

◆ WORKSHOP

# DIGITAL HUMANISM AS A SOCIETAL CHALLENGE

## MEET THE TEAM



December 14, 2023  
**Szeged | Hungary**



osztrák ) kulturális ( fórum<sup>bud</sup>



# THE. CON TENT

1. IKIKK

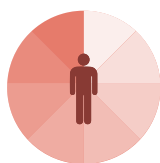
2. DIGITAL HUMANISM

3. MEET THE TEAM



The Centre of Excellence for Interdisciplinary Research, Development and Innovation of the University is a unique institution that gathers and nurtures the best scientists, studies and projects of the University. IKIKK vision relies in the trust that structured information transfer and a firm, structured foundation together provide an admirable background to most excellent scientists to convert their unique ideas into innovations and, eventually, into profit faster and more efficiently.

SZTE IKIKK includes six clusters that both encompass the fields of research (Life Sciences, Science and Mathematics, Humanities and Social Sciences) and the areas of developments set in the Institutional Development Plan of the University (Educational Development, Healthcare Development, Third Mission Developments). The goal of the Centre is to consciously increase the innovation capabilities of the University and to enhance the practical benefits of research results, thus strengthening the cooperation between the agents of the R+D and innovation ecosystem.



The Clusters consist of Competence Centres and Programs that are knowledge bases built on the synergic cooperation of our research groups and partners.



# THE DIGITAL HUMANISM

## INITIATIVE



**DIGHUM**

The Digital Humanism Initiative is an international collaboration seeking to build a community of scholars, policy makers, and industrial players who are focused on ensuring that technology development remains centered on human interests.

**Context of the Initiative:** In the contemporary landscape, a pervasive digital and global operating system intricately interconnects various aspects of life. While digitalization unveils unprecedented opportunities, it also raises significant concerns, such as web monopolization, social media-driven extremism, filter bubbles, privacy loss, digital surveillance, automated decision-making, and potential job displacement due to automation. The initiative of Digital Humanism advocates for an analysis and positive influence on the intricate interplay between technology and humanity.

**Scope of the DIGHUM Initiative:** This movement emphasizes the need to prioritize human values and universal rights, shaping technology to align with societal needs. The approach underscores the critical role of IT in society, calling for rules and guidance, a multi-disciplinary perspective, global collaboration, and a scientific, fact-based approach. The initiative asserts that technology should serve people, placing "humankind" at the forefront.

The Digital Humanism Initiative, supported by internationally renowned experts, aims to address the challenge of fostering a just and democratic society with humans at the center of technological progress through a series of engaging events.





## **KLÁRA SÁNDOR**

Klára Sándor (DsC, PhD) is Professor at the University of Szeged and Comenius University (Bratislava). She currently leads the ICT and Social Challenges Competence Centre of IKIKK and serves as the head of the Department of Cultural Heritage and Human Information Studies at the University of Szeged. Prof.Dr. Sándor has been awarded MTA Doctoral Degree of History, whilst in 2016 received the Habilitation at SZTE (Doctoral School of Linguistics).

Her research interests focus on evolutionary linguistics (sociolinguistics), including the interrelations between language, culture and society in the digital society of the 21st century. Other areas of research include the early history of the Hungarian language and changes in Hungarian identity.

Prof.Dr. Sándor has contributed significantly to the academic community through extensive research and scholarly work. To explore a comprehensive list of her publications, please visit the following link [HERE](#) .







## **KRISZTINA KARSAI**

Krisztina Karsai (DsC, PhD) is professor of Criminal Law at the University of Szeged and serves as the Head of the Unit at the Institute of Criminal Law and Criminal Science at the University of Szeged. In 2022 Professor Karsai was granted the Doctor Honoris Causa title by the University of Oradea (Romania).

Prof.Dr. Karsai is an international expert in the area of European and Comparative Criminal Law and has an research portfolio of more than 70 publications focusing on the harmonization of criminal justice systems in Europe. Her publications can be accessed in this [LINK](#).

Her current research interests are related to the use of digital solutions and algorithmic decision making in criminal justice, and to the fundamental issues of criminal liability in the light of the development of (neuro)science. Prof.Dr. Karsai is the leader of the Artificial Intelligence and the Legal Order Research Group at the University of Szeged.

Since 2012, Professor Karsai has been an independent expert for the European Commission, specializing in criminal justice, crime prevention, and matters related to justice, freedom, and security. Additionally, she is editor and co-author of the Commentary on the Hungarian Criminal Code.





## **JUDIT TÓTH**

Judit Tóth (PhD, Lawyer) is a professor at University of Szeged. Her field of expertise includes constitutional law, legislation, legal language and international migration. With a career spanning four decades, Judit Tóth has dedicated herself to research and academic instruction in these specialized areas. Building on 25 years of public service as a legal practitioner, she continues to contribute to the field through her ongoing practice at the Legal Clinic of the Faculty.

Judit has served at the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Justice and the Ombudsman Responsible for Minority Rights. As a research fellow she published several articles regarding various topics, like refugee law, nationality law, migration policy, legal aid, child protection and more in the field of human rights and administrative law as well.

Recent research publications of Judit can be found by clicking the following [LINK](#) .





## **GIOLA CAMI**

Giola Cami is a Ph.D Candidate at University of Szeged, Faculty of Law and Political Sciences. Ms.Cami is pursuing her doctoral studies in criminal law focusing on the access and use of electronic evidence in criminal proceedings. In her doctoral studies, under the guidance and mentorship of Prof. Dr. Krisztina Karsai and Dr. Andor Gal, she is working on the issues of electronic evidence admissibility and data integrity concerns in relation to violations of data privacy.

With an interdisciplinary academic background spanning both the fields of Law and Political Sciences, Giola's academic pursuits encompass two main areas: (i) procedural legal aspects governing management of e-evidence, and (ii) research related to democratization studies. Throughout her academic journey, Ms. Cami has been the recipient of the prestigious merit-based scholarships, the Türkiye Yabancı Bursları and Stipendium Hungaricum state scholarships.

Currently, she is engaged as junior researcher at Artificial Intelligence and Legal Order Research Group at the University of Szeged.







## **WALTER GEHR**

Dr. Walter Gehr grew up in France and Austria and began his diplomatic career in the Austrian Ministry for Foreign Affairs in 1989 after studying law.

After the attacks of 11 September 2001, he headed the group of experts of the Anti-Terrorism Committee of the UN World Security Council in New York.

From the end of 2002, he worked for the Terrorism Prevention Division of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in Vienna and advised numerous governments and international organizations on legal issues relating to the fight against terrorism (including in Afghanistan, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Haiti, Northern Macedonia, Russia, Serbia, Sudan and Ukraine).

In December 2017, he became Head of Cabinet of the Austrian Foreign Minister and subsequently Foreign Policy Advisor to the Vice Chancellor.

Dr. Walter Gehr taught for many years at the Diplomatic Academy in Vienna and the International School of Nuclear law in Montpellier.

Dr. Walter Gehr is currently assigned to the Cultural Department of the Austrian Ministry for Foreign Affairs (BMEIA) where he deals with the topic of digital humanism.



## HANNES WERTHNER

Dr. Hannes Werthner is a retired Computer Science Professor at the Faculty of Informatics, TU Wien. Prior to joining TU Wien, he had professorships at Austrian and International universities. His research is in several fields such as Decision Support Systems, E-Commerce and E-Tourism, Recommender Systems. He received the Doctor of Philosophy title in Computer Science at Technische Universität Wien.

Besides research and teaching, he started initiatives such as the Vienna PhD School of Informatics and the i2c / Informatics Innovation Center. In the area of E-Tourism, the International Federation for IT and Tourism (IFITT) grants the *“Hannes Werthner Tourism and Technology Lifetime Achievement Award”* to outstanding personalities in the field.

Dr. Werthner plays a significant role in the Digital Humanism Initiative, providing valuable contributions through his two publications in this field:

“Perspectives on Digital Humanism” [Link](#)  
and “Introduction to Digital Humanism” [Link](#)



## **WALTER PALMETSHOFER**

Walter Palmetshofer has a diverse professional background, having served as a system administrator at the Ars Electronica Center, worked as the Chief Technology Officer (CTO) for The Thing/thing.net and various art and net activism projects in New York City. Additionally, he co-founded a startup, pursued studies in economics, and engaged in open data policy and research at the Open Knowledge Foundation in Germany and Brussels.

Palmetshofer is an Advisory Board Member for Citylab Berlin, a member of the Smart City Council Berlin, and actively contributes to the Open Government Germany strategy group. He also serves as a member of the MSG (Multi-Stakeholder Group) for the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI).

Since 2022, Walter Palmetshofer has taken on the role of coordinator at CAIML, the Center for AI and Machine Learning at TU Wien, which is the home of the Digital Humanism Initiative.



## **CHRISTIAN AUTENGRUBER**

Christian Autengruber is Austrian diplomat since 2008. At the moment, he serves as director of the Austrian Cultural Forum Budapest.

Previously, he worked on political issues at the Austrian Embassies in Czech Republic and Poland. Before moving to Hungary, Mr. Autengruber headed the unit for cultural and scientific-technical agreements as well as for the Foreign Service (commemoration, peace and social Service) in the directorate for international cultural affairs of the Austrian Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs.

Further responsibilities and experiences within the Austrian foreign service: restitution issues (*handling of individual restitution cases on the basis of the Federal Art Restitution Act, special individual cases with other states*), special projects (*cultural priority years and topics with individual countries, publication support*).

Mr. Autengruber has also been a member of the Steering Committee for the redesign of the Austrian exhibition in Auschwitz and member of the advisory board of the Fund for the Restoration of the Jewish Cemeteries in Austria.