CData RE Annual Festival

Reclaiming Techno-Optimism
Building for Context. Culture. Community.

Date: June 9-12, 2026

Location: Utrecht/Amsterdam/Hague: The Netherlands

Organized by the Inclusive AI Lab

In partnership with University of Oslo, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Institution for Open Societies, Internet Archive EU, Governing the Digital Society, Data School, Unfurl Futures, NAO International

The Reclaiming Techno-Optimism Data CARE Festival invites the public and private sector to move beyond the tired tug-of-war between AI hype and AI doom. While headlines swing between promises of miracle machines and warnings of total collapse, diverse communities including across Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East are quietly building something different: practical, hopeful, grounded AI that contributes to solving everyday problems and strengthens collective futures. This festival celebrates the people and places where AI is not an abstract Silicon Valley fantasy nor a dystopian threat, but a shared tool for food security in Kenya, feminist safety networks in Latin America, creative archives in Southeast Asia, civic data commons in India, and accessible public services in rural China. Rather than glorifying disruption or fearing automation, we reclaim optimism as a civic and ethical stance rooted in care, repair, equity, and social imagination. Over these days, global leaders, artists, technologists, activists, and policymakers will come together to co-shape what hopeful technological futures can look like — plural, situated, Majority-World led, and grounded in lived realities rather than speculation. This is techno-optimism without the hype: AI as a relational, community-driven ecosystem where innovation grows from necessity, resilience, and responsibility.

At a Glance

DAY 1: June 9, 2026

17:00-19:30: Fellows Soiree, *Amsterdam*	**17:00-18:30:** Speakers Welcome, *Utrecht*

DAY 2: June 10, 2026 | Utrecht

08:30-09:00:   Coffee, tea, registrations
09:00-09:15:   Welcome Note
09:15-10:15:   Panel: Hope-oriented approaches
10:15-10:45:   Podcast Launch: on Responsible AI Season 2
10:45-11:15:   Coffee Break
11:15-12:00:   Demo
12:00-13:00:   Lunch
13:00-15:00:   Deep Dive sessions: Future-making AI

1/ Situated AI Ethics	2/ Response-Ability, AI, and the Art of Pause	3/ Crafting AI
4/ Ubuntu Approach to AI Futures	5/ Circular Economy and Sustainable AI Capacity Development	6/ Feminist AI Ecosystem

15:00-15:30:   Coffee break
15:30-16:00:   Interactive Experience
16:00-16:45:   Mapping insights
17:30-19:00:   **Connected Power Launch**: Networking Drinks

DAY 3: June 11, 2026 | Amsterdam/ The Hague
11:00-16:00:   Field Visits

#1: Behind the Scenes of AI	#2: Slow AI Safari	#3: Diversifying Creative storytelling with AI
#4: Markets, Meals & Meaning	#5: The Circular Economy and Sustainable AI	#6: Feminist AI in Practice

17:00-21:00:   Threads & Tables

DAY 4: June 12 | Utrecht
09:30-17:00:   Collaboration for Good: InAI Lab PhD Led Event

Workshop # 1: From Research to Collaboration	Workshop # 2: Creative Methods Matter	Workshop # 3: Feminist AI in Practice

Program

DAY 1: June 9, 2026 Fellows Soiree, Amsterdam [BY INVITE]

Hosted *by* Internet Archive Europe

Address: Oudeschans 16 Amsterdam 1011 KZ Netherlands

17:00- 17:30: Welcome note: Prof. Payal Arora, Professor of Inclusive AI Cultures, Inclusive AI Lab Co-Founder; Rana Kuseyri, Responsible AI Researcher, Inclusive AI Lab

17:30- 18:30: Evening panel dialogue 'When Archives Speak Back: Power, Data, and AI Storytelling'

Join us for a cross-sectoral and cultural dialogue that asks whose stories shape the data futures of AI—from Nigeria's vibrant pop culture ecosystems, Dutch colonial archives to the collective economies within European cultural institutions and organizations. As AI systems increasingly draw from historical and digital archives to generate narratives, images, and knowledge, long-standing imbalances in whose voices are preserved, valued, and amplified become ever more consequential. This evening's soiree brings together artists, archivists, researchers, and cultural practitioners to explore what it means to build archives that speak back to power.

Moderated by Kirthi Jayakumar, head of research and training, civitatem resolutions, Research Affiliate, the Inclusive AI Lab (India)

Beatrice Murch, Program Manager, Internet Archive Europe (NL)

Dr. Jaswina Elahi , Assistant Professor, Utrecht University, PI on heritage building of postcolonial migrant groups and Dutch cultural policy

Franklin Ozekhome, Pop Culture Architect. Founder of Pop Culture Varsity, Creator of HumanOS and Advertising Humans (Nigeria)

Vincenzo Scagliarini, Head of Research @ Logotel | Strategy & Innovation, Editor of Award winning collaborative economy project Weconomy (Italy)

18:30-19:30 Drinks

DAY 1: June 9, 2026 Speakers Welcome, Utrecht [BY INVITE]

Address: [Johanna Westerdijk Room, Academy Building](#), Domplein 29, 3512 JE Utrecht

17:00-17:30 Welcome note by Inclusive AI Lab Advisors: [Dr. Laura Herman](#), Head of AI Research, Adobe; Curator of Digital Art, V&A Museum and [Prof. Preeti Shroff](#), Founder NAO International; Co-organizer; Program overview by Feminist AI Researcher [Weijie Huang](#), Inclusive AI Lab.

17:30-18:30 Drinks

DAY 2: June 10, 2026 Utrecht

Venue: [De Zalen van Zeven](#), Boothstraat 7, 3512 BT Utrecht

8:30-9:00: Coffee, tea, registrations

9:00-9:15: Welcome Note: [Prof. Thomas Vaessens](#), Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, Utrecht University

9:15-10:15 Panel (Hybrid): Hope-oriented approaches: Building AI to work for us

Moderated by [Dr. Astrid Mager,](#) Senior Academy Scientist at Institute of Technology Assessment, Austrian Academy of Sciences (Austria)

[Carine Roos,](#) Researcher at the University of Sheffield, previously the Founder & CEO of Newa, a social impact consultancy (Brazil)

[Siddhi Gupta](#), Design Director, Inclusive AI Lab (India)

[Ron Guerrier](#), Chief Technology Officer Save the Children, Former Illinois Secretary of Innovation, CIO Hall of Fame Inductee, USC Doctoral Candidate (USA)

[Prof. Pan Ji,](#) Professor in the Journalism School and the Center for Information and Communication Studies, Fudan University Shanghai (China)

10:15-10:45 Podcast Launch: on Responsible AI Season 2

Eduardo Briceño, Director of Strategic Communications, FTI Consulting & Inclusive AI Podcast host (Colombia)

Interviewed by,

Rana Kuseyri, Inclusive AI lab's Responsible AI Researcher & UU PhD working on the NL welfare state (NL)

10:45-11:15: Coffee Break

11:15-12:00 Demo by Franklin Ozekhome, Pop Culture Architect. Founder of Pop Culture Varsity, and creator of HumanOS and Advertising Humans (Nigeria)

Introduced by Eduardo Briceño

12:00-13:00: LUNCH

13:00-15:00: Deep Dive sessions: Future-making AI

Venues:

These deep dive sessions align with the core themes of the Inclusive AI Lab: Responsible AI Governance, Cross-Cultural AI Ethics in Practice, Diversifying Creative AI Data Practices, Sustainable AI and Feminist AI Approaches to Platforms of Power. Hosted by affiliate labs, each session brings together civic, academic, tech, creative, and policy perspectives to enable collective deliberation and build shared insights.

(*Expression of interest prior registration: capped at 20 ppl)

1/ Situated AI Ethics – How to Move from Values to Action?

Hosted by DEMGES (Democracy in Digital Societies), Austrian Academy of Sciences (Austria)

Leads: Dr. Astrid Mager, Austrian Academy of Sciences (Austria); Dr. Mirko Tobias Schäfer, Utrecht University, Data School

Convening leads: Rana Kuseyri, Responsible AI Researcher at the Inclusive AI Lab; Samuel Briones Barrales, PhD in Care+ AI UU; Constanze Kerres, Research and Teaching Associate at Vienna University of Economics and Business.

This workshop invites AI ethicists, legal and governance scholars, policymakers, political activists and related stakeholders to examine how democratic, context-sensitive approaches to AI governance can be translated into concrete practice. Building on earlier work on *situated ethics* (Mager et al. 2025), which challenges the universality of AI ethics principles largely drafted in the Global North, we focus on how ethical frameworks can be grounded in the lived experiences and sociotechnical realities of diverse communities. We will explore how globally circulating ethics principles might be opened up and diversified, how bottom-up and locally rooted approaches can be strengthened, and how human rights and international law can serve as essential guardrails in preventing discriminatory or harmful practices. The workshop asks how AI ethics can foster more democratic modes of AI development and governance at a time of expanding technological power and growing authoritarianism.

Goal: Co-create hopeful, situated, cultural-driven AI ethical futures through collective visioning, contextual engagement, and equitable design principles.

Provocateurs:

[Prof. Hendrik Wagenaar](), Research Fellow, Centre for the Study of Contemporary Solidarity, University of Vienna (Austria)

[Anant Mani,]() Founder and CEO of Report Bee, a platform for measuring and improving education; RandomWalk AI (India)

[Carine Roos,]() Researcher at the University of Sheffield, previously the Founder & CEO of Newa, a social impact consultancy (Brazil)

[Monique Steijns,]() Founder of The People's AI GENCY strategic legal, policy and leadership advice in technology (NL)

[Prof. Mara A. Yerkes](), Professor of Comparative Social Policy, Utrecht University and Research Associate at the

Center for Social Development in Africa at the University of Johannesburg

Prof. Pinar Yolum, Professor and Chair of Trustworthy AI, Utrecht University (NL)

2/ Response-Ability, AI, and the Art of Pause

Hosted by HumAI: A Humanities Hub for the Reimagination of AI, University of Oslo Norway

Lead: Prof. Taina Bucher, Professor of Media and Communication, University of Oslo

Convening leads: Hanan de Sain, Inclusive AI Lab Cultural AI Researcher and PhD UU; Dr. Yichen Rao, Assistant Professor of Cultural Anthropology and China AI Lead

This workshop invites designers, entrepreneurs, futurists, and creative researchers to explore what is often left out of dominant AI narratives: the human experiences that seem destined to be displaced by AI, from boredom and clumsiness to the slow rhythms of dwelling, pausing, and reflection. Rather than resisting technology or romanticizing the past, we will cultivate mindfulness about the present, interrogating what it means to live well in the age of AI. Inspired by Donna Haraway's notion of response-ability (2016) — the capacity to recognize, respond to, and care for the consequences of technology — participants will engage in collective reflection and design experimentation to rethink how AI shapes human life. This workshop helps cultivate participants' abilities to respond thoughtfully to AI-driven futures, questioning dominant narratives of speed, productivity, and optimization.

Goals: To explore what AI might displace in human experience, cultivate thoughtful response-ability, integrate diverse local perspectives, and engage participants in reflective, experiential design exercises.

Provocateurs:

Dr.Sumita Sharma, PI for Age Against the Machine (ATOM) project, Research Fellow at INTERACT (Finland)

Prof. Ahmed Al Khateeb, Professor of Technology-enhanced Learning, King Faisal University & Founder, Learning Intelligence Community, Artificial Intelligence Governance Association (Saudi Arabia)

Dr. Dyah Pitaloka, Associate Professor in Marketing & Digital Communications, Monash University (Indonesia)

Ulrike Quade, artistic director at Ulrike Quade Company (NL)

Sonia Jorge, Founder and Executive Director, Global Digital Inclusion Partnership (USA)

3/ Crafting AI: Cultural Representation and Fairness for Globally-Informed Creative Practices

Hosted by the Creative AI Cluster, Inclusive AI Lab

Leads: Prof. Payal Arora, Professor of Inclusive AI Cultures & Inclusive AI Lab Director Dr.Laura Herman, Head of AI Research, Adobe; Curator of Digital Art, V&A Museum; Inclusive AI Lab Advisor

Convening Leads: Jingzhi Chen, Inclusive AI Visiting Fellow, Zhejiang University (China); Siddhi Gupta, PhD UU, Design Director, Inclusive AI Lab (India)

As AI reshapes cultural production, whose cultures, values, and creative labour are being represented—and whose are missing? This workshop invites artists, creatives, archivists, cultural sector workers, scholars, and creative technologists to explore how creative and cultural organizations can partner with creators, especially in the Majority World, to co-develop fair, ethical, and representative datasets. Through concrete examples and

participatory discussion, the session examines how extractive data practices can be transformed into collaborative, care-centred approaches grounded in consent, attribution, and value-sharing. Participants will reflect on how to build ethical, sustainable, and globally informed creative data with and for AI.

Goal: To enable creative and cultural practitioners to move from extractive AI data practices toward collaborative, care-centred models —particularly in collaboration with creators from the Majority World.

Provocateurs:

Jeroen van Loon, Life Needs Internet artist project (NL)

Eva Maršálková Founder of You're not a robot! (NL)

Asad Ayub, Director, Madhatter; A.I. Film Fest (NL)

Dr.Lindsey DeWitt Prat, Research leader translating languages, cultures, and complexity across technological contexts, Director, Bold Insight, EPIC Board (France)

Franklin Ozekhome, Founder of Pop Culture Varsity, and creator of HumanOS and Advertising Humans (Nigeria)

Stefano Bajak, Film maker and founder of Inti Films, an organization of storytellers and visual artists who believe in the power of creativity to inspire change(NL/Ecuador)

Eduardo Briceño, Director of Strategic Communications, FTI Consulting & Inclusive AI Podcast host (Colombia)

Stuart Acker Holt, Filmmaker & Photographer, Creator of The Most Interesting Person, Visual Ethnographer

4/ Ubuntu Approach to AI Futures

This Ubuntu Futures Workshop aims to explore how Ubuntu inspired foresight methodologies can inform inclusive, ethical, and localized innovations in security, biodiversity, and digital governance. The workshop will link local knowledge systems, future-oriented science, and emerging AI applications in institutional and environmental management through the lens of human, planetary and extraplanetary flourishing. We will explore integrative perspectives on shared futures - from local communities and social infrastructures to eco- and solar systems, whose interaction requires new forms of responsibility and design. Desirable AI is context-dependent and provides the tools to map old terrain and navigate new discoveries. By reflecting not only on sustainable and ethical but also on desirable technological futures, we can think together about how to direct collective knowledge toward collective flourishing.

Goal: To convene practitioners, policymakers, technologists, and scholars to co-design inclusive AI futures grounded in Ubuntu ethics, local knowledge, and future-oriented innovation.

Provocators:

Christiane Schäfer, Coordinator of Desirable AI, University of Bonn (Germany)

[Dr.Brigitta Iványi-Bitter](#), Research Fellow at Moholy-Nagy University of Art and Design(Hungary)

[Dr. Chux Daniels,](#) Transformative Innovation Policy, University of Pretoria, Director, Transformative Innovation Africa Hub(UK/South Africa)

[Ron Guerrier](#), Chief Technology Officer Save the Children | Former Illinois Secretary of Innovation | CIO Hall of Fame Inductee | USC Doctoral Candidate: AI (USA)

[Prof. Sennay Ghebreab](#), Professor, Founder & Scientific Director, Civic AI Lab| University of Amsterdam

[Dr. Adina Nerghes](#), Senior Researcher and Impact Measurement Specialist at Oxfam Novib (The Netherlands)

5/ Circular Economy and Sustainable AI Capacity Development: Global to Grassroots Design Innovations

Hosted by NAO International.

Leads: [Prof. Preeti Shroff](#) , Founder NAO International; [Birgit Geiberger](#), Global Head of Product UX Design, IKEA; Industry Advisor, Inclusive AI Lab

Convening leads: [Adil Boughlala](#), Sustainable AI researcher, Inclusive AI lab (NL); [Dr. Dennis Nguyen,](#) Assistant Professor of Digital Literacy & Digital Methods UU, AI Methods lead, Inclusive AI Lab; [Dr. Lianne Toussaint](#), Assistant Professor Media, Art & Society UU

This workshop explores how circular economy principles are being advanced through innovative uses of AI, data, and design across government, corporate, and social sectors. Drawing on global and grassroots examples, the session examines how public policy, business innovation, and community-led approaches can work together to enable more regenerative, resource-efficient systems and support Green AI. Through expert-led roundtables and discussions, participants will reflect on the limits of today's linear, extractive economic model—particularly as it is reinforced by the growing environmental footprint of AI. The workshop invites participants to critically reimagine how AI can be designed, governed, and scaled in alignment with circular

economy values, equity, and long-term resilience. Participant discussions within sub-groups will focus on (i) Global Circularity and AI Governance (ii) Corporate and Brand Design Innovations (iii) Collective Solutions for The City and Communities (iv) Academic Research and Teaching Frontiers .

Goal: To convene leaders across policy, industry, academia, and civil society to reimagine how AI, data, and design can advance circular, equitable, and regenerative systems beyond today's extractive economic model.

Provocateurs:

[Prof. Fabio Iraldo](#), Professor in Management and Circular Economy. Management School, Scoula Superior Sant'Anna. Pisa, (Italy)

[Abhijit Bhaduri,](#) Talent Development, Ex Partner and GM Global Learning & Development Microsoft. Seattle (USA)

[Hayley Nelson](#), CEO, Hayley's Services. AI, Marketing and Communications. Adjunct Faculty, Northwestern University. (USA)

[Rijit Sengupta](#), CEO, Center for Responsible Business, Delhi (India)

[Yulia Koroleva,](#) Global Communication Manager at Ashoka, Professor – Sustainability Management. The GIA World (Switzerland)

[Prof. Judy Franks](#), Professor in Media Transformation, Digital Strategy and Marketing Communications. Northwestern University, Evanston. (USA)

[Dr. Yan Han](#), CEO and Board Director of Tianli Biotech, Chairperson - International Business at Topline Consulting Group, Think Culture Foundation Founder (China)

6/ Feminist AI Ecosystem: Unlocking the collective power of feminist movements to accelerate transformative change

As women's rights and democracy face pushback around the world, feminist leaders are using technology in powerful new ways: to organise, protect communities, document abuses, mobilise resources, and build alternatives. Yet many of these digital efforts are underfunded, under threat, and working in isolation, when collective power could multiply their impact. This workshop builds upon a comprehensive mapping of the feminist digital ecosystem – and co-architects a blueprint for its future.

Goal: To inform research and investment strategies for scaling a connected, well-resourced feminist digital ecosystem.

Provocateurs:

Iffat Rose Gill Founder and CEO, The Code to Change (NL/Pakistan)

Hera Hussein,Founder & CEO, Chayn (Survivor-led, trauma-informed Tech & AI), Ashoka Fellow, MIT Innovators Under 35 (Pakistan/UK)

Dr. Roberta Calegari, Assistant professor, Department of Computer Science and at the Alma Mater Research Institute for Human-Centered Artificial Intelligence, University of Bologna (Italy)

Prof. Azadeh Akbari, Professor of Critical Data & Surveillance Studies, Founder and Director of Surveillance in the Majority World Research Network, Centre for Critical

Computational Studies, Goethe University Frankfurt
(Germany)

[Melanie Rideout](#), Red Cross AI Strategist, Humanitarian Tech
Environmental Scientist, MasterCard Lighthouse Advisor
(Sweden)

[Mia Shah-Dand](#), Founder - WAIE+, Founder - Women in AI
Ethics, Creator - 100 Brilliant Women in AI Ethics list

15:00-15:30: Coffee break

15:30-16:00: Interactive Experience

[Stuart Acker Holt](#), Filmmaker & Photographer, Creator of The
Most Interesting Person, Visual Ethnographer

16:00-16:45: Mapping insights

Moderated by [Prof. Payal Arora](#), Professor of Inclusive AI
Cultures and Inclusive AI Lab Co-Founder

16:45-17:00: Closing notes

17:30-19:00 Connected Power Launch: Networking Drinks & Snacks

Hosted by Unfurl Futures and Inclusive AI Lab

Venue: [The Oranjerie,](#) Hortus cafe, Lange Nieuwstraat 106,
3512 PN Utrecht

[Connected Power](#) is a 12-months, global initiative to create
the first comprehensive mapping of the feminist digital
ecosystem – and a blueprint for its future.

Note from the Founder: [Jensine Larsen](#), Founder of Unfurl
Futures/ and pioneer of the Connected Power project

DAY 3: June 11, 2026 Amsterdam & The Hague

Field Visits (11:00- 16:00 hrs)

The off-site field visits offer participants an on-the-ground look at how AI is being used to instill hope by democratizing systems across public, civic, and business contexts. Participants will visit organizations embedding AI into sustainable business practices, making public administration more accessible, diversifying storytelling and data archives, improving accountability in governance, and aligning innovation with social and environmental responsibility. These visits highlight practical, community-driven applications of AI that move beyond hype, showing how diverse institutions and communities of practices can use technology to expand participation, trust, and long-term societal value.

*Field visit with lunch = 75 euros

Field Visit #1: Behind the Scenes of AI — Meeting the Custodians of Algorithms

Curators: Dr. Astrid Mager (Austrian Academy of Sciences) and Dr. Mirko Tobias Schäfer (Utrecht University, Data School)

Co-facilitators: Rana Kuseyri, Responsible AI Researcher at the Inclusive AI Lab; Dr. Samuel Briones Barrales, PhD in Care+ AI UU; Dr. Constanze Kerres, Research and Teaching Associate at Vienna University of Economics and Business.

Meeting point: The Hague Central Station, main hall in front of Starbucks, 10:00

What happens to AI once the buzzwords fade and systems are put to work? This field visit takes participants to The Hague, into the often-unseen spaces where algorithms quietly shape public life. We will visit the Data Protection Authority and the Ministry for Social Affairs and Labour to meet the custodians of algorithms: professionals who monitor, audit, repair, and regulate algorithmic systems used in public administration. Their largely invisible yet essential work ensures that AI systems function lawfully, fairly, and responsibly. Moving beyond hype, the visit offers a grounded look at how AI ethics is enacted in practice and how governance emerges through a dynamic ecosystem of ministries,

regulators, journalists, advocacy groups, researchers, and corporations. Participants will gain insight into how AI is maintained, contested, and held accountable within highly situated organizational contexts.

Note: Participants must carry a valid ID or passport to access government buildings.

Field Visit #2: Slow AI Safari: From Museum Futures to Counter-Tech Worlds

Curators: Hanan de Sain, Inclusive AI Lab Cultural AI Researcher and PhD UU; Dr. Yichen Rao, Assistant Professor UU, China AI lead Inclusive AI Lab, Ulrike Quade, artistic director at Ulrike Quade Company

Hosts: [Museum Tot Zover](), Kruislaan 124, 1097 GA Amsterdam + [3D Universum](), Science Park 400, 1098 XH, Amsterdam

Meeting point: [Museum Tot Zover](), Kruislaan 124, 1097 GA Amsterdam

The field visit begins at Museum Tot Zover, a unique cultural space dedicated to one of humanity's most profound questions: How do we deal with death? This setting frames AI not as a purely technical system, but as something entangled with vulnerability, memory, and the human condition. Participants will engage with the curators over lunch for an interactive slow processing session led by artists, programmers, entrepreneurs, and critical thinkers who are actively reimagining AI beyond speed- and efficiency-driven paradigms. The visit culminates with an engagement with an award winning AI company pioneering deep therapy - 3D Universum, where co-founder Sezer Karaoglu will share how their AI-enabled online communication platform allows practitioners to enter into conversation with otherwise inaccessible people through self-controlled video animations via Zoom. Participants will engage directly with the company's approach, critically exploring what it means to design AI systems for care, presence, and therapeutic connection. Together, this journey invites critical AI researchers, designers, creative technologists, and artists to pause, interrogate dominant narratives, and collectively imagine more humane, plural, and livable AI futures—through dialogue, experimentation, and shared acts of world-building.

Field Visit #3: Diversifying Creative storytelling with AI

Venue: [Makom](#), Nieuwe Uilenburgerstraat 38, Amsterdam: This is an old workshop space from the 1920s in the heart of the Jewish quarter, now a cooperative space that includes creatives and innovators.

Curators: [Prof.Payal Arora](#), Professor of Inclusive AI Cultures and Inclusive AI Lab Co-Founder, [Stuart Acker Holt,](#) Filmmaker & Photographer, Creator of The Most Interesting Person (NL); Noah Arnold and Christian Sinobas, [Fair Picture](#) (Switzerland/ Cairo); [Dr. Laura Herman,](#) Head of AI Research, Adobe (UK)

Co-Facilitators: Siddhi Gupta, Design Director, Inclusive AI Lab (India); Jingzhi Chen, Inclusive AI Visiting Fellow, Zhejiang University (China)

Meeting point:outside [Amsterdam Public Library (OBA)](#), Oosterdokskade 143, 1011 DL Amsterdam

Learn directly from world-leading creative thinkers shaping how culture, technology, and storytelling intersect across global contexts. This immersive field experience is co-curated by Stuart Acker Holt, filmmaker and photographer known for crafting deeply human, place-based narrative experiences; Fairpicture, a global leader in consent-based, context-rich visual storytelling; and Payal Arora, whom Forbes called "the next billion champion," and whose Inclusive AI Lab has worked closely with creatives in Latin America, India, and Kenya to debias datasets and diversify the creative commons.Designed for creatives and tech companies across the cultural and creative industries, the program blends immersive neighborhood engagement, ethical image-making, and inclusive AI practice with hands-on workshops alongside global creative impact leaders, including Asad Ayub of Madhatter, Franklin Ozekhome of Pop Culture Varsity and creator of HumanOS and Advertising Humans, Siddhi Gupta, Thomas Kuber of Futur2, Eduardo Briceño of FTI Consulting, and Laura Herman of Adobe. Participants will learn to read cultural signals, question dominant narratives, and work responsibly with images and data—building creative and AI-driven tools that are globally informed yet locally grounded. The experience culminates in the co-creation of a practical playbook for ethical storytelling, inclusive design, and culturally responsible innovation.

Field Visit #4: Markets, Meals & Meaning: Ubuntu AI in Practice

Curators: Wakanyi Hoffman, Regional Director Africa AI, Inclusive AI Lab; Vanja Škorić, Program Director at the European Center for Not-for-profit Law & PhD at the Civic AI Lab

Co-facilitators: Dr.Chelsea Haramia, Senior Research Fellow, Desirable AI project at the Center for Science and Thought, University of Bonn;Dr. Chux Daniels, Transformative Innovation Policy, University of Pretoria, Director, Transformative Innovation Africa Hub(UK/South Africa), and Justdiggit, a social entrepreneurial company that combines accessible, nature-based landscape restoration techniques with the power of media and communication, data, and mobile technology, for regreening and scaling up.

Venue: Dappermarkt + [Justdiggit](#) , Prins Hendrikkade 25, 1012 TM Amsterdam

Meeting point: TBA

This field visit brings Ubuntu ethics—"I am because we are"—from theory into lived practice. The day begins with a guided walk led by Wakanyi Hoffman and a shared lunch at Amsterdam's Dappermarkt, where food, migration, and everyday economies reveal relational food systems in action. It then continues at Justdiggit's headquarters, where participants engage in dialogue on how AI is currently used to train African farmers in regreening techniques and how it may evolve to offer locally tailored guidance based on land, crops, and context. Prof. Chux Daniels will mediate the discussion with the Justdiggit team, including a presentation by Head of Digital Regreening Carl Lens. Together, the group will explore open questions around AI, governance, and care: how technology can foster relational stewardship, embed regenerative values, and scale ethically while respecting community knowledge and agency. The day connects philosophy, food systems, organizational practice, and AI governance through embodied, collective experience.

Field Visit #5: The Circular Economy and Sustainable AI: IKEA Multifunctional Hub

Curators: Prof. Preeti Shroff , Founder NAO International; Birgit Geiberger, Global Head of Product UX Design, IKEA; Industry Advisor, Inclusive AI Lab; Dr. Lianne Toussaint, Assistant Professor Media, Art & Society UU

Co-facilitators: Adil Boughlala, Sustainable AI researcher, Inclusive AI lab (NL); Dr. Dennis Nguyen, Assistant Professor of Digital Literacy & Digital Methods, AI Methods lead, Inclusive AI Lab;

Venue: IKEA, Danzigerkade 15, 1013 AP Amsterdam

Meeting point: Utrecht/Amsterdam Central Station or directly at IKEA (TBD)

This immersive field visit offers a behind-the-scenes look at how one of the world's largest retailers translates circular economy ambitions into operational, digital, and customer-facing reality. Designed for global professionals seeking practical insight and peer exchange, the session explores how sustainability, digital innovation, and business value intersect in real organizational settings. Participants will hear directly from IKEA's circular and digital teams, gaining insight into strategy, implementation challenges, and lessons learned. The visit spotlights initiatives such as Buy Back, As-Is, and IKEA's Second-Hand digital platform, connecting circular strategy with concrete design choices, digital platforms, customer journeys, and operational trade-offs. Through hands-on work with customer journeys and service blueprints, participants will add environmental (planet) and AI swimlanes to surface impacts, capabilities, risks, and opportunities across the value chain. Combining expert input, applied learning, and peer discussion, the session equips participants with actionable ideas for pilots, partnerships, and scaling circular solutions within their own organizations.

Field Visit #6: Feminist AI in Practice: Incubators, Infrastructure & Collective Mapping

Co-Curators: Iffat Rose Gill, Founder of Code to Change; Jensine Larsen, Founder of Unfurl Futures

Co-facilitators: Weijie Huang, Feminist AI, Inclusive AI Lab; Kirthi Jayakumar, Head of community engagement, World Pulse, Research Affiliate, the Inclusive AI Lab (India)

Venue: AI Incubator Amsterdam

Meeting point: Code to Change (Iffat Gill's Office Premises)

As women's rights and democratic freedoms face increasing pushback globally, feminist leaders are using technology in powerful ways—to organize, protect communities, document abuses, mobilize resources, and build alternative infrastructures. Yet many of these digital efforts remain underfunded, fragmented, and isolated, limiting their collective impact. This visit explores how feminist AI values—care, accountability, solidarity, and justice—are being embedded (or challenged) within AI incubators and social-impact tech organizations. Code to Change will guide participants through their AI Incubator headquarters and neighboring AI incubators to learn how AI tools, skill-building, organizational cultures, and funding models shape feminist innovation in practice. The visit includes short presentations and informal exchange with incubator teams, a shared lunch to continue conversations across sectors, and a collective mapping exercise to connect feminist digital actors, infrastructures, and resources.

17:00- 18:45 Evening program: Threads & Tables

Venue: [Beautiful Mess](#) This location is a hospitality concept developed by Refugee Company that helps people who have once fled to integrate into the Netherlands.

At Threads & Tables, stories from the field come together — interlacing reflections, questions, and discoveries. Across dialogue, art, and shared celebration, the festival's many threads are woven into a common tapestry. Come prepared to be playful — to think with your hands, to follow unexpected prompts, and to step into the weave rather than simply observe it.

17:15-17:30 hrs Interactive engagement with Asad Ayub, founder of [Madhatter](#)

19:00-21:00 (Optional): Dinner at [Beautiful Mess](#)

DAY 4: June 12 Utrecht

09:30-17:00: Collaboration for Good: An Inclusive AI Lab PhD Led Event

Hosted *by* [Governing the Digital Society](#)

Organised by [Weijie Huang](#), [Dr.Samuel Briones Barrales](#), [Siddhi Gupta](#), and [Kirthi Jayakumar](#), from the Inclusive AI Lab PhD team

Venue: Kromme Nieuwegracht 20, room T.0.05 (Kromme Nieuwegracht 20 3512 HH Utrecht) with parallel mini-workshops across the Utrecht University City Centre Campus

This PhD Led event is designed to build a community of young scholars committed to doing academia differently—treating societal engagement not as an add-on, but as a methodological tool, a hope-oriented mindset, and a way of being part of the solution to the formidable challenges shaping our world today. Centered on the theme *"Collaboration for Good,"* this edition equips PhD candidates, RMA students, and early-career researchers with the tools to translate academic research into meaningful societal engagement by placing cross-cultural and cross-sectoral approaches at the heart of disciplinary thinking and practice. The program explores how researchers can effectively collaborate with policymakers, industry leaders, civil society organizations, and communities affected by AI systems, supporting a shift from critique to collaboration while developing concrete strategies to assess the social, cultural, and ethical implications of their work. The PhD Day features a cross-sector roundtable on creating impact with research, a networking poster session, and parallel mini-workshops offering practical guidance on collaboration, impact, and engaged scholarship.

Participants: PhD candidates, RMA students, and early-career scholars in the social sciences and humanities

Programme

09:30-10:00:   Walk in and registration

10:00-10:15:   Welcome note: [Prof. Payal Arora](#), Professor of Inclusive AI Cultures and Inclusive AI Lab Director

10:15-11:15: Plenary Panel: Beyond the Ivory Tower: How to be Architects of Public Impact

This panel brings together scholar-practitioners working at the frontlines of digital innovations and law, humanitarian response, and global policy to show how rigorous research can move institutions, not just academia.

Moderated by [Dr.Samuel Briones Barrales](#), PhD in Care+ AI UU

[Ron Guerrier](#), Chief Technology Officer Save the Children, Former Illinois Secretary of Innovation, CIO Hall of Fame Inductee, USC Doctoral Candidate (USA)

[Dr. Guanqin He](#), AI & Work Researcher at the Inclusive AI Lab; Postdoctoral Researcher, Geneva Graduate Institute (Switzerland)

[Emily Tucker,](#) Executive Director, Center on Privacy & Technology at Georgetown Law (USA)

11:15-12:30 Making impact: networking poster session

During this networking poster session, a selection of PhD candidates and early career scholars will have the opportunity to share research that is oriented towards making an impact on society. The session is designed as an open networking space to share work, exchange ideas, and connect with others interested in moving from critique to collaboration.

See our call for posters for deadlines and additional information on submitting a poster.

Call for Posters: Networking Poster Session

Inclusive AI Lab PhD Day | Collaboration for Good
📅 **12 June 2026**

We invite PhD candidates and RMA students at any stage of their research trajectory, from early ideas to near-complete work, and early career scholars to submit posters for a

networking session focused on research that engages meaningfully with society.

We welcome research that explores collaboration beyond academia, including work with policymakers, industry, civil society organisations, creative practitioners, and communities affected by AI systems. Submissions may reflect fieldwork, methods, prototypes, practice-led research, or ongoing questions around social, cultural, and ethical impact.

Abstract submission guidelines

- Posters will be selected on the basis of fit of the submitted abstracts with the event's focus
- The maximum word count for abstracts is **300 words**
- Abstracts should include a short 50-75 word bio
- 1-3 visuals, links, and practice-based work are welcome

Poster format

- Posters will be **printed by the organisers**
- Final posters should be **A0 size**

If selected
Applicants will be informed shortly after the review by 30 April, 2026, along with details for final submission.

Key dates

- **Abstract submission window:** 10 March – 10 April, 2026
- **Notification of acceptance:** by April 30, 2026
- **Final poster due:** June 1, 2026

12:30-13:30: Lunch

13:30-15:15 Parallel mini-workshops (see below for locations)

The parallel mini-workshops aim to provide participants with the opportunity to present their work to peers and experts, or to experiment with innovative methods. Participants can

indicate their top two workshop preferences in the registration form.

Workshop # 1: From Research to Collaboration: Engaging Policy, Industry, and Communities

Led by [Weijie Huang](#)

Venue: Kromme Nieuwegracht 80, room 1.06 (max capacity 20)

This workshop explores how critical AI research can become a generative force for positive change through meaningful engagement with policy, industry, and community actors, even within contexts shaped by unequal power and institutional constraints. Rather than treating impact as an afterthought or policy engagement as one-way communication, the session frames collaboration as a situated, relational practice of co-creation—one that opens space for ethical imagination, shared responsibility, and accountable innovation.

Participants will reflect on how research methodologies can be adapted across diverse cultural and social contexts, which actors are invited into knowledge production, and how ethical commitments can be strengthened through engagement. Through short case examples of research projects working with different stakeholders and communities, participants from diverse disciplines will explore practical pathways for involving these groups in ways that are meaningful, inclusive, and impactful.

Goal: Designed for PhD candidates, RMA students, and early-career researchers, the session offers a rare opportunity to gain insights, feedback, and mentorship from leading experts in the human rights and policy worlds, empowering participants to shape research trajectories that address pressing policy concerns while fostering hopeful, collaborative solutions to real-world challenges.

Format: Group-based simulation + reflection Max 10-12

Respondents:

[Emily Tucker,](#) Executive Director, Center on Privacy & Technology at Georgetown Law (USA)

Melanie Rideout, Red Cross AI Strategist, Humanitarian Tech Environmental Scientist, MasterCard Lighthouse Advisor (Sweden)

Ron Guerrier, Chief Technology Officer Save the Children, Former Illinois Secretary of Innovation, CIO Hall of Fame Inductee, USC Doctoral Candidate (USA)

Moderated by Prof. Payal Arora, Professor of Inclusive AI Cultures and Inclusive AI Lab Director

Workshop # 2: Creative Methods Matter - Creatives in Action Research Across Cultures and Contexts

Led by Siddhi Gupta and Adil Boughlala

Venue: Kromme Nieuwegracht 20, room T.0.05 (max capacity 60)

This workshop brings together creative professionals pursuing PhDs, RMA students, and early-career researchers working with, or aspiring to work with, creative methods to examine how research in creative practice is being shaped today. Through peer exchange, participants will reflect on how methods are developed, adapted, and legitimized within rapidly evolving technological and cultural environments, including the creative and cultural industries.

The session engages critically with ethical grey zones around authorship, consent, collaboration, and extractive research practices, foregrounding positionality, power, and care as deliberate methodological choices. It further explores how AI can be taken up as a situated and culturally embedded research method, rather than a neutral or purely technical tool. By collectively mapping approaches to collaboration with artists, designers, cultural workers, and creative communities, the workshop aims to strengthen confidence in the legitimacy and rigor of creative research and to foster a shared 'methods commons' that participants can carry forward into their doctoral and early-career research trajectories.

Goal: Participants will walk away with a collaborative 'methods commons' for working ethically with creative communities, cultural workers, and AI as a situated and creative research method.

Format: Simulation + reflexive exercises + case study analyses, Max 15

Respondents:

Sara Emami, Designer (NL)

Jeroen Deckers, Co-Founder and Executive Director, Designplatform (NL)

Fabian Saavedra Lara, Director of V2_Lab for the Unstable Media (NL).

Moderated by Dr. Lucie Chateau, Assistant Professor in Screen Media, Creative AI Lead, Inclusive AI Lab

Workshop # 3: Feminist AI in Practice: Connecting Care with Change

Led by Kirthi Jayakumar

Venue: Drift 23, room 0.12 (max capacity 14)

This workshop is designed for PhD scholars, RMA students, and early-career researchers working on, or interested in, gender and feminist approaches to AI, platforms, infrastructures, and tools. Moving beyond dominant narratives that frame women and non-binary people primarily as victims of technological harm, the session centers feminist approaches as generative, future-building frameworks for designing, governing, and engaging with AI systems. Drawing on the collective wisdom of feminist movements, networked feminisms, and women's collectives across time and space, the workshop explores what it means to place gender and feminism at the heart of AI as it emerges—rather than treating them as an add-and-stir afterthought.

Participants will engage with multiple feminisms and core feminist principles such as intersectionality, care, accountability, and collective power, and examine how these principles can inform the full stack of digital infrastructures underpinning platforms and AI technologies. Through collective reflection and applied discussion, participants will also gain rare, practice-based guidance and insights from feminist practitioners who have translated these ideas into real-world platforms, survivor-centered technologies, and community-driven AI initiatives, offering concrete pathways for making feminist AI actionable in research, design, and governance.

Goal: Participants will leave with concrete feminist frameworks, principles, and strategies they can apply directly in their research, design, and engagement with AI systems.

Format: Simulation + reflexive exercises + case study analyses max 10

Respondents:

[Jensine Larsen](#), founder of World Pulse and Unfurl Futures (USA)

[Hera Hussein](#),Founder & CEO, Chayn (Survivor-led, trauma-informed Tech & AI), Ashoka Fellow | MIT Innovators Under 35 (Pakistan/UK)

[Dr.Rébecca Franco](#), Research fellow, Utrecht University

Moderated by [Dr. Guanqin He](#), AI & Work Researcher, Inclusive AI Lab; Postdoctoral Researcher, Geneva Graduate Institute (Switzerland)

15:15-16:00: Wrapping up: sharing insights from each workshop

16:00- 17:30 (Optional): Canal cruise