



Ron Augustus

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"SURF's roadmap to open science"



In a world of exponentially growing data volumes, new research methods and techniques like AI and VR, an alleged reproducibility crisis, and the demand for science to be more democratic, transparent and inclusive, SURF is developing a roadmap contributing to make open science the norm. New entities like local and thematical digital competence centers, new communities and OpenScience.nl are changing the existing Dutch landscape in a European context. Together with SURF's members, this roadmap is aimed at supporting a digital commons.

Bio

Ron Augustus has been Chief Innovation Office (CINO) at SURF since September 2020. As CINO, his role is to drive innovation in higher education and research in the Netherlands within SURF in collaboration with its members and other stakeholders. After studying Business Administration at Erasmus University Rotterdam, Ron worked for 19 years in various positions at Oracle, then 9 years in the Senior Leadership Team of Microsoft Netherlands. In his last position there, as Customer Success Lead, he was responsible for architecture and adoption of Microsoft Teams in the Netherlands. In the role as CINO at SURF he combines his background in technological innovations with his passion for education and science.



Charon Duermeijer

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*“Governance to underline
collaboration principles”*



In this presentation, we plan to show how we have recently set up a governance structure as part of the current Dutch Open Science Collaboration to illustrate a public-private partnership which addresses digital autonomy in detail. We will share why this was an important step in the process, who was involved and how the structure was implemented. Finally we show how the governance works in practice and what has been the result of this collaboration.

Bio

Charon Duermeijer is currently Director of Content Acquisition at Elsevier. She has a PhD in Geophysics from Utrecht University. Over the past 20+ years, she has held various externally focused management positions for Elsevier, within publishing, sales and academic relations.

She is also an executive board member of STT (Stichting Toekomstbeeld der Techniek/Netherlands Study Centre for Technology Trends), where future explorations are carried out at the interface of technological developments and their possible influences on society. She recently set up a mentorship program for Elsevier in collaboration with UAF (Foundation for Refugee Students). She is intrinsically motivated in her daily work to understand what drives different people and organizations and has a passion for translating obstacles into solutions.

Linked in



Azar Koulibaly

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“Public Values in the Digital Age: Challenges and Opportunities for the Netherlands”



In his presentation, Azar will discuss the ways in which people, institutions, and companies in the Netherlands could choose to define Digital Sovereignty, and how those different definitions align with The Netherlands' public values and societal goals. He will also propose ways in which the Netherlands could ensure that its continued adoption of new technological advancements aligns to those values and goals while also providing flexibility to capture the benefits of the modern digital economy. Finally, he will discuss the role Microsoft can play as it seeks to support various parts of Dutch society (including individuals, and the public and private sector) as they seek to maximize the benefits of the increased pace of technological innovation (e.g., AI) and scientific advancement in a principled and responsible manner.

Bio

Azar Koulibaly is an accomplished legal professional and currently serves as the Associate General Counsel and General Manager of Corporate, External & Legal Affairs for the Netherlands and Switzerland at Microsoft. He is based in Amsterdam, where he leads the company's legal and government affairs teams across both the Netherlands and Switzerland, providing support for commercial transactions, government relations, and regulatory counsel on public policy issues such as cybersecurity, competition, privacy, and international trade. Azar joined Microsoft in 2013 and over the past 10 years he has held a variety of senior roles at Microsoft in Europe and in its U.S. Prior to joining Microsoft, Azar worked in private practice in Seattle, practicing primarily in the field of Mergers and Acquisitions. Azar was born in the United States but spent the majority of his childhood living in the Netherlands. He graduated from Northern Arizona University with a B.S. in Political Science and received his Juris Doctorate from the University of Virginia School of Law.

Linked in

Jan Wöpking

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“Current approaches to digital sovereignty in German academia”



Digital sovereignty is a topic that is attracting more and more attention in the German scientific landscape. The experiences during and after the corona pandemic have had a particularly catalytic effect here. In my presentation, I will give a brief overview of the state of the debate in Germany, followed by examples of current and planned projects that are developing new ways of handling data with sovereignty.

Bio

Dr Jan Wöpking serves as Managing Director of German U15, the association of fifteen leading, research-intensive universities in Germany. Before this role, he was Head of Strategy at a large research institution. He studied philosophy and business informatics in Jena, Berlin, Paris, and London, among other places. He completed a PhD at the Excellence Cluster Topoi at Freie Universität Berlin.

In his work, Dr Wöpking bridges the fields of science, innovation, and politics. He is committed to creating the best conditions for research universities, so that they can thrive as centers of societal progress—championing groundbreaking research, excellence in teaching and entrepreneurial spirit. In a time marked by crises and geopolitical tensions, Dr Wöpking is particularly invested to promote international cooperation between top universities.

Linked in

Karen Maex

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“How to redesign and govern a digitised global society”



In a previous paper we addressed the importance of independent knowledge and discussed how upcoming private platforms, although efficient, might become a threat for the public value of knowledge. These platforms are very effective for creating and sharing scientific knowledge, but they are set up as well as managed in a private sphere.

In this contribution I argue that extensive use of platforms does impact our society in a broader sense. Platforms do not limit their activities to information. They also impact and reshape the societal fabric.

With digitalisation and related that also globalisation, a large part of current challenges of society have become complexity questions. That reflects definitely on the processes for creating and sharing scientific knowledge.

The design of democratic public governance structures, however, has lost effectiveness in this digital revolution. To that end we need to find ways to redesign the public space and its interference with the private space. Digital sovereignty is a topic that is attracting more and more attention in the German scientific landscape. The experiences during and after the corona pandemic have had a particularly catalytic effect here. In my presentation, I will give a brief overview of the state of the debate in Germany, followed by examples of current and planned projects that are developing new ways of handling data with sovereignty.