

Short Bios



Dani SHANLEY (D.A.)

Maastricht University

Experts Session moderator

Rapporteur Public Conference

Dani is an Assistant Professor in the Philosophy Department at the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at Maastricht University in the Netherlands. Dani's expertise is mainly within science and technology studies (STS) and the philosophy of technology, with a particular focus on reflexive, participatory design methodologies (or, responsible innovation), such as social labs and value sensitive design (VSD). Dani currently works on AI and robotics, thinking with and through the lenses of responsibility, hype, and bullshit.

Dani leads the research cluster on the Ethics and Politics of Emerging Technologies and is also the coordinator of the graduate school program at the faculty.



Cécile HUET

Head of Unit, Excellence in Artificial Intelligence and Robotics (DG CNECT.A.1)

Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology (CNECT) at European Commission

Cécile joined the unit since its creation in 2004. Previously, she worked for the industry in signal processing after a post-doc at the University of California Santa Barbara and a PhD at University of Nice Sophia Antipolis.

About the Unit:

This unit funds and assists beneficial robotics and AI developments within Europe. The unit is in charge of one of the world's largest civilian programme in robotics with a budget of €700 million EU funding from Horizon 2020, supplemented by €2.1 billion from the European robotics

industry in the context of the Robotics Public-Private Partnership. The unit is coordinating the preparation of the AI activities in the next funding programmes, Horizon Europe and Digital Europe programmes. Currently the unit is working with the stakeholders on the next Partnership on AI, data and Robotics, defining the strategic research, development, innovation and deployment for Europe in these fields. Moreover, this unit is at the heart of the Communication on Artificial Intelligence for Europe, the Coordinated Plan on Artificial Intelligence and the Communication on Building Trust in Human-Centric Artificial Intelligence.



Liviu ŞTIRBAT

Head of Unit AI in Science

DG for Research and Innovation at the European Commission

Liviu is the Head of Unit for AI in Science in the DG for Research and Innovation at the European Commission. He worked previously as Member of Cabinet of EVP Margrethe Vestager in charge of innovation, space, and sustainability. He was

Deputy Head of EU Adaptation to Climate Change, and also Deputy Head for better regulation for Horizon Europe. Before the European Commission, he worked at the OECD and the World Bank.



Birgitta BERGVALL-KAREBORN

Vice-Chancellor

Luleå tekniska universitet

Birgitta Bergvall-Kåreborn is Professor of Informatics and has been Pro-Vice-Chancellor at the University before her appointment as Vice-Chancellor.

As a researcher, she was a driving force in the development of the area now known as "Living Lab", which has had a major impact both nationally and internationally. She was among the first academics internationally to study crowdsourcing as a phenomenon, the impact of these digital platforms on organizations' skills supply.



Elena Maria BARLIS

Deputy Rector of the Politecnico di Torino

Elena Maria Baralis, Deputy Rector of the Politecnico di Torino, has been a full professor in the Computer Engineering Department since January 2005. She holds a bachelor degree in Electrical Engineering and a Ph.D. in Computer and Systems Engineering, both from Politecnico di Torino.

She lectures on data science and machine learning, database systems and related technologies. She was the chair of the Control and Computer Engineering Department from October 2019 to October 2023.

Her current research interests are in the field of machine learning and data science, more specifically on explainable AI, bias detection in data analytics, and machine learning algorithms for big data. Her research activity also focuses on the study of algorithms for various machine learning tasks on diverse application domains (e.g., speech data, predictive maintenance, industry 4.0, health).

She has published over 200 papers in international journals (IEEE TKDE, IEEE TASLP, ACM TODS, ACM TOIS) and conference proceedings (IEEE ICDE, ICDM and ICASSP, VLDB, ACM SIGMOD, Interspeech). She visited IBM Almaden Research Labs (California), Stanford University Computer

Science Department, and Narus Inc. (California). She was general co-chair of the 30th ECML/PKDD (European Conference on Machine Learning) in 2023 and is currently program co-chair of IEEE ICDM 2024 (International Conference on Data Mining).

She has served as area chair and in the program committees of international conferences and workshops and is member of the editorial board of international journals. She was PI of several European and national research projects, and of industrial research collaborations.



Vanesa Daza Fernández

Vice-rector for Knowledge Transfer

Universitat Pompeu Fabra Barcelona

Vanesa Daza is an associate professor at the Department of Information and Communication Technologies at Pompeu Fabra University, where she is a member of the WiSeCom (Wireless and Secure Communications) research group, in which she leads research in the fields of cryptography

and cybersecurity.

She graduated in Mathematics (UB, 1999) and subsequently received her doctorate (UPC, 2004). In 2004 and 2005 she worked in the R&D department of an electronic voting company. In 2006 she joined Rovira i Virgili University as a Juan de la Cierva fellow, and in 2008 she began working at Pompeu Fabra University. She has done research stays at the University of Salerno (Italy), Aarhus University (Denmark), and Maynooth University (Ireland). She is co-author of more than 40 articles published in international journals and at top-level conferences. She also the co-holder of three patents.

Her research interests focus on distributed cryptography, especially its use to improve the privacy and security of blockchain technology. She has coordinated two European H2020 projects –BANdIT (ITN MSCA) and PRESENT (RIA)–, and a further three at national level. She has been the associate editor of two of the most prestigious journals in the field, IEEE Transactions on Information Forensics and Security and IEEE Transactions on Trustable and Secure Computing.

Before assuming the position of vice-rector for Knowledge Transfer, she has held several management positions, including head of studies at the School

of Engineering, as well as deputy director and subsequently director of the Department of Information and Communication Technologies.

Vanessa will not only be able to participate as expert in cryptography, but also as her current role at the UPF, as Vice-rector for Knowledge Transfer, bringing the gap between the University and the Public/Private business sector.



Brendan Rowan

Co- Chair Task Force Skills, BDVA | Managing Consultant, Tech, Policy & Skills, BluSpecs

With nearly 15 years of experience in the areas of research, consulting and venture support, he has supported and delivered on high-impact and flagship initiatives that span various tech areas from IoT to LLMs development to HPC and Quantum

Cryptography. He has a strong track record in the design and delivery of training and acceleration programmes with impact, that are tailored to the needs of participants and ensure engagement within the ecosystem and working on real-world experiences and exposure to deliver results not certificates. Summary results directly supported in the previous 6 years have included over 30 million euro raised, establishment of 25 companies, over 300 commercial agreements, 20 new patents.

He designs and directs large projects linked to the adoption of advanced digital technologies that are multi-stakeholder and work with the start-up and investment community, large corporates, and multi-level policy makers.

He regularly speaks on the areas of talent development for frontier tech, market readiness and tech transfer, strategic roadmaps and scaling of use cases and start-up ventures. Guest Lecturer in Masters in AI, Task Force Lead for Skills in the Big Data Value Association and Task Force Chair for Early Innovators and Ventures for the Alliance for IoT and Edge Innovation.



Massimo Busuoli

Director of NTNU Brussels office

Pro-Rector Research

Moderator High Level Dialogue session

Massimo Busuoli is Head of NTNU Brussels office since January 2016. He has a University Degree in Physics from the University of Bologna.

He has previously held position of Head of European Union and International Bodies Unit in ENEA (The Italian National Agency for New Technologies, the Energy and the Sustainable Economic Development) acting, since 2006, also as Director of ENEA Liaison office in Brussels.

From 2008 to 2015 he has been member of the Secretariat of the European Energy Research Alliance (EERA) which he coordinated from 2013.

From 2013 to 2015 he has also been member of the secretariat of IGLO (Informal Group of RTD Liaison Office) which chaired from July 2013 until June 2014.

He founded in 2011 the GIURI – Informal group of Italian liaison offices in Brussels of which he has been chair until 2013.

From 2005 until 2011 he has been also member of the board of Directors of CUP2000, an Italian e-care company.

Project evaluator and reviewer for the European Commission, he has managed several European projects in the 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th Framework programmes.

In 2014 he coordinated also the organisational secretariat of the SET PLAN conference held during the Italian Semester of Presidency in Rome.



Caroline Sundberg

Head of The Universities in South Sweden Brussels Representation

Moderator Public conference

Caroline Sundberg, Head of The Universities in South Sweden (Lärosäten Syd) Brussels Representation. The Universities in South Sweden is a regional platform that brings together [Blekinge Institute of Technology](#), [Halmstad University](#), [Kristianstad University](#), [Linnæus University](#), [Lund University](#), [Malmö University](#) and the [Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences](#).

The Brussels representations' role is to increase the profile of the universities at EU level, to improve the monitoring and influencing of EU policy programmes and to support the building of closer international partnerships. An overall goal is to support an increased participation in the EU framework programme for research and innovation.

Caroline is member of The Association of Swedish Higher Education Institutions (SUHF) Working Group on EU-policy and programme initiatives in research, innovation and higher education, an advisory group to the Expert Group on Internationalisation. Caroline has a background in Higher Education policy and has been based in Brussels since 2017. She has worked both in politics and policy over the years. Caroline is a Lund University alumnus in Political Science and Gender Studies and Erasmus alumni from Sciences Po, Paris.