

With around 31,000 students from over 120 nations, Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz (JGU) is one of the largest and most diverse universities in Germany. The Technology & Innovation Sociology / Social Simulation Laboratory (TISSS Lab) at JGU is our research infrastructure for combining empirical quantitative and qualitative social research with modelling, gamification workshops and agent-based scenario simulations.

The funder



The AI FORA research project is funded by German Volkswagen Foundation running from 2021 to 2024. The AI FORA workshop at Kylemore is additionally funded by the Interdisciplinary Public Policy unit Mainz.



About AI FORA (<https://www.ai-fora.de>)

In many countries, public administrations increasingly use Artificial Intelligence (AI) algorithms to decide on public service provisions among their citizens. Citizen profiles are assessed for their worthiness to receive public services, scoring using value criteria to distinguish between legal /fraudulent recipients, deserving/non-deserving, or needy/non-needy. Although types and degrees of AI implementation vary between countries, delegating decisions about the distribution of scarce resources based on value judgements to machines leads everywhere to important questions of ethics, justice, quality, responsibility, accountability, and transparency of welfare decisions. However, perceptions, attitudes and acceptance of AI use in service provision vary between countries due to different norms and values in-use, different technology status, economic models, civil society sentiments, and legislative, executive and judicial characteristics. The objective of the AI FORA project is to understand the status quo and the future options of AI-based social assessment in public service provisions in order to create improved AI technology for social welfare systems. Based on data from empirical country case studies in Germany, Estonia, Spain, India, China, Iran, Ukraine, Nigeria and the USA, gamification and experimental scenario simulations will guide participatory co-design of societal stakeholders in a Better-AI Lab built by the AI FORA partnership between computer science and the social sciences.

The coordinator: Prof. Dr. Petra Ahrweiler, TISSS Lab, Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, Jakob-Welder-Weg 20, 55128 Mainz, Germany

AI FORA WORKSHOP, 1-3 November 2022

The role of AI for global social goods provision in times of crisis

How the world deals with the war in Ukraine



Invitation to participate in AI FORA's Ukraine case study

Organised by Johannes Gutenberg University (JGU) Mainz, Germany



A workshop at The University of Notre Dame's Global Centre at Kylemore to improve social service provision in welfare systems

The Workshop for AI FORA's Ukraine case study will explore social welfare policies and logistics in times of crisis.

HELP TO CO-CREATE SOLUTIONS! AI FORA

artificial intelligence for assessment

ABOUT

The Ukrainian welfare system is under severe pressure, but it is still working. People can apply for social services through an App called "Diia", which many Ukrainians have on their mobile phones, and which connects more than eighty national authorities. With the help of Diia, Government provides financial assistance to citizens, both in- and outside of the country, but details sensitive to location and other attributes of the mobile phone holder (e.g. some services do not work for people outside the Ukraine where host countries have taken responsibilities for refugees).

The war in the Ukraine has elicited an unprecedented shoulder-to-shoulder cooperation of Western national welfare systems: Many types of social goods provision - be it food, clothing, medical help, military devices, refugees and migrants' admission policies, or donations for monetary support of vulnerable groups confronted with barriers - have been provided. Data were freely exchanged to bring goods to the needy. Huge logistic efforts that had to be made were supported by new techniques of digitalization such as data analytics and Artificial Intelligence (AI) hoping for efficiency and objectivity gains in allocation.

The App, the still existing welfare system in the Ukraine, and the relationship of that system to the supporter countries is the general topic of this workshop. Its agenda will include an experimental session where people can explain whether and how they use the App, how they like it and what their suggestions are for improvement. The international AI FORA consortium as well as experts and researchers from Ukraine will also participate online in plenary sessions to discuss the workshop questions.

Workshop details

What is the situation of the Ukrainian welfare system in time of war? What is the story of the App? How does the App work? Where are problems and issues for improvement? How is the App discussed among Ukrainians? How do supporter countries react concerning social service needs in time of war? What is the interplay between the Ukrainian welfare system and supporter countries? What role does (digital) technology play to organise this interplay?

This workshop will bring together first-hand experience of Ukrainian refugees with actors and networks involved at international, national and regional level to discuss answers to the questions mentioned. The workshop will build on the existing cooperation between JGU and its Ukrainian case study partners from V.N. Karazin Kharkiv National University, the community of Ukrainian refugees in Clifden (Connemara, Ireland), and the experience of the international AI FORA scientific case study partners including the Safe Space Kylemore Abbey that has a background in running multi-stakeholder workshops for technology co-design in complex societal challenge areas.

The Workshop venue

The workshop will use the modern facilities of The University of Notre Dame's Global Centre at Kylemore, a cooperation between Notre Dame University (USA) and the Benedictine community of Kylemore Abbey, located in County Galway/Connemara about 77 kilometers away from Galway City.



The workshop is free of charge for invited participants. Travel and catering will be organised and funded by AI FORA. However, the workshop requires confirmed participation and commitment, because places are limited. All participants will receive an expense allowance at the end of the workshop.

Contact

- Petra Ahrweiler petra.ahrweiler@uni-mainz.de
- Conor Coyne conor.coyne@kylemoreabbey.ie