

From postdoc at Digital Futures to academic leadership: Francisco J. Peña's journey in AI research

Francisco J. Peña's path from postdoctoral researcher at Digital Futures to assistant professor at KTH Royal Institute of Technology is a testament to how cutting-edge research can drive academic careers. During his time at Digital Futures, Francisco played a pivotal role in the Deep Wetlands project, applying machine learning and remote sensing to monitor vital ecosystems.

Today, as the head of the Learning Beyond Supervision Lab, he continues to push the boundaries of AI in healthcare and environmental applications.

This article explores how his experience at Digital Futures shaped his research approach and supported his transition to a leadership role in academia...

Francisco J. Peña's journey in AI research



Best Paper Award for Research on Conversational Companion Robots

At Digital Futures, we are thrilled to share that former Digital Futures Postdoc Bahar Irfan has received a Best Paper Award from Frontiers in Robotics and AI for the journal paper titled "Recommendations for Designing Conversational Companion Robots with Older Adults through Foundation Models".

This prestigious recognition follows just a week after a Best Paper Award at the International Conference on Human-Robot Interaction (HRI) on her work on turn-taking in conversational HRI with Gabriel Skantze.

Article and links to talk, paper and the Editor's Picks 2024 e-Book



Postdoc Anna Furberg discusses AI's impact on electricity consumption in recent radio interviews

Artificial intelligence (AI) is rapidly expanding, driving a significant increase in electricity consumption, particularly in countries with a high concentration of data centers like the US and Ireland. While AI technology offers numerous benefits, its reliance on electricity generated from fossil fuels raises concerns about its contribution to greenhouse gas emissions.

Anna Furberg, a Digital Futures Industrial Innovation Postdoc at KTH Royal Institute of Technology, recently addressed these concerns in several radio interviews...

Article and links to radio interviews



Digital Futures announcing calls

Four calls were announced on 10 March within the Industrial and Societal Partnership Program (ISPP) to foster research collaboration and impact within the Digital Futures eco-system.

- Social Innovation Projects (SIPs)
- Industrial Innovation Projects (IIPs)
- Industrial and Societal Partnership Program (ISPP) Mobility Grant
- Industrial and Societal Partnership Program (ISPP) Postdoc Projects

Proposal Submission Deadline: 2 June 2025

Four new calls announced



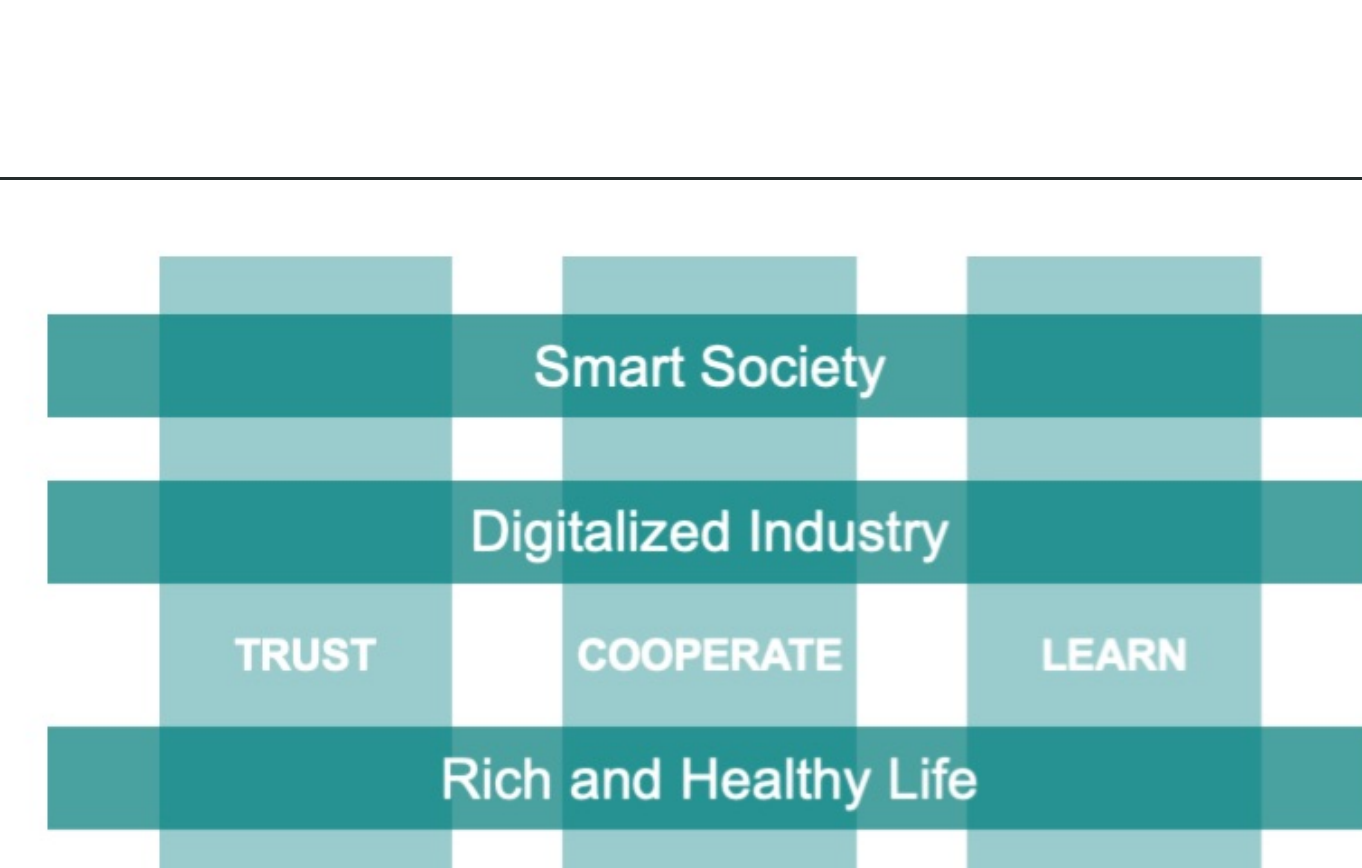
Open call: Topic proposal for the Digital Futures Focus Period 2026

Digital Futures invites proposals from potential organizers for the Digital Futures Focus Period 2026, scheduled for May/June 2026.

The Digital Futures Focus Period is a 5-week guest researcher event held annually, featuring a new research topic each year. Its goal is to attract top-level researchers and their junior colleagues to Stockholm, providing accommodation support and fostering idea exchange, networking, collaboration, and engagement with relevant research challenges.

NEW Proposal Submission Deadline: 9 June 2025

Call: Digital Futures Focus Period 2026



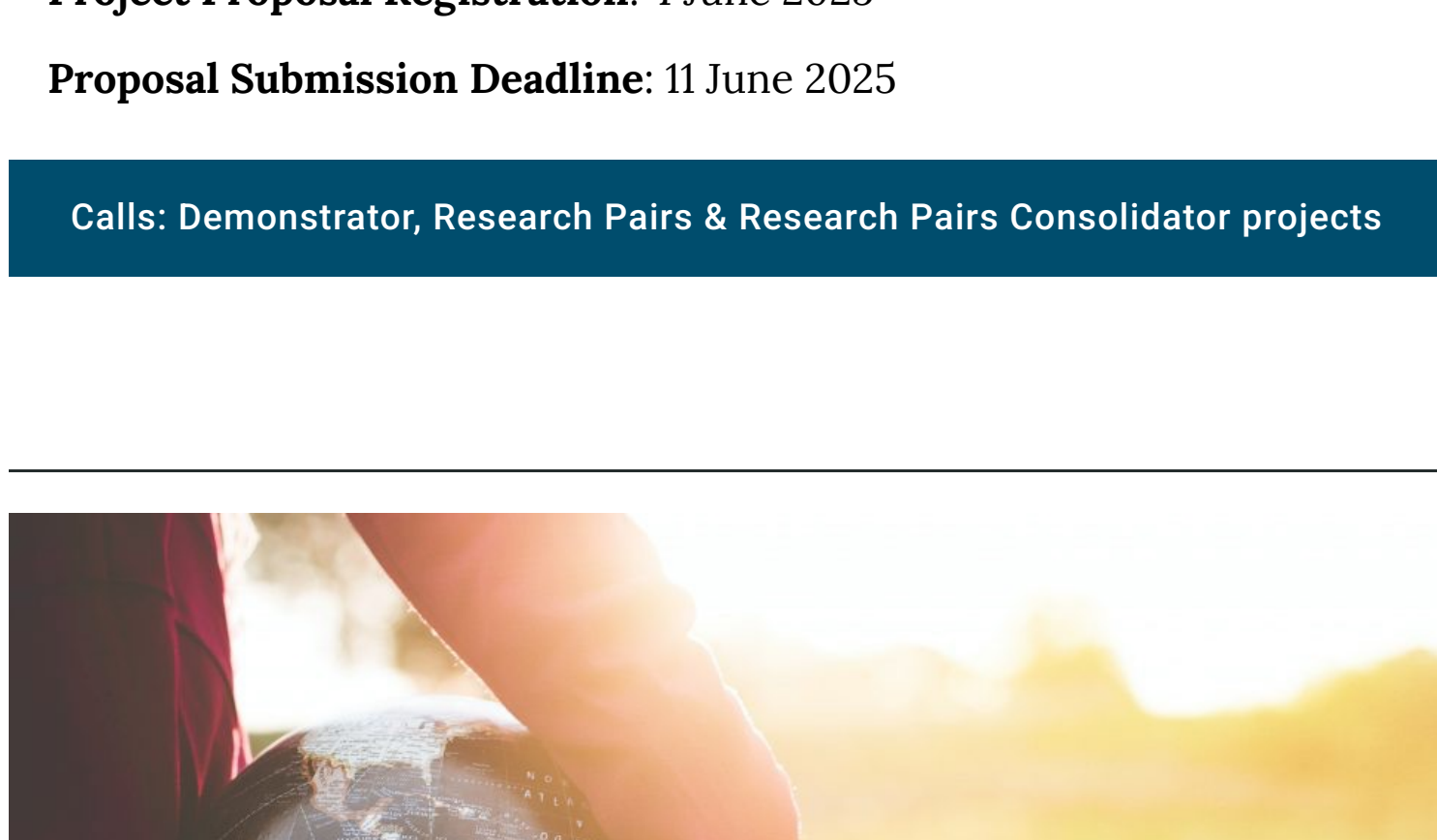
Open calls for Demonstrator, Research Pairs and Research Pairs Consolidator projects

- **Demonstrator projects** aim to disseminate findings in high-impact venues and contribute to industrial or societal transfer. [Link to more information](#)
- **Research pairs projects call** is designed to encourage collaboration between two early-career researchers and to identify new research collaborations that have the potential to evolve into significant scientific endeavors within the next 3-5 years. [Link to more information](#)
- **Research Pairs Consolidator projects call.** Researchers with projects previously funded under the Digital Futures Research Pairs initiative from the third and fourth call are eligible to apply for funding under this call. [Link to more information](#)

Project Proposal Registration: 4 June 2025

Proposal Submission Deadline: 11 June 2025

Calls: Demonstrator, Research Pairs & Research Pairs Consolidator projects



Open call: Scholar-in-Residence programme

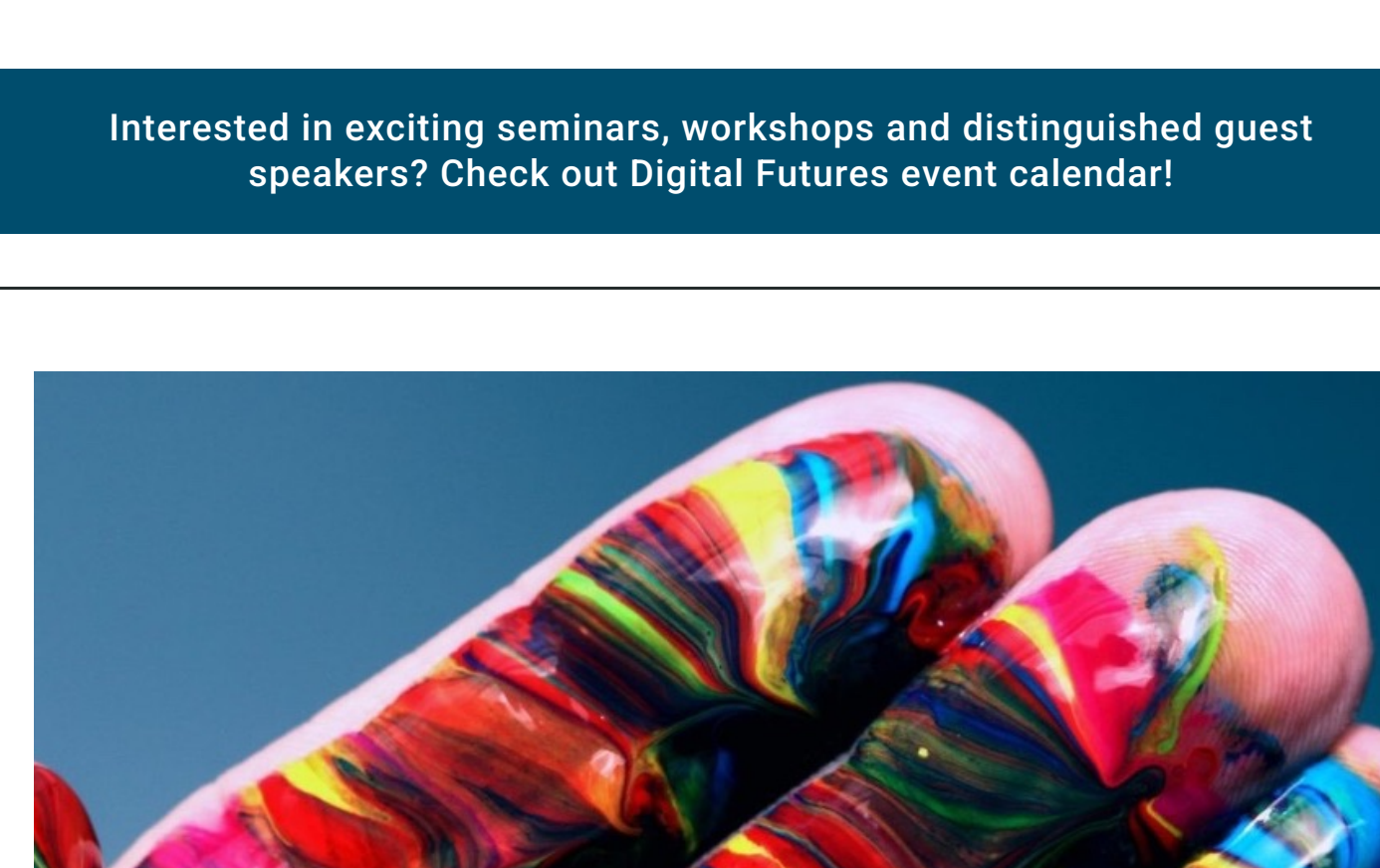
The programme aims to provide established research leading scholars and non-Swedish universities with financial support to enable short and longer-term visits to the Digital Futures environment.

This is a recurring call with applications every three months. **Next deadline is 26 May!**

Digital Futures Scholar-in-Residence programme

Upcoming events in 2025

Interested in exciting seminars, workshops and distinguished guest speakers? Check out Digital Futures event calendar!



Hurry up & REGISTER for Digital Futures Open Research Day!

Join us for a dynamic and inspiring day featuring research projects, engaging discussions, and insights from our partners.

When: 9 April 2025, 08:30 - 19:00

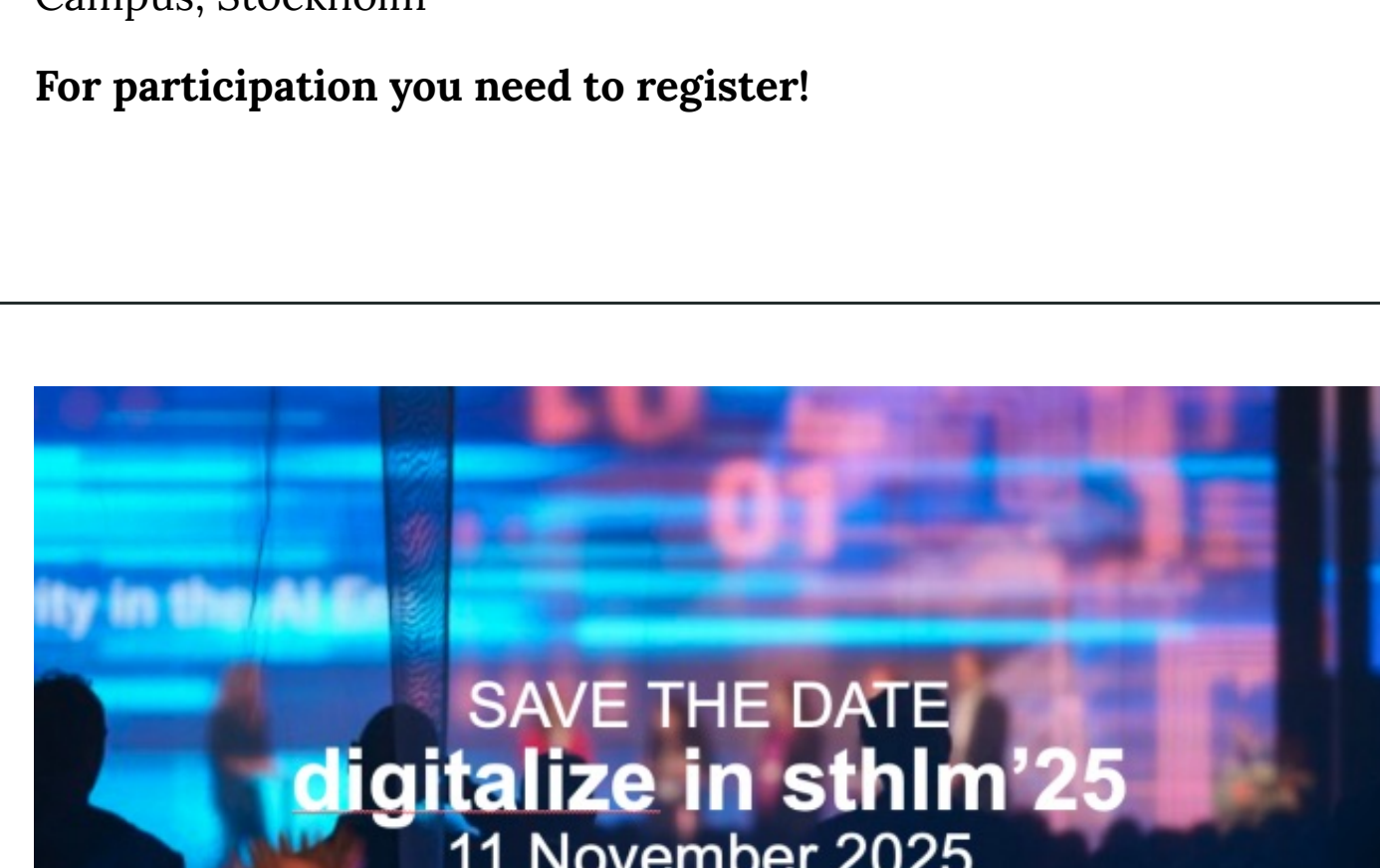
Where: Onsite at the Architecture School building and Digital Futures Hub, KTH Main Campus, Stockholm

For participation you need to register!

9

April

[More information](#)



SAVE-THE-DATE for Digitalize in Sthlm 2025

Get ready to be inspired! Join us for Digitalize in Stockholm 2025, a premier annual conference that brings together global thought leaders, emerging talents, and innovators from academia, industry, government, and civil society.

When: 11 November 2025

Where: Onsite at Münchenbryggeriet, Stockholm

Stay tuned for more details about the program—this is an event you won't want to miss! **SAVE-THE-DATE!**

11

November

Stay tuned for more details. In the meantime, check out highlights from 2024!

[Subscribe to Digital Futures Youtube channel](#)

Digital Futures is a cross-disciplinary research center that explores and develops digital technologies. We bring solutions to great societal challenges, in Sweden and globally. We generate knowledge, innovations and future leaders of high industrial relevance and strategic importance.

Digital Futures is jointly established by KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm University and RISE Research Institutes of Sweden.

www.digitalfutures.kth.se

info@digitalfutures.kth.se



To unsubscribe from future newsletters, [click here](#)