ARCHIVES AND AI: COPING WITH CLIMATE CHANGE

Workshop chairman
Luc Steels

Location
Venice International University, Isola di San Servolo, Venice

Dates
22 May - 24 May 2021
Arrival 21 May and Departure 24 May evening or 25 May morning

Format
mixture of in situ and online

Workshop initiative
AI4EU H2020 EU project, WP5. Working group on Cultural Issues in AI. (*ECLT*)

In collaboration with
EU FET project MUHAI (*VIU*), EU FET project Odycceus (*Ca'Foscari Dept of Management*) and Science Gallery Venice.
At the occasion of the exhibition opening: Navigating the AquaGranda Digital Community Memory.

ABSTRACT

Climate change is one of the most pressing issues of our time and its devastating impact is already felt strongly in cities like Venice, which are struggling to remain sustainable and habitable. Dealing with climate change not only requires science and technology but the cooperation from everybody in society. One step to help achieve this cooperation is through the construction of archives about dramatic events related to climate change. These archives should contain not only physical and ecological data but also social data gleaned from social media, news and oral histories. They make it possible to learn about the past and see patterns to prepare the future. But to achieve their potential, archives must be made accessible and understandable to everybody and this requires both scientific and artistic methods.

This workshop uses the AquaGranda Digital Community Memory recently created in the face of the catastrophic inundation in Venice on November 2019 as a source of concrete case studies to examine the role of archives in mitigating climate change. The workshop focuses specifically on the use of AI. AI is playing a growing role in archives for data collection, data access, and data interpretation. Although there are many positive and exciting aspects to this use of AI for the Common Good, which we will highlight in the workshop, there are also difficult issues related to privacy, security, fairness, and bias.

PROGRAM

SATURDAY 22 MAY 2021

09:00 **Vaporetto departure from San Zaccaria to San Servolo**

09:20 **Welcome**
Achille Giacometti (*ECLT, Ca'Foscari*), Michele Bugliesi (*DVRI*), Carlo Giupponi (*VIU, Muhai*), Ulises Cortes (*AI4EU project*), Eckehard Olbrich (*Odycceus project*).

09:40 **The AquaGranda Digital Community Memory, an introduction.**
Neal Hartman (*Science Gallery Venice*) and Luc Steels (*ECLT Venice*).

10:00 **Carousel of projects**

10:30 **Panel: Contemporary archiving, AI and the climate crisis.**
Vittorio Loreto (*La Sapienza Rome, Sony CSL Paris*), Armin Linke (*artist Berlin*), Caroline Nevejan (*City of Amsterdam*), Markus Reymann (*TBA21–Academy, Ocean Space*), Massimo Warglien (*Ca'Foscari Venice*).

Aperitivo

12:50 **Return vaporetto**

15:00 Welcome to the AquaGranda distributed exhibition by Maria Del Valle Ojeda Calvo, Provost Ca'Foscari University Venice. Ca'Foscari main courtyard.
Tour of the exhibition through the city in small groups.

SUNDAY 23 MAY 2021

09:30 **Vaporetto departure from San Zaccaria to San Servolo**

10:00–11:30 **INTRODUCTION**
How AI is already being used to collect, organise, curate and unlock archives. The case of the Time Machine.
(Frédéric Kaplan, *EPFL Lausanne*)

Building the AquaGranda Digital Community memory.
(Costanza Sartoris, Michele Schiavinato, Gabriella Traviglia, Marco Paladini, Carlo Santagiustina, *Ca'Foscari Venice*)

Coffee break

12:00–13:30 **SEEKING MEANING IN ARCHIVES I**
The contributions in this section each discuss a particular approach for unlocking archives using AI methods and techniques and their application to the contents of the AquaGranda Digital Community Memory.

The role of archives in raising awareness on climate sustainability.
(Armin Linke and Giulia Bruno, *artists Berlin*)

Computer vision and video mashups. *The old is dying and the new can't be born.*
(Federica Bardelli, Gabriele Colombo, Partha Das, Marc Tuters, *University of Amsterdam*)

Augmented reality for visualizing scientific data. *Torrents.*
(Joeri Bultheel, *artist Berlin*)

Lunch

15:00-16:30 **SEEKING MEANING IN ARCHIVES II**
Audio processing and AI for making radio plays based on sound archives.
(Fabian Kühlein, *artist Weimar*)

Visualizing social media data and scientific data. *Dispersione.*
(Robin Lamarche–Perrin, Armin Pournaki, *CNR Paris* and *MPI Leipzig*)

Narratives from crowd-sourced video materials. *The loss of a stable horizon.*
(Margarita Maximova, *artist Berlin*)

Coffee break

17:00-18:30 **Merging social media and visual data in virtual reality. *Metamorphosis.***
(Carlo Santagiustina, *Ca'Foscari*)

Digital fabrication and data visualization. *Venice SkyTide.*
(Erica Villa, *SGV*, Matteo Silverio, *artist Murano*)

Listening to dialogs from social media. *Voicing conflict.*
(Tom Willaert, *Vrije Universiteit Brussel*)

Dinner

MONDAY 24 MAY 2021

09:30   **Vaporetto departure from San Zaccaria to San Servolo**

10:00–11:30 **ETHICAL AND LEGAL ISSUES**
Session chair: Ulises Cortes (Universitat Politécnica di Catalunya)

Welcome: Marcello Pelillo (*AI4EU, ECLT Venice*)

Tapping social media: What we can and cannot do.
(Richard Rogers, *University of Amsterdam*)

EU Ethical and legal Guidelines for AI.
(Teresa Scantamburlo, *Ca'Foscari Venice*)

coffee break

12:00–13:30 **CULTURAL ISSUES**
Building and unlocking crowd-sourced Online Public-domain archives.
(Emilia Gomez, *Universitat Pompeu Fabra Barcelona*)

The functioning and impact of memes in social media.
(Marc Tuters, *Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam*)

The importance of narratives in the creation of meaning.
(Oscar Vilarroya, *IMIM Barcelona*)

lunch

15:00–16:30 **Assembly of the AI4EU OSAI Cultural Working Group**

Workshop initiative

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