



Societal Impact of Digital Transformation Workshop

Teaching ethics to students from Computer Science, Informatics and related disciplines

25 October 2022



INFORMATICS
EUROPE

Panel Member Introductions

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- Gordana Dodig Crnkovic, Mälardalen University & Chalmers University of Technology
- Andrea Curley, Technological University Dublin
- Alexander Pretschner, Technical University of Munich
- Suzana Alpsancar, Paderborn University

What are the aims of teaching ethics?

- Does teaching ethics contribute to people acting in an ethical manner?
- What can the teaching of ethics accomplish and what aims might learning about ethics serve?

What does teaching ethics mean?

- What should universities be doing to help and encourage students to think through the ethical questions posed by new and emerging computing technologies?
 - Is it teaching ethical theories and frameworks or teaching case studies and exemplars?
 - Is it asking students to think about the implication of their technical work that doesn't require them to know anything about ethical or philosophical frameworks?
 - Are both relevant?
 - What would students like to know about ethics?
 - How do we evaluate teaching ethics?

How should we teach ethics?

- How do you teach ethics so that it is more memorable and easier for students to recall and apply once they have moved on from the university setting?
- How can students better understand the ethical questions relevant in the domains in which they might develop software - health, finance, transport etc.
- The Silicon Valley view is often that ethics, governance and regulation stifles innovation – how do we get our computer science students to think differently?

The changing landscape

- Post-Covid, have new ethical issues emerged that we need to incorporate into our teaching?
- Is sustainability an ethical issue?

Is teaching ethics enough?

- Taking an ethics module or studying professional codes of ethics (e.g. by ACM and IEEE) are far removed from full professional certification - is teaching ethics to computer science students enough?