

# digital futures

NEWSLETTER MAY 2025



## Championing Human-Centered Cybersecurity: Asreen Rostami's Journey from Digital Futures to RISE

Cybersecurity is often viewed as a purely technical field, but Asreen Rostami's work challenges this perception. During her postdoctoral fellowship at Digital Futures, she focused on making cybersecurity more inclusive, integrating feminist principles such as diversity, autonomy, respect, and consent into digital security frameworks. Her research explored the human aspects of Internet of Things (IoT) security, particularly its impact on marginalized groups.

In this interview, Asreen shares insights into her research journey from postdoctoral fellow at Digital Futures to Senior Researcher at RISE, the challenges of building gender-inclusive cybersecurity, and how her time at Digital Futures shaped her current role...

Asreen Rostami's Journey from Digital Futures to RISE



## Digital Futures Researcher Receives Prestigious GEO Lifetime Achievement Award

Professor Yifang Ban, a leading researcher at Digital Futures and KTH Royal Institute of Technology, has been honored with the GEO Lifetime Achievement Award at the GEO Global Forum held on May 7, 2025. The award recognizes her extraordinary, career-spanning contributions to the field of Earth Observation (EO) and her deep alignment with the mission and core values of the Group on Earth Observations (GEO).

Reflecting on her work, Professor Ban stated: "By championing open data and accessible tools, fostering global collaboration, and building capacity across diverse communities, I strive to bridge the gap between scientific innovation and real-world application."

Yifang Ban awarded GEO Lifetime Achievement Award

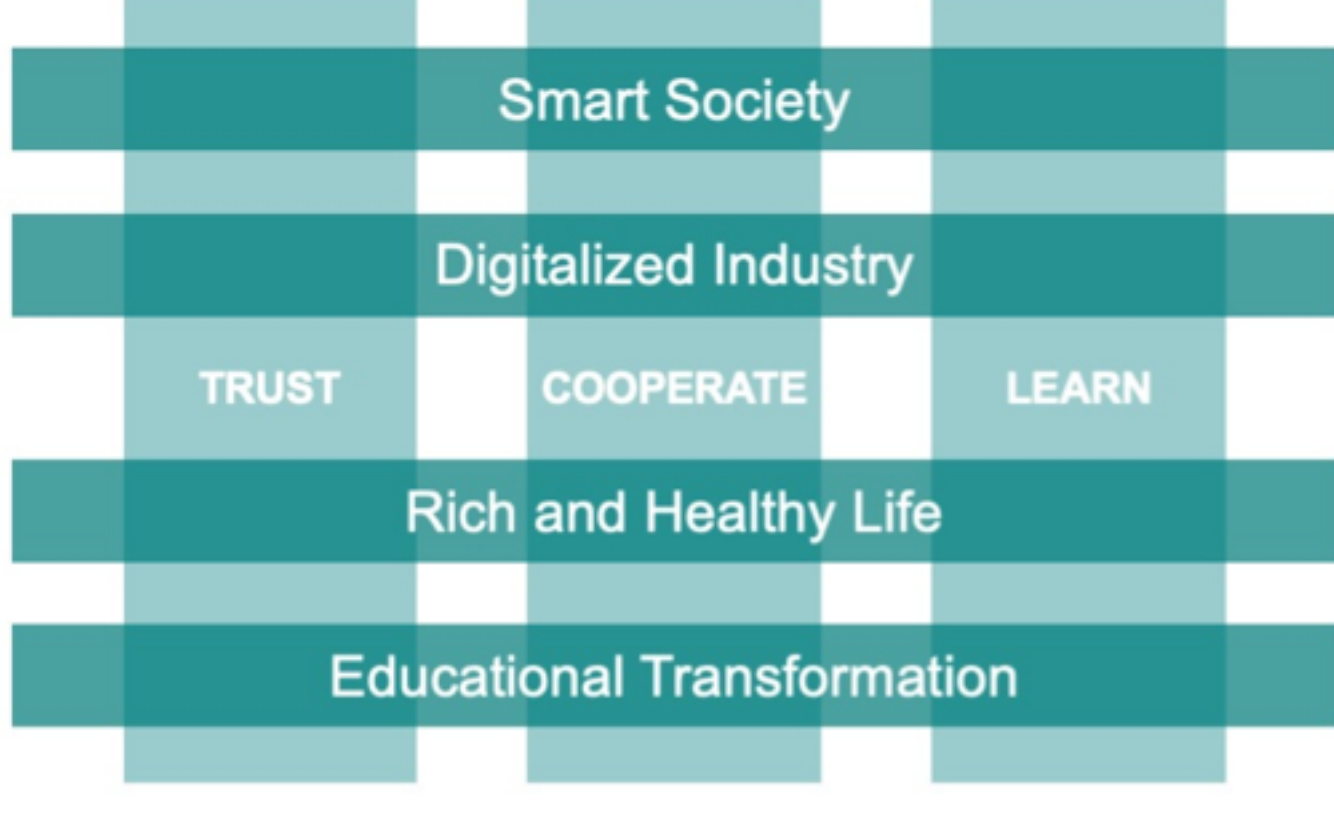


## Shaping the Future Together: Digital Futures Faculty Workshop Builds Momentum for 2025–2030

On May 7, 2025, nearly 90 faculty members and invited guests gathered at the historic Piperska Muren in Stockholm for the Digital Futures Faculty Workshop. Against the backdrop of this Baroque-era venue, participants engaged in lively discussions, strategic planning, and networking focused on advancing digitalization research and academic collaboration.

The theme of the workshop was "Digital Futures Faculty and Partner Networking," offering a unique opportunity for faculty to stay informed about ongoing initiatives, upcoming funding calls, and future directions of the Digital Futures programme...

Digital Futures Faculty Workshop Builds Momentum



## Announcing second call for Flagship Projects - deadline 15 October

The Flagship project call is a funding instrument designed to support excellent scientific research and build competence and broad expertise towards digital transformation. Project proposals should be of the highest scientific quality and show originality, high impact, and an interdisciplinary approach. This instrument also aims to encourage collaboration between senior and early-career researchers to ensure the future need for researchers in the sciences of digital transformation. Collaboration with industry and society is encouraged.

**Project Proposal Registration:** 8 October 2025

**Proposal Submission Deadline:** 15 October 2025

Open call for Flagship Projects



## Open calls - deadline 2 June

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 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

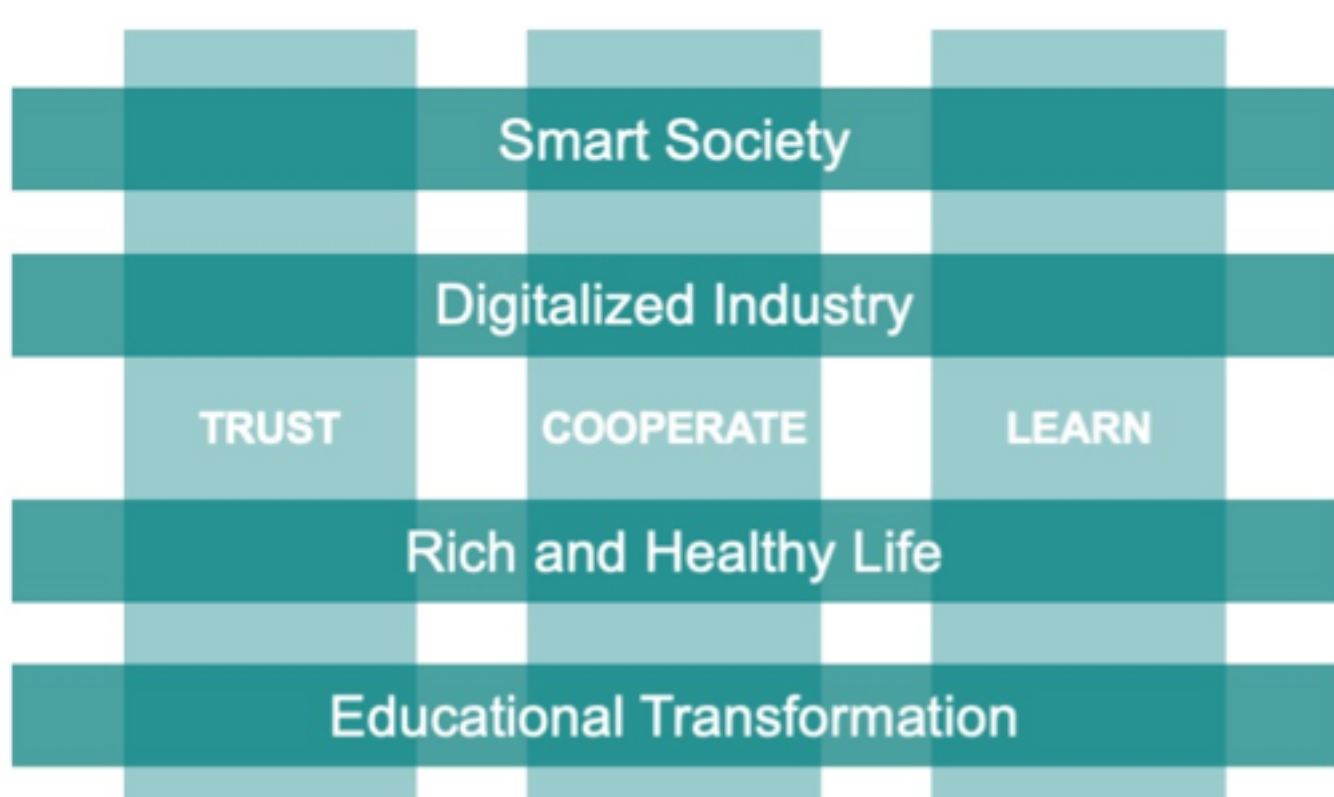


## Open call: Scholar-in-Residence programme - next deadline 9 June

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 9 June!**

Digital Futures Scholar-in-Residence programme



## Open calls for Demonstrator, Research Pairs and Research Pairs Consolidator projects - deadline 11 June

- **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

## 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 centre 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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