Societal Impact of Digital Transformation Workshop

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

- Dympna O’Sullivan, Technological University Dublin
- 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?