democratic implications of TTS-assisted communication
The project examines how text-to-speech (TTS) technology and synthetic voices affect

website communication between Danish public authorities and citizens, and what democratic implications this has. A qualitative user study is being conducted alongside the development of a theoretical framework centred on the concept of the 'resonant citizen'. Being a citizen in a democracy requires not only responsiveness and resonance, but also ethical responsibility and reason. Listening to (synthetic) voices is therefore not considered passive perception, but a (political) act with ethical implications. The empirical study includes a podcast production, developed in collaboration with Videnslyd, which explores the experience of synthetic voices.

Project participants: Iben Have (AIAS-SHAPE fellow 24/25, Associate Professor, Media Studies, Arts)

Digital Service Journeys among Socially Marginalized People

The project examines the relationship between digitalization and inequality in health. It works with ethnographic data collected in 2023-2024, which explores and maps service journeys at street level for people in the intersection between homelessness and drug use as they attempt to navigate digitized health solutions.

Project participants: Maj Nygaard-Christensen (AIAS-SHAPE fellow 24/25, Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, BSS)

The Impact of Metaverse Marketplaces on People with Disabilities

Read about the project here.

Network for Digital Vulnerability

Digitalization is already having a major impact on society, but for the most vulnerable citizens in vulnerable positions, technological changes can create even greater challenges. The purpose of the network is to gain a deeper understanding of how digitalization affects the most vulnerable citizens and to find out how we can create solutions that meet their needs. The network will promote collaboration between researchers from different disciplinary backgrounds and organizations to investigate how digitalization can both exacerbate and potentially alleviate the social problems faced by vulnerable citizens. There is a growing need for research and debate on how the impact of digitalisation on society's most vulnerable can be managed and how technology can be used as a tool to improve their living conditions.

Project participants: Lasse Balleby (PhD student, Department of Digital Design and Information Studies, Arts), Peter Danholt (Associate Professor, Department of Digital Design and Information Studies, Arts), Antoinette Mary Fage-Butler (Associate Professor, English Business Communication, Arts), Stine Liv Johansen (Associate Professor, Children's Literature, Arts), Iben Have (Associate Professor, Media Studies, Arts), Patrick Heiberg Kapsch (Postdoc,

Department of Digital Design and Information Studies), Amanda Karlsson (Postdoc, Department of Digital Design and Information Studies, Arts), Peter Lauritsen (Professor Department of Digital Design and Information Studies, Arts), Bettina Lemann Kristiansen (Professor, Department of Law), Loni Kraus Ledderer (Associate Professor, Department of Public Health, Health), Maj Nygaard-Christensen (Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, BSS), Mikkel Rask Pedersen (Postdoc, Department of Digital Design and Information Studies, Arts), Caroline Gjørtsvang Kock (Research Assistant, Department of Digital Design and Information Studies, Arts).
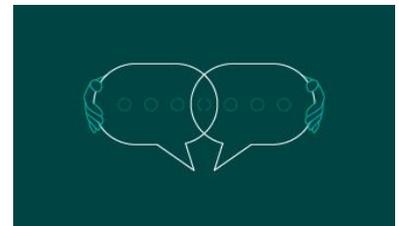
The Invisible Men (TIM)
Read about the project [here](#).

DIALOGUE
Digitalization both promotes and threatens democratic discourse. While we have better opportunities to communicate, many debates are polarized and resemble entrenched battles. As a result, there is little shared exploration of problems, opportunities, and perspectives.

The theme 'dialogue' focuses on how research-based methods and technologies can support and strengthen democratic dialogue in a digital age. These projects are presented below.

The Population's Use of Social Media in the 2022 Election Campaign
Read about the project [here](#).

Chat Democracy: AI, Democratic Talk, and a New Shared Language
In democracy, language is crucial. With the ongoing integration of Large Language Model-based technologies such as ChatGPT into a multitude of digital platforms, AI technologies will soon be an integral part of the processes of cultural meaning-making, civic deliberation, and community building in the democratic public sphere. Therefore, this project asks what kinds of publics and communities emerge when discussions on political topics are influenced and assisted by AI-driven 'info-discursive aids'? Who is allowed to speak? In whose language? What kind of citizens do we want to become, and what kind of citizens can we become?

Project participants: Jan Løhmann Stephensen (AIAS-SHAPE fellow 24/25, Associate Professor, Aesthetics and Culture, Arts)

The Digitally Supported Democratic Dialogue on Urban Development

The purpose of the project is to investigate how technology can contribute to reducing polarization and promoting more inclusive citizen participation in urban development and green transition. Through a development project, the project will test and evaluate how digital platforms and technological solutions can create better conditions for a more constructive and equal dialogue between citizens, decision-makers, and other actors. The project aims to develop and implement innovative technologies that can both promote participation across social groups and strengthen cooperation on complex issues such as urban planning and green transition.

Project participants: Peter Lauritsen (Professor, Department of Digital Design and Information Studies, Arts), Kim Halskov (Professor, Department of Digital Design and Information Studies, Arts) Caroline Gjørtsvang Kock (Research Assistant, Department of Digital Design and Information Studies, Arts)

The Watchdogs of Democracy – the Relationship between Journalists and Researchers in a Changing Media Environment

Read about the project here.

Digital Technologies and Infrastructures as Significant Others

Digital systems and data play a central and increasingly important role in all aspects of everyday life and work. The aim of the project is to increase individual and collective awareness, resilience, and agency in encounters with digital technologies, based on the idea of digital technology as 'significant others'. That is, as things and actors with which we as users enter into co-creative, mutually changing relationships that involve both joy, pain, doubt, etc. The project also aims to develop and test formats such as workshops that can help to achieve agency and resilience in encounters with digital technologies as situated practices rather than as specific solution- and design-oriented ones. This will strengthen digital citizenship.

Project participants: Peter Danholt (Associate Professor, Department of Digital Design and Information Studies, Arts), Patrick Heiberg Kapsch (Postdoc, Department of Digital Design and Information Studies, Arts)

Co-Creation between Humans and AI

Read about the project here.

Methods and Approaches to the Study of Activism and Social Movements

Read about the project here.

Social Media in Indonesia – Trends and Challenges

Read about the project [here](#).

Social Media and Democratic Citizenship
Read about the project [here](#).

WELFARE

The 'welfare' theme focuses on how digital technologies can be used constructively in digitalised welfare areas. This digitalisation opens new opportunities for both citizens and welfare professionals, but it also brings challenges related to skills, professionalism, transparency, and control.

This theme includes research projects that investigate these challenges and develop solutions to strengthen the connection between digitalisation and welfare. These projects are presented below.

Testing Democracy from the Bottom Up: Plans and Reality for Civil Defense in Aarhus during the Cold War
Read about the project [here](#).

Cybersecurity from a Humanistic Perspective

As a digitalized society, Denmark faces a growing challenge from cyber threats that affect citizens, private companies, and public institutions alike. With the rapid development of cyber threats, there is a growing need for research and education in cybersecurity - including a focus on humanistic perspectives, which are currently lacking in this field. This project asks: 'How can the humanities contribute to research and education in cybersecurity? ' Firstly, it aims to uncover humanities research and thus contribute humanistic perspectives to the field. Secondly, it focuses on strengthening the development and integration of the humanities in cybersecurity through interdisciplinary educational activities.

Project participants: Peter Lauritsen (Professor, Department of Digital Design and Information Studies, Arts), Karina Dollerup Brunsvig (Research Assistant, Department of Digital Design and Information Studies, Arts)

The Digital Citizen in Social Work

The purpose of the project is to investigate, describe, and conceptualize digital citizenship in social work at the intersection of vulnerable citizens, social work professionalism, digital systems, and data through the involvement of citizens, social workers, and managers who

use and manage digital data at a management level. The project will also provide insight into case management, professional change, and the involvement of vulnerable citizens as a socio-technical work practice. This will provide detailed empirical knowledge about digital citizenship for the benefit of developing organizational practices, supporting the involvement of vulnerable citizens, and professional development in social work education.

Project participants: Peter Danholt (Associate Professor, Department of Digital Design and Information Studies, Arts), Peter Lauritsen (Professor, Department of Digital Design and Information Studies, Arts), Mikkel Rask Pedersen (Postdoc, Department of Digital Design and Information Studies, Arts), Patrick Heiberg Kapsch (Postdoc, Department of Digital Design and Information Studies, Arts)

Ethics and Digitalization in the Welfare State
Read about the project here.

From Smart Campuses to Smart Cities
Read about the project here.

Strengthening Active Citizenship through Virtual Reality Experiences
Read about the project here.

History of the Civil Registration Number
A system like CPR (Central Population Register) does not exist in many places outside the Nordic countries. Therefore, this project will bring this infrastructure to light and examine the consequences of using personal identification numbers for the relationship between citizen and state. The project works primarily with archival material from committees, councils, and supervisory bodies in the civil service to map the decisions behind the introduction of CPR in 1968. At the same time, the project examines how these decisions have been received in public debate. Based on this, it will actualize previous debates and issues about CPR with more current perspectives. By highlighting CPR as infrastructure, the project will show how CPR can be seen both as an expression of cohesion in our welfare society and as challenging that very cohesion.

Project participants: Peter Lauritsen (PI, Professor), Rasmus Kornbek (Research Assistant)

Still learning? AI in educational settings – exploring a must-have or nice-to-have learning future
Artificial Intelligence (AI) and other new technologies are gaining importance in the Danish education system, presenting both new opportunities and challenges for teacher education. The project aims to develop methods that strengthen educators' didactic competencies and help them adapt teaching to meet the skills central to a digitalized society. It also

aims to promote critical reflection, constructive use of AI, and create dialogue about technology's role and influence on teachers, students, and education. Finally, the project seeks to enhance learners' understanding of technology's possibilities and limitations and promote a balanced use of human and digital resources to develop active digital citizens.
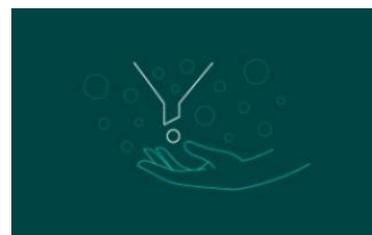
Project participants: Ole Sejer Iversen (PI, Professor), Antonia Clasina Södergren (Postdoc)

The CAVA-project: Comparing Adverse Vaccine Event Reporting
Read about the project [here](#).

KNOWLEDGE

The theme 'knowledge' focuses on how digitalization and dependence on Big Tech affect our beliefs, behaviour, and access to information. For example, search algorithms and AI models can create information bias by prioritizing certain views over others.

This theme covers research projects that seek to develop solutions that support a more informed and democratic future. These projects are presented below.

Knowledge Infrastructures of Searching
The emergence of generative AI is changing how we search for information by providing concise answers or summaries instead of ranked links. This development raises important questions about the complex information structures behind search results and how they can best be understood and studied. This interdisciplinary research explores the ethics and politics of search ecosystems, examines open-source alternatives to dominant platforms, and highlights the environmental and social consequences of information and telecommunications networks and data centres. By examining these knowledge infrastructures, the project aims to gain a better understanding of their influence on digital citizenship and their broader implications for society.

Project participants: Renée Ridgway (Postdoc, Department of Digital Design and Information Studies, Arts & BTECH, BSS)

Knowledge Servers
This project examines the growing dependence on corporate knowledge services and the associated risk of diminishing critical thinking abilities. Using theories and experimental methods from humanities and social sciences, it investigates how certain digital grassroots

communities, often overlooked, offer alternative collective, reflective, and autonomous participation models. In collaboration with communities, it develops and explores how these models inspire radical visions for knowledge infrastructures - operating on a smaller, peer-to-peer scale (instead of relying solely on client-server models) and attentive to minorities, diversity, justice, and sustainability.

Project participants: Christian Ulrik Andersen (Associate Professor, Department of Digital Design and Information Studies, Arts), Pablo Velasco (Associate Professor, Department of Digital Design and Information Studies, Arts), Nicolas René M. Maleve (Postdoc, Department of Digital Design and Information Studies, Arts)

Curating Data - Developing a Toolkit for Data Literacy
Read about the project here.

News Flow Analytics: A Data Science Method for Eliciting Censorship and Showing Bias
In authoritarian countries, news media are under pressure from the government, the media landscape is polarized, and media tend to adhere to either official propaganda or independent coverage of events. To estimate censorship and show bias in news coverage, the project develops methods based on measuring and comparing agendas from various Russian media as well as some NLP techniques. The method uses an annotated database with recognized named entities, and the estimates of agenda differences are based on data on the proportion of texts mentioning specific individuals.

Project participants: Ilia Utekhin (AIAS-SHAPE Fellow 24/25)

YouTube as an Infrastructure for Influence on Citizens' Belief and Behavior
The project examines YouTube users' viewing behaviour among 1000 representative Danes using donation data and survey responses. YouTube has a democratizing potential but can also spread misleading content and influence political views. The goal is to develop methods to analyse large amounts of video data and map actors that users engage with. The project participants will identify viewing patterns and their relation to conspiracy mentality, institutional trust, and mental well-being, as well as test the effect of political content on attitudes. The project will contribute to understanding dynamics on social media and their influence on society, especially in relation to issues such as big tech surveillance.

Project participants: Anja Bechmann (Professor, Media Studies, Arts), Miriam Brems (Postdoc, Department of Media Studies and Journalism, Arts), David Josias Wegmann (PhD student, Department of Media Studies and Journalism, Arts), Jessica Gabriele Walter (Assistant Professor, Department of Media Studies and Journalism, Arts), Anton Elias Holt (PhD student, Media Studies, Arts), Marcus Kjærgaard Olesen (Student Assistant)

RESEARCH NETWORKS

One of SHAPE's focus areas is to establish connections between researchers from different disciplines. Associate Professor Christian Ulrik Andersen talks about his experiences as research director for the AIAS-SHAPE program, while Associate Professor Maj Nygaard-Christensen and Professor Bettina Lemann Kristiansen describe their experiences participating in networks established under the auspices of SHAPE, including collaboration on AIAS and the 'Network for Digital Vulnerability.'

CHRISTIAN ULRIK ANDERSEN

Christian Ulrik Andersen, associate professor at Arts (Digital Design and Information Studies) at Aarhus University, shares his experiences as research director of the AIAS-SHAPE program - from the idea behind it to the significant results it has yielded.

How did the idea for the AIAS-SHAPE fellowships come about, and what makes them special compared to other initiatives?

"The task from AU's board was to involve the social sciences and humanities in solving a specific problem concerning the challenge of digitalization to democracy. As with many other major challenges (war, climate change, etc.), it is not clear what the problem is. Is it technology and the influence of tech giants? Is it the use of technology? Is it our perception of democracy and participation that is changing with digitalization?

Associate Professor
Christian Ulrik Andersen

The idea behind our fellowships has been to bring together different professional perspectives on the challenge and build an environment and a network where these perspectives contribute to each other - where they can develop, but also where something new can emerge. We have had this ambition to build an environment from the very beginning, but it was only when AIAS came on board that it became a reality."

How would you describe the professional and social environment for fellows in the program?

"At AIAS, SHAPE fellows have had the opportunity to meet not only internally, but also with the other fellows daily. We have been working closely with PIREAU fellows who have been working on inequality (another major challenge). The two groups have met every other week, and we have also arranged joint work stays. This has created strong professional and social bonds that have given everyone a valuable network and has also led to new

collaborations. More broadly, AIAS has also been a framework for meeting researchers working on completely different issues. Understanding professional diversity is important if you want to work in an interdisciplinary way: if you understand the qualities of others, it is easier to collaborate, and you also gain a greater awareness of your own professional contributions."

What impact has the program had - e.g., on research, networking, or the careers of fellows?
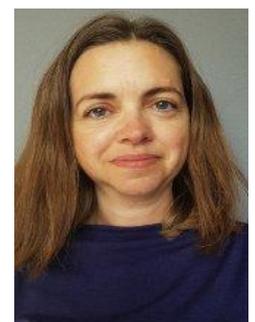
"We will be able to take the network and experience with other disciplines with us to other issues that invite interdisciplinary approaches. You could say that we have strengthened our interdisciplinary preparedness – this applies to AU as an organization, but also to the individual researcher. The program has also boosted individual research, which has resulted in several new research projects as well as several publications and activities.

The fellows involved have been at different stages in their careers, and our evaluation has shown how having a permanent position to return to affects one's priorities. Should the new idea you have come up with become a new book or a new project with others, for example? We have had a very open and confidential space in the SHAPE-PIREAU group, where we have been able to brainstorm and help each other make the right decision.

The acronym SHAPE originally refers to the initiative *Social Sciences, Humanities and the Arts for People and the Economy*, and I think the program has shown how we can contribute with new understandings of ourselves as a society and how we relate to a world that is changing due to digitalization. We have done this on a daily basis, but also in the many events and activities in which the individual fellows have involved themselves, each other, and external partners."

MAJ NYGAARD-CHRISTENSEN

Maj Nygaard-Christensen is an associate professor at BSS (Department of Psychology) and an AIAS-SHAPE fellow 24/25. During her fellowship, she worked on the project: 'A street-level examination of digital service journeys among socially marginalized people. This interview was conducted in 2024.

How would you describe the professional and social community at AIAS-SHAPE?

"The professional community at AIAS-SHAPE, with new colleagues who approach digitalization, AI, etc. in different ways - and know different things about the subject than I do - is a very rewarding learning space in terms of

Associate Professor Maj Nygaard-Christensen

expanding my understanding of digitalization. It provides a completely different professional perspective on my current work than the professional circles I usually move in.

It is easy, and also necessary, to be critical of the consequences that the increasing digitalization of public and private services has for people in vulnerable positions. But it is also necessary to take a more open and curious approach to studies of, for example, the new landscapes or infrastructures that digitalization creates.

This is precisely what the professional and social community in AIAS-SHAPE helps to support, because despite several overlaps, we work so differently with the subject. Specifically, this has led to the further development of my project, in which I am currently working on planning a user-involving workshop.

In addition, I would like to highlight our fantastic trip to Bologna in the fall. The trip strengthened both our social and professional community and gave us a solid common foundation for our further discussions, especially about the impact of digitalization on society."

What have you gained from your AIAS-SHAPE fellowship so far?
"In the research project that is the focus of my AIAS-SHAPE fellowship, I am focusing on the consequences of digitalization for socially vulnerable citizens. The topic is a direct extension of a long-standing focus on the everyday lives of people in very vulnerable positions and the barriers they experience in accessing various services in the welfare system. In this work, I have increasingly observed how digitalization poses an obstacle for employees in municipal systems who meet with citizens, but also for people who live on the streets or have problematic drug or alcohol use.

Some of these obstacles are practical challenges such as lack of access to electricity, phones often being lost when spending a lot of time on the streets, not being able to check digital mail, or finding it difficult to navigate digital solutions and lacking support people who can help navigate digital platforms.

With a focus on digital service journeys that often take place outside the digital realm - e.g., on the streets and through outreach street work - my view of digitalization has thus been more analog than in other approaches to studying digitalization."

BETTINA LEMANN KRISTIANSEN

Bettina Lemann Kristiansen is a professor at BSS (Department of Law) and one of the 13 participants in the Network for Digital Vulnerability, which was facilitated by SHAPE in 2024.

Professor Bettina Lemann Kristiansen

How does your professional background relate to the work of the Network for Digital Vulnerability, and what motivated you to become part of the network?

"In both my teaching and my research, I have worked with the development of welfare law in general and administrative law in particular. A recurring theme in my research is Access to Justice, i.e. how to ensure that citizens obtain the legal status guaranteed by legislation.

In recent years, I have been very interested in digitalization and its legal implications, as well as its possible consequences for citizens and society - not least the risk of exclusion of citizens without digital skills. In addition, I taught social work for several years and have worked with legal aid in practice for many years.

My motivation for being part of the Digital Vulnerability network is that I believe digital vulnerability is one of the most important societal challenges we face. It is a topic that calls for an interdisciplinary approach."

What benefits do you see in participating in an interdisciplinary network like this?

"I always find it enriching and inspiring to meet people who are concerned with the same issues as me, but who approach them from different professional angles. It provides new knowledge that can be used in my work.

An interdisciplinary network supports the treatment of multiple aspects of the issues."

HIGHLIGHTS

2022

FEBRUARY
Peter Lauritsen is appointed Director of SHAPE

JULY
Katrine Østerlund Rasmussen joins SHAPE as Academic Employee

SEPTEMBER
Patrick Heiberg Kapsch joins the Digital Citizenship project as Postdoc

Renée Ridgway joins the Digital Activism project as Postdoc

Conference: 'AI and the Humanities' is held in collaboration with the Human Futures Research Program at Aarhus University

Conference: 'Democracy & Digital Citizenship' is held at Roskilde University

OCTOBER
Ane Wintoniak-Bendtsen joins SHAPE as Student Assistant

ECREA post-conference: 'Digital media and information disorders' is held at Aarhus University

8 projects across faculties at Aarhus University have been awarded seed funding from SHAPE

NOVEMBER
Invited virtual guest: Yanni Loukissas (Georgia Tech), author of 'All Data are Local'

Expo: Master students at Aarhus University present SHAPE cases at The Kitchen

Symposium: 'The Data-driven welfare state? From digitization to datafication' is held in collaboration with the ADD Project at DPU

Ass. Prof. Pablo Velasco joins the Digital Activism project

DECEMBER
Workshop: 'Another AI: exploring the imaginaries of AI through the DARC Library' is held in Mexico City

SHAPE researchers are awarded 500.000 DKK from AUFF NOVA to the project 'Data Doubles in Social Work'

2023

JANUARY
Makoto Takahashi visits SHAPE with a presentation on Participation in Nuclear Emergencies (PINE)

Arne Hintz visits SHAPE with a presentation on Digital Citizenship in a Datafied Society: Challenges and Opportunities for a Datafied Democracy

FEBRUARY

Toward a Minor Tech workshop,
transmediale festival, Berlin

Workshop: Machine Learning and
Artificial Intelligence in Practice, Dokk1

MARCH

Ole Sejer Iversen is speaker at meeting for the
Committee for Children and Education at the
Danish Parliament

Open Workshop on Machine Learning, Dokk1

Visiting researcher: Brit Ross Winthereik gives
presentation on the digital state seen from
the perspective of the welfare recipient

APRIL

Legal seminar series #1:
The impact of digitalization on law

AU research projects in democracy and
digitalization are granted SHAPE funding

Anja Bechmann is co-author of report with
guidelines for the management of Big Tech,
Nordic Think Tank for Tech and Democracy

MAY

Announcement of AIAS-SHAPE fellows

Student workshop: Data, democracy and trust?

Workshop: How to use machine learning in your
job? In collaboration w. The Danish Association
of Masters and PhDs - DM

JUNE

SHAPE-panel on sociotechnical data studies
at Nordic STS Conference 2023

Legal seminar series #2:
The digital development lawyer

ServPub workshop in collaboration w.
Creative Computing Institute,
University of the Arts London

AUGUST

Symposium: Peter Danholt is
speaker at Citizen Science i Midten

SEPTEMBER

Start of AIAS-SHAPE fellowships

Workshop on data in social work, VIA

Processing Community Day
- a day of code, art and culture

Legal seminar series #3: Digital administration,
rule of law and data protection

Đorđe Krivokapić visits SHAPE with a
presentation on biometrical mass surveillance

OCTOBER

Aarhus University's board decides to fund
SHAPE for two more years (2024-25)

NOVEMBER

Symposium: Digital participation
of young people with disabilities

Legal seminar series #4:
Digitalization as an administrative burden

Workshop on AI and Machine Learning in
collaboration w. Centralbibliotekerne

Ole Sejer Iversen participates as speaker at
a hearing on digital technology literacy in
public schools, Committee for Children and
Education and the Committee for
Digitalization and IT

ServPub workshop w.
In-grid & Systerserver

DECEMBER

Workshop: Counter-Mapping University
Surveillance, organized by AIAS-SHAPE
fellow Lindsay Weinberg

Workshop on AI and Machine Learning in
collaboration w. Centralbibliotekerne

Ole Sejer Iversen is granted the annual
award for digital societal impact by DI –
Digital and Digital Dogme

2024

JANUARY

Nicholas Haas receives Aarhus University
Research Foundation's NOVA grant for
project on political ideology in the global
south

FEBRUARY

'Research Workshop: Content/Form',
Transmediale Festival

Peter Dalsgaard receives the EliteForsk
Prize for his innovative research on the
interaction between humans and
technology

MARCH

Ole Sejer Iversersen is keynote at OffDig
with the presentation: 'Technology
understanding for all'

APRIL

Announcement of AIAS-SHAPE fellows

'The Data-Driven Welfare State II: Revolution, reform or calm on values?' In collaboration with AIAS, Aarhus University, ADD (Algorithms, Data & Democracy), The Data Ethics Council of Denmark

Panel debate on law and justice in a pressured healthcare system at the Festival of Research in collaboration with AIAS

MAY

Workshop: 'Hosting Online Experiments.' In collaboration with DataLab and Center for Hybrid Intelligence

Dissemination video: 'They get rich when you get angry' with Anja Bechmann. Produced by Videnskabernes Selskab and supported by the Carlsberg Foundation, the Lundbeck Foundation and the Novo Nordisk Foundation

JUNE

Panel debate: 'Democratic AI - Transparency, Accountability and Freedom of Speech', Folkemødet. In collaboration with AIAS

AUGUST

Peter Lauritsen participates as a panelist in a debate on: 'What can we learn from each other across generations', Kulturmødet på Mors

Establishment of: 'Network for Digital Vulnerability'

SEPTEMBER

Workshop: 'The societal contract(s) of the university.' In collaboration with AIAS

'Democracy and Digital Citizenship Conference.' In collaboration with Digital Democracy Centre (University of Southern Denmark), Centre for Digital Citizenship (Roskilde University) and Copenhagen Centre for Social Data Science (University of Copenhagen)

OCTOBER

Peter Danholt receives a grant from DFF for the research project: 'Cultures of Data Collaboration'

Peter Dalsgaard receives a grant from DFF for the research project: 'Experimental Surprise: Pursuing Unexpectedness in Scientific and Artistic Practices'

Workshops: 'Cybersecurity in curriculum.' In collaboration with Aarhus University and Happy42

NOVEMBER

Webinar: 'Bonus Cyber Knowhow.' In collaboration with Happy42, Aarhus University, Industriens Fond, IDA and Aarhus Job Center

Open workshop: 'Re:search - comparing, critiquing and contemplating search results', Dokk1. In collaboration with Code & Share and artist/programmer Anders Visti

DECEMBER

Webinar: 'Cyber Campus Denmark and Cyberskills'. In collaboration with Security Tech Space and Aarhus University (Arts and Tech)

Christian Ulrik Andersen receives a Carlsberg Foundation monograph scholarship for the book: 'Minor Tech'

Rachel Charlotte Smith receives a grant from DFF for the research project: 'Participatory AI for Alternative Sustainable Futures'

2025

JANUARY

SHAPE, in collaboration with AIAS and the Bologna Institute of Advanced Studies, organized NetIAS Debate 2025 "Computational Practices in 'the Rest of the World'"

Anja Bechmann participates in the video 'Silicon meets Brussels', about Big Tech in the EU

Helene Friis Ratner gave the keynote speech "Generative AI: New information practices in transition?" at the Royal Library

FEBRUARY

AIAS-SHAPE fellow Iben Have gave a presentation entitled "Resonating synthetic voices and listening citizens" as an AIAS seminar

Stine Liv Johansen is the author of the commentary "It resonated everywhere. But many misunderstood the sensational study" in Politiken, about young people's use of social media

MARCH

Helene Friis Ratner and Jakob Laage-Thomsen participate in the podcast episode "Evaluation of public AI signature projects" from AI Denmark

Panel debate: Anja Bechmann was a panelist and Ole Sejer Iversen was the moderator at a debate event with Minister for Digitalization Caroline Stage Olsen, held at Incuba Next

APRIL

Panel debate: "Digital madness: How do we navigate everyday digital life?", Forskningens Døgn 2025, with Lene Aarøe, Maja Hojer Bruun, and Peter Danholt as panelists

Cecilie Eriksen gave a presentation entitled "Ethics and digitization in the welfare state: Revolution, reform, or calm?" Forskningens Døgn 2025

MAY

Miriam Brems receives Aarhus University Research Foundation PhD Award

Lasse Balleby participates as a panelist in a debate on "How can we make the digital world safer for children and young people?", organized by Aarhus Libraries, SUS Socialt Udviklingscenter, and Trygfonden

JUNE

Peter Danholt, Mikkel Rask Pedersen, and Patrick Heiberg Kapsch organized and participated in the panel discussion "Digitization and datafication in and of social work" at the 7th Nordic STS Conference

Amanda Karlsson and Maj Nygaard-Christensen participated as panelists in a debate on "A healthy life in a digitalized society?" at Folkemødet

Workshop on generative AI and its role in the Global South, organized by Christian Ulrik Andersen, Pablo Velasco, Nicolas Maleve, and Rachel Charlotte Smith, held at AIAS

AIAS-SHAPE fellow Iben Have receives Carlsberg Memorial Grant for the project "The Voice Box: When online text becomes synthetic speech"

JULY

AUGUST

Anja Bechmann, Miriam K. Brems, Jessica Walter, Jacob Linaa Jensen, Renée Ridgway, Lasse Balleby, Stine Liv Johansen, and Amanda Karlsson participated at the NordMedia Conference 2025

Peter Danholt gave a talk on digital systems in social work at CareNet Theme Day on digital welfare technology for children and young people

SEPTEMBER

Christian Ulrik Andersen gave a presentation entitled "Minor Tech" about his Carlsberg Monograph project as an AIAS Seminar

Peter Danholt gave a presentation at VIVE on the research project Cultures of Data Collaboration (CDC), which is supported by DFF

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Workshop: "Objects of Interest and Necessity - Autonomous AI imaging", organized and facilitated by Christian Ulrik Andersen, Nicolas Malevé, and Pablo Velasco

OCTOBER ⬤

Helene Friis Ratner gave a presentation entitled "GenAI – what does it mean for schools/education as democratic institutions" at Digital Learning Day 2025

Peter Danholt held the workshop "Digital Communities of the Future" at DOKK1

⬤ NOVEMBER

Peter Danholt, Patrick Kapsch, and Mikkel Rask Pedersen, in collaboration with Matilde Mortensen from VIA, organized the workshop "Social workers' professionalism and digital case work" at Social Worker Days 2025

Miriam Brems participated in the conference 'Who are we talking to?', where she presented her research on use of alternative news media

DECEMBER ⬤

Renée Ridgway organized the open lecture "How open source can empower citizens and preserve democracy"

SYMPOSIUM: THE DATA-DRIVEN WELFARE STATE

In 2022, SHAPE, in collaboration with the project 'Algorithms, Data, and Democracy', organized the symposium: 'The Data-Driven Welfare State? From digitalization to Datafication'. The purpose was to bring together researchers, practitioners, and decision-makers to discuss how data and algorithms affect the development of the welfare state.

Presentation by Associate Professor Peter Danholt from IKK

The symposium was based on the Danish government's digitalization strategy, which proposes using already collected data as a strategic resource. This raises several key questions: How do we ensure ethical data use and trust? What does this mean for the relationship between the state and its citizens? And how do we design technology that supports social goals?

Emphasis was placed on the need to develop technological solutions based on local and specific needs rather than striving for complex and universal systems. The symposium served as a forum for knowledge exchange and idea development, where participants could share perspectives and experiences without necessarily formulating concrete solutions. The focus was rather on opening the conversation and inspiring future collaboration.

LEGAL SEMINAR SERIES: DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP IN A LEGAL CONTEXT

In 2023, SHAPE hosted a series of seminars in collaboration with researchers from the Department of Law at Aarhus University, focusing on the legal aspects of digital citizenship. The seminar series comprised four seminars during the spring and fall, which attracted researchers, practitioners, and students. External lecturer Per Andersen and Professor Bettina Lemann Kristiansen from the Department of Law represented the initiators and emphasized the importance of dialogue between research and practice.

Presentation by the Parliamentary Ombudsman, Niels Fenger

The first seminar, The Significance of Digitalization for Law, focused on both the challenges and opportunities of digitalization in public administration from a citizen perspective. The second seminar, The Digital Development Lawyer, consisted of practitioners from both the public and private sectors, who spoke about how compliance is a prerequisite for the trust of digital citizens and shared their experiences with GDPR and data security in a municipal context. The third seminar, Digital Administration, Legal Certainty, and Data Protection, dealt partly with the

risks associated with the implementation of digital administration and partly with the challenges and pitfalls of implementing digitalization and GDPR. The fourth and final seminar took as its starting point Digitalization as an Administrative Burden.

THE FESTIVAL OF RESEARCH

In 2024, the Festival of Research was held – a nationwide science festival organized by the Ministry of Education and Research. The purpose of the festival is to strengthen the connection between research, researchers, and the Danish population. During Research Day, AIAS-SHAPE fellows 23/24 Lene Aarøe and Cecilie Eriksen, together with AIAS-PIREAU fellow Jes Bak Sørensen, participated in the panel debate: 'Right and justice in a pressured healthcare system' organized by SHAPE and AIAS. The debate was moderated by Andreas Roepstorff, professor and director at AIAS.

The debate focused on issues of fairness, priorities in the healthcare system, and political solutions that can promote equality - not only in terms of formal rights, but also in terms of actual access to and quality of treatment. The panel discussion took as its starting point whether equality in healthcare can be maintained in Denmark, which is often highlighted for its universal welfare state and equal access to treatment.

The debate was brought to the fore by the cancer scandal at Aarhus University Hospital in 2024, where serious violations of waiting times and inequalities in treatment were uncovered.

FOLKEMØDET

In 2025, SHAPE was represented at the annual democracy festival Folkemødet on Bornholm, where citizens, politicians, universities, and organizations gather to discuss social issues and strengthen democracy.

Amanda Karlsson (associate professor at IKK) and Maj Nygaard-Christensen (AIAS-SHAPE Fellow 24/25 and associate professor at the Department of Psychology – Center for Alcohol and Drug Research) represented SHAPE at a panel debate organized by AIAS and SHAPE entitled: 'Healthy living in a digitalized society? The panel also included Jes Bak Sørensen (AIAS-PIREAU Fellow and program director at DEFACTUM) and Andreas Roepstorff as moderator.

The panel debate focused on how digital solutions affect our health and whether social inequality in health is an inevitable condition or a societal choice. It highlighted that Denmark is a leader in digitalization, but that not all citizens have equal opportunities to benefit from digital health solutions. The debate also highlighted how factors such as social status, age, and gender can create barriers, and discussed whether technology can be used to promote equality - or whether it risks reinforcing inequality.

ACTIVITIES

In 2022-25, SHAPE researchers and affiliates have been involved in several activities, including publishing research articles, giving presentations at seminars and conferences,

and actively participating in the public debate on digitalization. Below is a selection of these activities.

PRESS

2022
Associate Professor **Peter Danholt** from Arts (Department of Digital Design and Information Studies) participated in the podcast episode <u>"What can AI teach us about ourselves? – AI and the humanities 2,"</u> September 28.

2023
Professor **Ole Sejer Iversen** from Arts (Department of Digital Design and Information Studies) co-authored the debate article <u>"Researchers: The new teacher training program fails in terms of technological understanding,"</u> published in Altinget on February 13.

Professor **Peter Dalsgaard** from Arts (Department of Digital Design and Information Studies) participated in an <u>interview</u> about whether chatbots can be trusted, published in Avisen Omnibus on March 7.

AIAS-SHAPE fellow and postdoc **Janet Rafner** from BSS (Department of Management) presented her research on creativity and artificial intelligence in <u>Dagbladet Information's podcast 'Maskinstorm'</u> on December 21.

2024
Postdoc **Mikkel Rask Pedersen** from Arts (Department of Digital Design and Information Studies) participated in <u>an interview in the university newspaper Omnibus on how digital self-help platforms can help prevent child abuse</u>, 21 February.

Professor **Ole Sejer Iversen** from Arts (Department of Digital Design and Information Studies) is co-author of the debate article: '<u>Four education leaders: Understanding technology should be compulsory in the school curriculum</u>' published on Altinget.dk, February 28.

Professor **Peter Dalsgaard** from Arts (Department of Digital Design and Information Studies) participated in <u>podcast24: 'Science from wild minds'</u> on computer-assisted creativity in practice, April 27.

Postdoc **Miriam Kroman Brems** from Arts (Department of Media Studies and Journalism) participated in an <u>interview about alternative news media</u>, Nordic Journalism Center, May 14.

2025
Associate Professor **Stine Liv Johansen** from Arts (Children's Literature) is the author of the

debate article ['Ban on social media: "I just want to show that I live a normal life"](#) in Pœr-spektiv, January 7, 2025.

AIAS-SHAPE fellow and Associate Professor **Iben Have** from Arts (Department of Media Studies) is the author of the letter to the editor ['Attentive reading'](#) in Weekendavisen, January 31, 2025.

Associate Professor **Helene Friis Ratner** and postdoc **Jakob Laage-Thomsen** from DPU (Educational Science) participate in the podcast episode ['Evaluation of public AI signature projects'](#) from AI Denmark, March 20, 2025.

External Associate Professor **Cecilie Eriksen** from Arts (Philosophy) is the author of the commentary ['Responsible digitalization? Strengthen the moral infrastructure'](#) in Ingeniøren, June 20, 2025.

Associate Professor **Marie Højlund** from Arts (Department of Digital Design and Information Studies) participates in the podcast episode ['Voices in transition'](#) from Spillerom, June 22, 2025.

PRESENTATIONS

2022
Associate Professor **Peter Danholt** from Arts (Department of Digital Design and Information Studies) gave a presentation entitled "AI in/of a more-than-human world" at the AI and the Humanities conference, Aarhus University, on September 7.

Professor **Peter Dalsgaard** from Arts (Department of Digital Design and Information Studies) presented the article "Four Challenges of Designing Digital Services to Support Participatory Design" at the NordiCHI 2022 conference on October 10.

Professor **Ole Sejer Iversen** from Arts (Department of Digital Design and Information Studies) was keynote speaker at the Ministry of Education's conference Digitalisation Days with the presentation "It looks fun, but are they learning anything?", 10 November.

2023
Postdoc **Renée Ridgway** from Arts (Department of Digital Design and Information Studies) and BSS (Department of Business Development and Technology) gave the online presentation "Critical Feminist Screenshotting" at the conference 'Algorithms for Her: Feminist Approaches to Digital Infrastructures, Cultures & Economies', Sheffield, UK, March 23.

2024

Assistant Professor **Jessica Walter** and Professor **Anja Bechmann** from Arts (Department of Media Studies and Journalism) participated in the ICA 2024 post-conference on P3: Power, Propaganda, Polarisation, Brisbane, Australia, June 26–27.

AIAS-SHAPE fellow and Associate Professor **Maj Nygaard Christensen** from BSS (Department of Psychology) gave the presentation "Digital service journeys at the urban margins" at AIAS on September 16.

AIAS-SHAPE fellow and Associate Professor **Jan Løhmann Stephensen** from Arts (Aesthetics and Culture) gave a presentation entitled "Chat Democracy: AI, Democratic Talk, and a New Shared Language" at AIAS on November 4.

2025

Associate Professor **Peter Danholt** from Arts (Department of Digital Design and Information Studies) gave a presentation entitled "On the use of digital systems in social work" at a conference on digital social work organized by the National Association of Drop-in Centers on January 9.

Associate Professor **Helene Friis Ratner** from DPU (Educational Science) gave the keynote speech "Generative AI: New information practices in transition?" at the Royal Library on January 29.

External Associate Professor **Cecilie Eriksen** from Arts (Philosophy) gave a presentation entitled "Ethics and digitalization in the welfare state: Revolution, reform, or calm?" the Research Festival on April 24.

PUBLICATIONS

The publications below are not necessarily funded by SHAPE but may also be supported by external foundations.

2022

Andersen, L. B., **Christensen, M**., **Danholt, P**., & **Lauritsen, P.** (2022). *The Role of Digital Data on Citizens in Social Work Research: A Literature Review.* The British Journal of Social Work, 53(2), 848–865.

Andersen, L. B., **Danholt, P., & Lauritsen, P.** (2023). *To Care for the Possible: Configuring Care in the Teledialogue Project.* In D. Lydahl & N. C. Mossfeldt Nickelsen (Eds.), *Ethical and Methodological Dilemmas in Social Science Interventions: Careful Engagements in Healthcare, Museums, Design and Beyond* (pp. 69–81). Springer.

2023

Dindler, C., Iversen, O. S., Hjorth, M., et al. (2023). *DORIT: An analytical model for computational empowerment in K-9 education.* International Journal of Child-Computer Interaction. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijcci.2023.100599

Rafner, J., Zana, B., Beolet, T., Büyükgüzel, S., Michel, E., Maiden, N., Risi, S., & Sherson, J. (In press). *Crea.visions: A Platform for Casual Co-Creation with a Purpose Envisioning the Future through Human-AI Collaboration with Multiple Stakeholders.* In *ICCC'23.*

2024

Brems, M. K. (2024). *Brugen af alternative nyhedsmedier i Danmark.* Contribution to an essay series by Magtudredningen 2.0.

Højlund, M., & Lundgård, S. R. (2024). *Designing for sonic citizenship in Danish nursing homes.* Internoise 2024, Nantes, France.

Nygaard-Christensen, M. (2024). *Street-level service journeys: serendipity in outreach work with unstably housed people who use drugs.* Social & Cultural Geography, 1–15. https://doi.org/10.1080/14649365.2024.2424859

Ridgway, R. (2024). *Reverse search warrants: locating Google's sensorvault subjects via the technological illiberal practice of surveillance capitalism.* Journal of Illiberalism Studies, 4(3), 115–138. https://doi.org/10.53483/xcqy3583

Stage, C., Karlsson, A., & Ledderer, L. (2024). *Online Patient Work: On the Use of Peer-Led Online Communities to Process and Prevent Discontinuity of Care.* European Journal of Health Communication, 5(2), 44–59. https://doi.org/10.47368/ejhc.2024.203

2025

Bechmann, A., Kroman Brems, M., Olesen, M. K., Walter, J. G., & Wegmann, D. (2025). *Data donation as a method for investigating trends and challenges in digital media landscapes at national scale: The Danish population's use of YouTube as an illustrative case.* https://doi.org/10.48335/9789189864184

Dollerup, K. (2025). *Cybersikkerhed - Et scoping-review af humanistisk forskning i cybersikkerhed.* Working paper.

Johansen, S. L. (2025). *Influencing through advocacy: Parents of children with disability giving and seeking support on Instagram.* Nordic Journal of Media Studies, 7(1), 112–129. https://doi.org/10.2478/njms-2025-0007

Kristiansen, B. L. (Ed.). (2025). *Digitalisering af retten* (1st ed.). Hans Reitzels Forlag.

Laage-Thomsen, J., & Ratner, H. F. (2025). *Kunstig intelligens i den offentlige forvaltning: sammenhænge mellem algoritmisk regulering og automatisering af beslutninger i de danske AI "signaturprojekter".* Politica, 57(2), 21–42. https://doi.org/10.7146/politica.v57i2.153262

Sejer Iversen, O., & Hjorth, M. (2025). *Tekspejlet - en model for den demokratiske samtale om chatbots, sprogmodeller og kunstig intelligens.* In M. Hjorth & M. Von Sehested (Eds.), *AI i skolen - og anvendelse af sprogmodeller i undervisningen* (pp. 52–71). Dafolo A/S.

GRANTS, AWARDS, AND OUTREACH

2022

Professor **Anja Bechmann** from Arts (Media Studies) became a member of a [new Nordic think tank](#) that will examine the influence of tech giants on democracy.

2023

The project 'Digital Literacy and Machine Learning' launched [teaching materials on machine learning for Danish school students](#) in collaboration with DR - Danmarks Radio on March 20.

Professor **Anja Bechmann** from Arts (Media Studies) was appointed as a [new member of the Videnskabernes Selskab](#) in April.

2024

AIAS-SHAPE fellow and associate professor **Nicholas Haas** from BSS (Department of Political Science) received Aarhus University Research Fund's NOVA grant for a [project on political ideology in the global south.](#)

Professor **Peter Dalsgaard** from Arts (Department of Digital Design and Information Studies) received the [EliteForsk Award](#) for his innovative research into the interaction between humans and technology, February.

Associate Professor **Peter Danholt** from Arts (Department of Digital Design and Information Studies) received a grant from the Independent Research Fund Denmark (IRF) for the research project: ['Cultures of Data Collaboration'](#), October.

Professor **Peter Dalsgaard** from Arts (Department of Digital Design and Information Studies) received a grant from the Independent Research Fund Denmark (IRF) for the research project: ['Experimental Surprise: Pursuing Unexpectedness in Scientific and Artistic Practices'](#), October.

Associate Professor **Rachel Charlotte** Smith from Arts (Department of Digital Design and Information Studies) received a grant from the DFF for the research project ['Participatory AI for Alternative Sustainable Futures (P-AIA)'](#), December.

Associate Professor **Christian Ulrik Andersen** from Arts (Department of Digital Design and Information Studies) received a Carlsberg scholarship for the monograph 'Minor Tech', December.

2025

Professor **Anja Bechmann** from Arts (Media Studies) participated in a hearing at the Danish Parliament's Culture Committee and Digitalization Committee, February 26. The hearing was based on a new report from the Center for Social Media, Tech and Democracy, prepared as part of the Media Agreement 2023-2026.

Postdoc **Miriam Brems** from Arts (Department of Media Studies and Journalism) received the Aarhus University Research Foundation PhD Prize, May.

AIAS-SHAPE fellow and associate professor **Iben Have** from Arts (Media Studies) received the Carlsberg Memorial Grant for the project "The Voice Box: When Online Text Becomes Synthetic Speech," June.

Postdoc **Renée Ridgway** from Arts (Department of Digital Design and Information Studies) and BSS (BTECH) received the Carlsberg Memorial Grant for the project "Why is open source important for democracy? Ethics and values of European alternatives to Big Tech," June.

EVENTS

In 2022-25, SHAPE organized and co-organized several events, including workshops and conferences, which were realized in collaboration with various partners. Below is a selection of these events.

2022

Conference: Democracy and Digital Citizenship, September 29-30, 2022
Conference organized in collaboration with the Center for Digital Citizenship (CDC) at Roskilde University, the Digital Democracy Center (DDC) at the University of Southern Denmark, and the Copenhagen Center for Social Data Science (SODAS) at the University of Copenhagen.

ECREA post-conference: Digital Media and Information Disruption - Theorising and Investigating Influence Operations, Effect and Contextual Factors, October 24
Post-conference organized by Professor Anja Bechmann and Postdoc Jessica G. Walter from Arts (Department of Media Studies and Journalism).

Symposium: The data-driven welfare state? From digitalization to datafication, November 17
Symposium organized in collaboration with ADD – Algorithms, Data & Democracy and Associate Professor Helene Friis Ratner from DPU (Educational Science).

Workshop: Another AI: exploring AI conceptions through the DARC library, December 5-6
Workshop organized by SHAPE and the Digital Aesthetics Research Centre (DARC).

Seminar: AI and creativity, December 19
Seminar organized in collaboration with the Human Future Research research program.

2023

Workshop: StudenterTing – Data, democracy, and trust? May 16
Student workshop on trust and democracy in a digitized and dataficated society with participants from several different disciplines at AU. Moderated by postdoc Patrick Heiberg Kapsch and Associate Professor Peter Danholt from Arts (Department of Digital Design and Information Studies)

Workshop: How can you use machine learning in your work? June 12
Series of workshops for academics on the use of machine learning at work in collaboration with DM –

Hvordan kan du bruge machine learning i dit arbejde?

SHAPE
SHAPING DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP

Dansk Magisterforening, facilitated by postdoc Magnus Høholt Kaspersen from Natural Sciences (Department of Computer Science).

Legal seminar series #4: Digitalization as an administrative burden, November 10
Presentation by the chair of the Environmental and Food Appeals Board, Professor Birgitte Egelund Olsen from BSS (Department of Law) at Aarhus University and Associate Professor Matthias Döring from the Department of Political Science at the University of Southern Denmark.

Symposium: Digital participation of young people with disabilities, November 10
Research symposium focusing on the development of theoretical and methodological frameworks for research into digital participation for young people with disabilities. Organized by Associate Professor Stine Liv Johansen from Arts (Children's Literature) and Associate Professor Louise Bøttcher from DPU (Educational Psychology).

Workshop: Machine learning and artificial intelligence in practice (Roskilde), November 17
Postdoc Magnus Høholt Kaspersen from Natural Sciences (Department of Computer Science) was the moderator at a workshop on machine learning and artificial intelligence aimed at library staff. Organized in collaboration with the Central Libraries and Roskilde Libraries.

Workshop: Counter-Mapping University Surveillance, December 6
AIAS-SHAPE fellow Lindsay Weinberg, together with Nathan Swanson from Purdue University, organized a research workshop on surveillance, belonging, security, and datafication. Organized in collaboration with the Aarhus Institute of Advanced Studies (AIAS).

2024

Research workshop: 'content/form', February 3
Research workshop on our relationship with content and the ways in which it is published and released at the Transmediale festival in Berlin. Organized by Associate Professor Christian Ulrik Andersen from Arts (Digital Design and Information Studies) in collaboration with the Digital Aesthetics Research Center (Aarhus University), the Centre for the Study of the Networked Image (London South Bank University), and the transmediale festival.

Conference: 'The Data-Driven Welfare State II – Revolution, Reform or Stability of Values?
April 18
The conference brought together various actors to discuss the impact of digitalization on the values of the welfare state, as well as its consequences and implementation. Organized in collaboration with AIAS, Aarhus University, ADD (Algorithms, Data & Democracy), and the Danish Council on Data Ethics.

Panel debate: 'Law and justice in a pressured healthcare system', April 24
Panel debate on fairness, healthcare system priorities, and political solutions that promote equality at Research Day. Organized in collaboration with AIAS.

Panel debate: 'Democratic AI! Transparency, accountability, and freedom of expression', June 15
Panel debate on AI and democracy at the People's Meeting. Organized in collaboration with AIAS.

Workshops: 'Cybersecurity in the curriculum', October 23 and 24 and November 8
Workshops for teachers at Aarhus University – Arts and BSS, respectively – focusing on how cybersecurity can be integrated into teaching. Organized by research assistant Karina Dollerup Brunsvig from Arts (Department of Digital Design and Information Studies) in collaboration with Happy42 and Aarhus University.

Workshop: 'Re:search - comparing, critiquing and contemplating search results', November 30
Public workshop on searching in knowledge infrastructures and launch of the platform: 're-search-site' at Dokk1 in Aarhus. Organized by postdoc Renée Ridgway from Arts (Department of Digital Design and Information Studies) and BSS (BTECH) in collaboration with Code & Share and artist/programmer Anders Visti.

2025

Panel debate: 'The digital wilderness: How to navigate everyday digital life?' April 23
Panel debate on the impact of digitalization on society and democracy for Research Day at Aarhus University. Organized in collaboration with AIAS.

Panel debate: 'Digitalization and datafication in and of social work', June 12
Panel debate on digitalization and datafication in and of social work at the 7th Nordic STS Conference. Organized by Associate Professor Peter Danholt and postdocs Mikkel Rask Pedersen and Patrick Heiberg Kapsch from Arts (Department of Digital Design and Information Studies).

Panel debate: 'A healthy life in a digitized society?' June 13
Panel debate on digitalization and social inequality in health at the People's Meeting. Organized in collaboration with AIAS.

Workshop: 'Generative AI and its role in the Global South', June 13
Workshop on generative AI in a societal context, focusing on its application and role in the Global South, especially in Africa. Organized by Associate Professors Rachel Charlotte Smith, Christian Ulrik Andersen, Pablo Velasco, and Postdoc Nicolas Malevé from Arts (Department of Digital Design and Information Studies) in collaboration with AIAS and the Hamburg Institute of Advanced Study.

Workshop: 'Objects of Interest and Necessity – Autonomous AI Imaging', September 19 and 20
Public workshop on AI image processing. Organized by Associate Professors Pablo Velasco, Christian Ulrik Andersen, and Postdoc Nicolas Malevé from Arts (Department of Digital Design and Information Studies) in collaboration with Code&Share and the Royal Library.

COLLABORATION PARTNERS

The following is a selection of SHAPE's external partners from the last four years, which includes various private, semi-public, and public organizations:

Aarhus Jobcenter, Aarhus Kommune, Aarhus Universitetshospital, Advisory Board for Nordic Obser-vatory for Digital Media and Information Disorder – NORDIS (heri indgår flere private virk-somheder), Akademiet for Talent-fulde Unge, Code & Share, Creative Crowds (Varia), Datacentralens (DC) Arkivgruppe, Dansk Socialrådgiverforening, DEFACTUM - Region Midt, Dokk 1, DR – Danmarks Radio, Faktabaari, Faktisk, Folkeuniversitet, Ghost Agency, Happy42, In-Grid, Ingeniørforeningen i Danmark (IDA), Kulturministeriet, Københavns Professionshøj-skole, KØN – Gender Museum Denmark, Källkritikbyrån, Muskelsvindsfonden, , Norddjurs kommune, Systerserver, TjekDet, Transmediale Festival, UC Lillebælt, VIA University College, Videnskab.dk, Videnslyd.

RESEARCHERS

During the period 2022-2025, 93 researchers – from research assistants and postdocs to professors – across AU's faculties have been affiliated with SHAPE.

Adela Sobotkova

Amanda Karlsson

Andreas Roepstorff

Anja Bechmann

Anne Odile Peschel

Antoinette Mary Fage-Butler

Anton Elias Holt

Antonia Clasina Södergren

Asker Bryld Staunæs

Bettina Lemann Kristiansen

Carolina Sanchez Boe

Caroline Gjørtsvag Kock

Cathrine Hasse

Cecilie Eriksen

Christian Christrup Kjeldsen

Christian Dindler

Christian Ulrik Andersen

Cristina Flesher Fominaya

David Josias Wegmann

Gabriele Torma

Hermes Arthur Hjorth

Iben Have

Ida Marie S. Lassen

Ida Terp Høybye

Ilya Utekhin

Jacob Sherson

Jakob Linaa Jensen

Jan Løhmann Stephensen

Janet Frances Rafner

Jens Christian Bjerring

Jessica Aschemann-Witzel

Jessica Gabriele Walter

Jonas Frich

Karl-Emil Kjær Bilstrup

Karina Brunsvig

Kasper Schiølin

Kenneth Christian Enevoldsen

Kim Halskov

Kristoffer Laigaard Nielbo

Kristian Hvidtfelt Nielsen

Lasse Hansen

Lasse Balleby

Lene Aarøe

Lene Kühle

Lindsay Weinberg

Line Have Musaeus

Lizette Vorster Larsen

Loni Kraus Ledderer

Lotte Philipsen

Louise Bøttcher

Mads Rosendahl Thomsen

Magdalena Regina Tyzlik-Carver

Magnus Høholt Kaspersen

Maj Nygaard-Christensen

Maja Hojer Bruun

Marianne Graves Petersen

Marie Højlund

Marie Louise Tørring

Marina Charquero Ballester

Marta Victoria

Mathias Holm Tveen

Michael Christensen

Midas Nouwens

Mikkel Rask Pedersen

Morten Breinbjerg

Morten Brænder

Morten H. Christiansen

Miriam Brems

Natalia Miranda

Nicholas Haas

Nicolas René M Maleve

Nils Ole Bubandt

Ole Sejer Iversen

Pablo Velasco

Patrick Heiberg Kapsch

Per Andersen

Peter Dalsgaard

Peter Danholt

Peter Fazekas

Peter Lauritsen

Petra Hermankova

Rebekah Brita Baglini

Renée Ridgway

Roberta Rocca

Ross Deans Kristensen-McLachlan

Rachel Charlotte Smith

Rasmus Kornbek

Rosanna Farbøl

Stine Liv Johansen

Ulf Dalvad Berthelsen

Winnie Soon

Yen-Chieh Liao

Yuri Bizzoni

PORTRAIT: YOUNG RESEARCHER AT SHAPE

Caroline Gjørtsvang Kock is a research assistant at SHAPE and started right after completing her master's degree in information studies at Aarhus University. Below, she talks more about her experiences of being part of SHAPE as a young researcher.

Research Assistant
Caroline Gjørtsvang Kock

What made you decide to join SHAPE, and what did you hope to gain from it?
"I joined SHAPE through my employment as a research assistant. I did so because my education had sparked a keen interest in STS as a field of research, and because after completing my master's degree, I didn't feel that I was done delving into topics that I find exciting. The role of research assistant gave me the opportunity to try my hand at research in practice, within a field that I find extremely exciting: how digital technologies can support democratic dialogue. What I hoped to gain from it was, of course, to learn more about how research works, but also to become part of an inspiring environment with a lot of talented researchers and practitioners from whom I can learn and develop together with."

What has it been like to be a young researcher in an established research environment, and what experiences have you had along the way?
"It has been both educational and challenging in a good way. As a young researcher, you enter an environment where many have been working in their field for many years, and it can be a little overwhelming at first. But I have found that there has been a great deal of openness and interest in involving me and the knowledge I can bring. I have learned a lot about how research is not only about producing knowledge, but also about collaboration, curiosity, and the value of seeing things from different angles—especially when you don't have all the answers. One of the most important lessons for me has been that you can easily make a valuable contribution even if you are still at the beginning of your research career."

What opportunities has SHAPE opened for you, and how do you hope your path as a researcher will develop in the future?
"SHAPE has given me a unique opportunity to try out research in practice and immerse myself in a field I am passionate about. I have had the opportunity to collaborate with talented and experienced researchers and practitioners, who have given me a lot of experience and a broader perspective on how research can make a difference. Looking ahead, I hope to build on my experiences and the knowledge I have gained and continue to work at the intersection of people and technology."