

digital futures

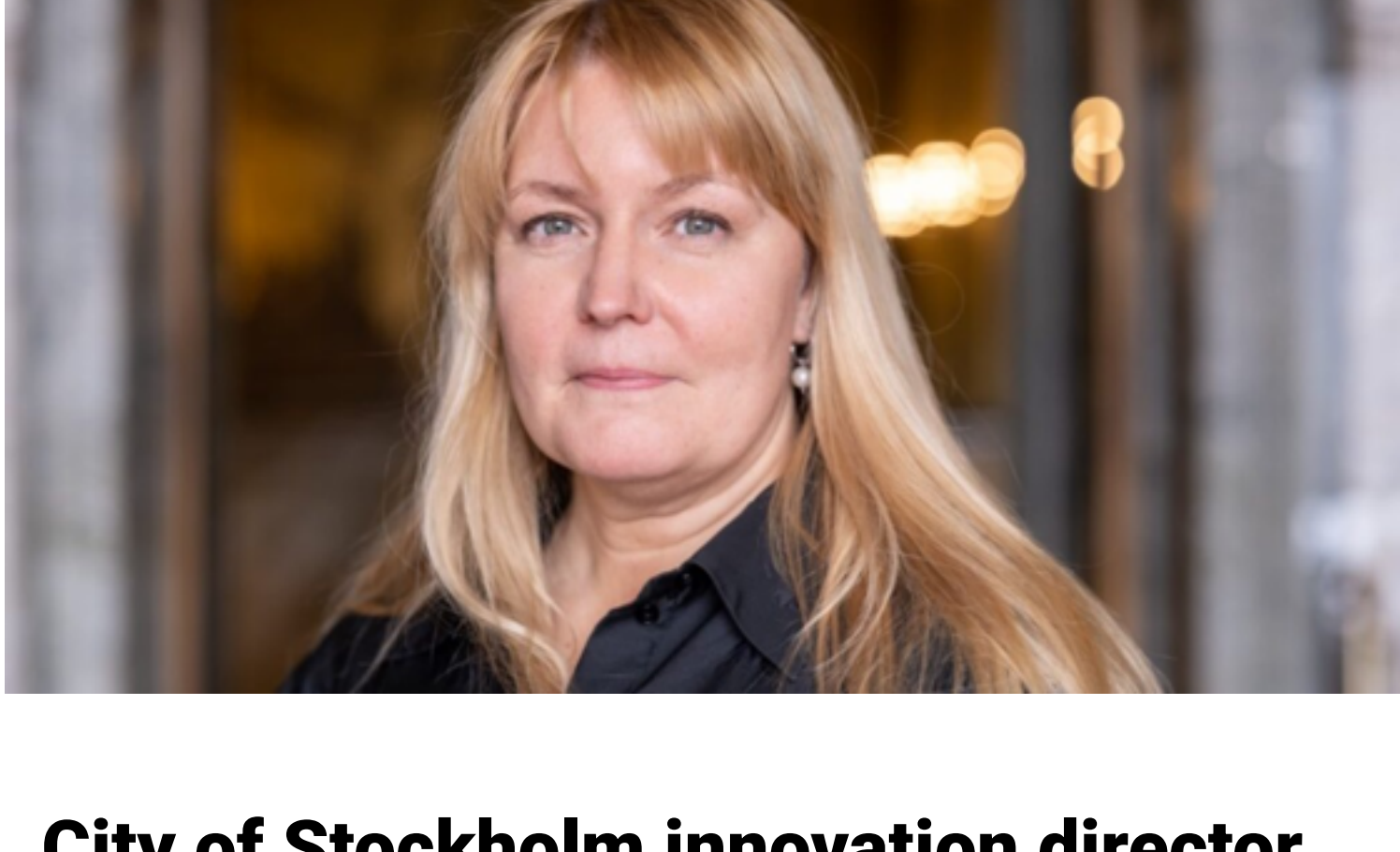
NEWSLETTER APRIL 2025



Connecting Minds, Shaping Digital Futures: Highlights from Open Research Day 2025

On April 9, 2025, the Digital Futures Open Research Day brought together a vibrant community of researchers, industry partners, and societal stakeholders at KTH's main campus in Stockholm. Hosted at the Architecture School building and Digital Futures hub, the event showcased the breadth and depth of research driving digital transformation in Sweden and beyond...

Highlights from Open Research Day 2025



City of Stockholm innovation director wins award for industrial collaboration

Karin Ekdahl Wästberg, the Director of Innovation for the City of Stockholm and chair of Digital Futures Societal Committee, has been awarded the KTH Prize for industrial collaboration. She is passionate about innovation and helping young people realize that higher education is possible.

"We are a mega-organisation with 46,000 employees and one of Sweden's largest employers. One of my tasks is to ensure that the city can be used as a test bed for research and innovation. We are becoming a smarter city with all our collaborations and learning," says Karin Ekdahl Wästberg.

Karin Ekdahl Wästberg awarded KTH Prize



Francesca Larosa co-authors landmark nature sustainability piece on "Earth Alignment" for AI

A new opinion piece co-authored by Digital Futures postdoctoral researcher Francesca Larosa was published on 28 March in Nature Sustainability, introducing a groundbreaking concept: the Earth alignment principle for artificial intelligence (AI).

Larosa, a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellow at KTH and affiliated with the KTH Climate Action Centre, contributed to this international effort aimed at aligning AI development with planetary sustainability goals...

Francesca Larosa article on "Earth Alignment" for AI



Bridging AI, Earth Observation, and Urban Sustainability: Stefanos Georganos' journey from Digital Futures to Karlstad University

How can Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Earth Observation (EO) contribute to more accurate urban population predictions in rapidly growing cities? This was the central question of the POPAI project, led by Stefanos Georganos during his postdoctoral fellowship at Digital Futures.

With a strong focus on the Global South, his research explored innovative ways to address critical data gaps and support evidence-based policymaking for sustainable urban development. Now, as an Associate Professor at Karlstad University, Stefanos continues to push the boundaries of geospatial research, applying machine learning and remote sensing to tackle socio-economic inequalities. In this interview, we discuss how his time at Digital Futures shaped his career, the impact of his research, and his vision for the future...

Stefanos Georganos' journey from Digital Futures to Karlstad University



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



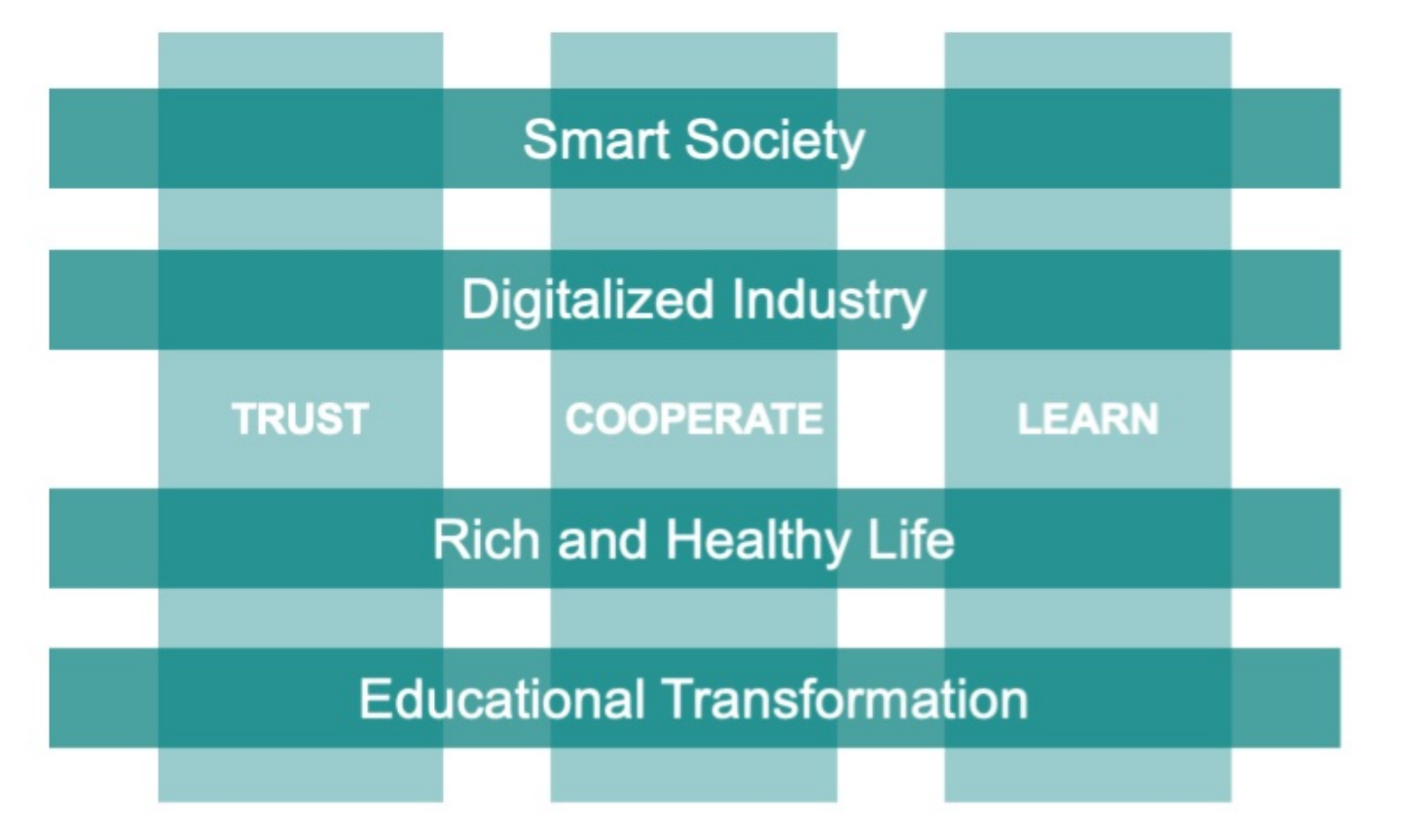
Open call: Topic proposal for the Digital Futures Focus Period 2026

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 at non-Swedish universities with financial support to enable short and longer-term visits to the Digital Futures environment.

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

Digital Futures Scholar-in-Residence programme

Key events in 2025

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



REGISTRATION IS OPEN - sign up now for Digitalize in Sthlm 2025

The Theme: AI EVERYWHERE – Exploring the Challenges, Risks, and Opportunities of Autonomous Systems

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, 09:00-17:00

followed by mingle

Where: Onsite at Münchenbryggeriet, Stockholm

Attendance is free of charge.

11 November

More information on Digitalize in Sthlm website

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.

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