

digital futures

NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2020

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Photo: Jack B Unsplash

Season's Greetings from all of us to all of you!

2020 has been a year as no other, with challenges few of us have experienced before. It has also been a remarkable first year for Digital Futures.

We have initiated a [strategic research programme](#) with exciting cross-disciplinary projects on different aspects of digitalization.

Digital Futures hub was fully established and [inaugurated October 1](#) with a program that featured speeches from, among others, the Minister for Higher Education and Research Matilda Ernkrans.

Soon after followed [Digitalize in Stockholm 2020](#) on November 9-10, a fully digital event with some 550 participants from 40 countries. If you missed it – some of the much appreciated keynote talks can be viewed [here](#). The [Future Digileaders](#) workshop on November 11, brought together some 80 talented young researchers from over 20 countries.

When we close 2020 we have enjoyed a number of seminars and lectures, some 18 [Fly-high Fikas](#) and 16 [Dive-deep lunches](#). Topics have varied a lot – from Democracy-by-Design to New Perspectives on Classic Questions in the Theory of Graph Algorithms.

Our [Distinguished lectures](#) have been popular with speakers such as Munther A. Dahleh, Director of the newly formed MIT Institute for Data, Systems, and Society (IDSS), Moshe Y. Vardi from Rice University and last but not least Fosca Giannotti, director of research of computer science at the Information Science and Technology Institute "A. Faedo" of CNR, Pisa, Italy. January promises to be just as interesting!

Now I would like to thank you for being part of Digital Futures exciting journey during 2020 – the brilliant minds working in our research projects, collaborating partners, hardworking committees and staff at the hub, great presenters and participants at seminars, events and workshops – thank you all! We have a lot to look forward to in 2021, more to come in the next newsletter. Stay tuned!

Wishing you a happy and safe holiday season and a wonderful New Year 2021!

Karl H Johansson, Director Digital Futures

People at Digital Futures



Jana Tumová, Associate Director for Mobility, Digital Futures

Jana Tumová

In every newsletter you get to know the people at Digital Futures – the staff working at the centre or people being part of the community.

This time we talked to Jana Tumová, Associate Director Digital Futures and Associate Professor KTH Royal Institute of Technology, EECS, Division of Robotics, Perception and Learning.

Research means meeting incredible people and working with exciting issues!

Hi Jana Tumová, describe your role at Digital Futures?

- I am an Associate Director for mobility and I take care of activities that promote positioning Digital Futures as a leading international research hub. This includes a postdoc program attracting excellent young researchers to our environment, and organization of various seminar series to support scientific networking and knowledge dissemination. We have much more plans to launch next year, so stay tuned!

Your research interests are mainly in formal methods applied in decision making, motion planning, and control of autonomous systems – why did you decide to focus on these topics?

- I originally studied formal methods as a means to increase trust that various systems work as we expect. The passion for autonomous systems, self-driving car, and robotics came through collaborations during my PhD studies. By applying the powerful theory of formal methods I hope to improve the way the autonomous systems act and interact, to make them eventually safely and seamlessly integrated in our lives.

You were in the organising committee and the chair of the Future DigiLeaders* 2019 – and this year you were a panelist in one of the career workshops. What – in your opinion – could young researchers expect from an early academic career?

- Working with exciting issues, meeting incredible people, opportunities for a constant development. Freedom to choose and influence very many things both in long term and day-to-day. And of course, the responsibility and the challenges that come with the freedom – to make the right decisions, learn when to say yes and when to say no, structure one's time. And much more.

You have a young child. Do you think that parenthood impacts – if at all – the way we think about digitalization and do research?

- Of course it does! For me personally, I started putting more emphasis in my research on questions like "How am I making peoples' lives better? How am I making them safer? How am I making things more available and efficient so that people can spend less time on unsatisfying tasks and more time with their families, friends, and hobbies?"

* Future DigiLeaders is a career workshop for selected female researchers interested in the broad area of digitalization.

[Read more about lectures, seminars and other events](#)

Open Call



Digital Futures Research Program

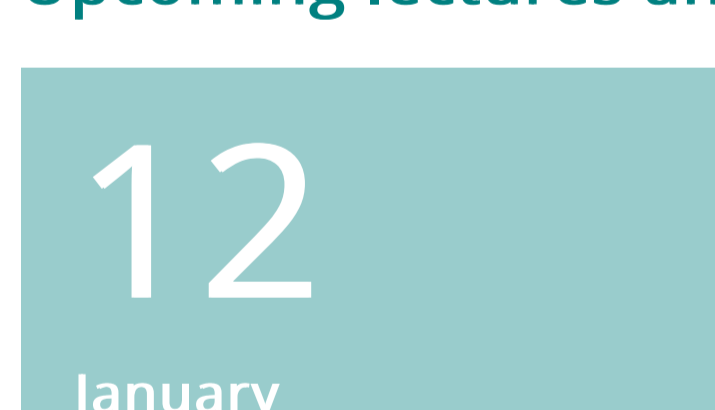
Collaborative projects targeting Diversity and Inclusion in technologies for a digital transformation

Digital Futures wants to facilitate collaboration between leading researchers at KTH, Stockholm University or RISE and researchers from a low or lower-middle income region such as Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, or similar.

Call closes: 31 January, 2021

[Read more & Apply](#)

Upcoming lectures and seminars



SEMINAR: 3pm-4pm

Ram Vasudevan – Assistant Professor in Mechanical Engineering and the Robotics Institute at the University of Michigan.

[Read more](#)



SEMINAR: 12pm-1pm

Kathlén Kohn – ASSISTANT Professor in Mathematics at KTH talks about **The geometry of neural networks**.

[Read more](#)



DISTINGUISHED LECTURE: 4pm-5pm

We proudly present **Steve Benford**, Dunford Professor of Computer Science at the University of Nottingham.

[Read more](#)



SEMINAR: 3pm-4pm

Henny Admoni – Assistant Professor in the Robotics Institute at Carnegie Mellon University.

[Read more](#)



SEMINAR: 12pm-1pm

Mareike Glöss – Postdoctoral fellow as part of the Digital Futures Research Initiative

[Read more](#)



SEMINAR: 3pm-4pm

Rose Luckin – Professor of Knowledge Centred Design at the UCL Knowledge Lab in London.

[Read more](#)



SEMINAR: 12pm-1pm

Dilijan Gurov - Associate Professor at the Department of Theoretical Computer Science (TCS) at EECS, KTH.

[Read more](#)



SUBSCRIBE to invitations!

Look forward to many more exciting seminars, workshops and distinguished guest speakers during 2021.

[Subscribe to seminar invitations!](#)

About us

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

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