

# digital futures

## NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2021

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## Changes during COVID-19 and the 21st century skills we need for building digital futures

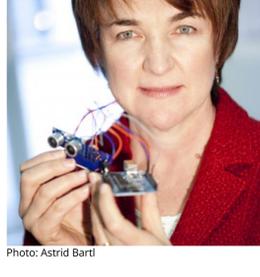


Photo: Astrid Bartl

### Meet Geraldine Fitzpatrick

What are the skills we need for the future, what surprised her during the last year of the COVID-19 pandemic situation and why should we stop calling social emotional skills soft skills?

We talked to **Geraldine Fitzpatrick**, Professor of Technology Design and Assessment at TU Wien.

[Read the interview with Geraldine Fitzpatrick.](#)

## Open Calls



### Open call: 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](#)

### Open call: Up to six postdoc fellows in technologies for a digital transformation

Digital Futures postdoc fellowships aim to support talented early career researchers in pursuing their research ideas in a new research group, and to boost their future careers. The call is targeted towards applicants within three years after completion of the doctorate degree and is a mobility program.

**Call closes: 7 February, 2021**

[Read more & Apply](#)

## People at Digital Futures



James Gross, Associate Director for Partner Program, Digital Futures

### Meet James Gross

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.

We talked to **James Gross**, Professor with the Electrical Engineering and Computer Science School of KTH Royal Institute of Technology. James is also Associate Director of Digital Futures and a co-director of KTH's competence center on edge computing TECoSA.

### I would like to be moved forward in time to the day we get in contact with an extra-terrestrial intelligence!

#### Hi James Gross, describe your role at Digital Futures?

- My main focus is on external partner relations. We are for the moment very busy reaching out to companies and other societal stakeholders to make them aware of Digital Futures and in particular of our **Industrial and Societal Partnership Programme**. Our intention with this program is to build up an ecosystem of many different stakeholders around Digital Futures, allowing the stakeholders to leverage the strength and assets of Digital Futures in the most beneficial way. At the same time, for Digital Futures the program is the main instrument to facilitate industrial and societal impact. We - the Governing Board and Executive Committee - are committed to delivering this type of impact, in addition to scientific and educational impact!

#### If companies/industry would like to start collaborating with Digital Futures - what should they do?

- Ideally, reach out to me or to Anna Kiefer, our COO. We are more than happy to get-to-know companies, and run them through the basics of Digital Futures and its offering for industry/society.

#### Your research interests are in the area of mobile systems & networks, with a focus on critical machine-to-machine communications, cellular networks, resource allocation as well as performance evaluation methods - why did you decide to focus on these topics?

- To me, networks and mobile systems in particular are fascinating, as any major innovation in this area is always associated with a global impact on societies. Many technological advances in the general IT domain are often delivered by communication networks. So, you always have to think in terms of multiple dimensions, the dimensions of the core advancement as well as the most efficient way of delivering the advancement by a network. One may ask, what type of apps and gadgets will we be surrounded with in 10 years? How will we live in 10 years? And then you start backtracking this in terms of networking challenges to realize the vision. This is always challenging and exciting at the same time!

#### Finally, tell us a little bit about yourself!

- I am originally from Germany, but enjoy being in Sweden now for a while. In my private time, I am always in for an endurance work-out, running, biking, ice-skating etc. If I could choose to witness one day in the evolution of mankind, I would like to be moved forward in time to the day we get in contact with an extra-terrestrial intelligence.

[Link to profile of James Gross](#)

## Digital Futures on Swedish podcast Digitalsamtal



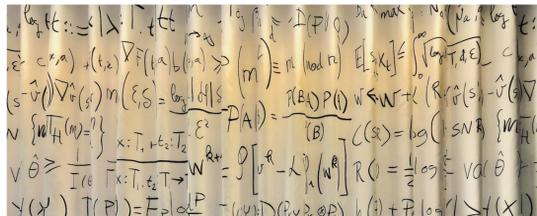
Photo: Jonathan Farber, Unsplash

### Karl H Johansson - guest speaker on the podcast "Digitalsamtal"

[Anders Thoresson](#), journalist, moderator, lecturer and blogger talks to Digital Futures director Kalle Johansson about how digitalisation is an important tool in all sectors of society.

[Podcasten Digitalsamtal](#)

## Upcoming lectures and seminars



### Digital Futures proudly presenting CURTAIN TALKS

Mathematics is the language of modern science and provides the foundation for digital transformation. Mathematical equations, inequalities, and formulae describe engineering insights and fundamental limitations in a compact and precise form. They provide a systematic way to manipulate relationships to develop new knowledge and understanding.

Some of the important equations that are at the foundation of technologies for a digital transformation, now adorn curtains at the Digital Futures space. The goal of **Curtain talks** is to provide the background and explain the significance of these equations for digital transformation of modern societies.

There is actually a story behind these curtains. Our own faculty wrote down all the equations by hand. They were later printed on fabric and now eight handcrafted curtains can be admired in the office of Digital Futures.

[Read more](#)



### DISTINGUISHED LECTURE: 4pm-5pm

**Steve Benford** - Dunford Professor of Computer Science at the University of Nottingham, presents **Singing in Chorus - The Challenges and Opportunities of Making Music Together Online During the Global Pandemic**.

[Read more](#)



### SEMINAR: 3pm-4pm

**Henny Admoni** - Assistant Professor in the Robotics Institute at Carnegie Mellon University, talks about **Understanding Human Behavior for Robotic Assistance and Collaboration**

[Read more](#)



### SEMINAR: 12pm-1pm

**Mareike Glöss** - Digital Futures Postdoctoral Fellow, talks about **What/Who is making our cities smart? Understanding human experience of mobility, transport and urban space**.

[Read more](#)



### SEMINAR: 3pm-4pm

**Rose Luckin** - Professor of Learner Centred Design at the UCL Knowledge Lab in London. Her research involves the design and evaluation of educational technology using theories from the learning sciences and techniques from Artificial Intelligence (AI).

[Read more](#)



### CURTAIN TALK: 3pm-4pm

We proudly present our first **Curtain Talk**. Meet Professor **Mikael Skoglund**, head of the Division of Information Science and Engineering at KTH, who can tell us about **Shannon's theorem**, what it means and how it has been instrumental in shaping the landscape of technology.

[Read more](#)



### SEMINAR: 12pm-1pm

We are happy to present **Dilian Gurov**, Associate Professor at the Department of Theoretical Computer Science (TCS) of the School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (EECS) of the Royal Institute of Technology (KTH) in Stockholm.

[Read more](#)

## 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](http://www.digitalfutures.kth.se)

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