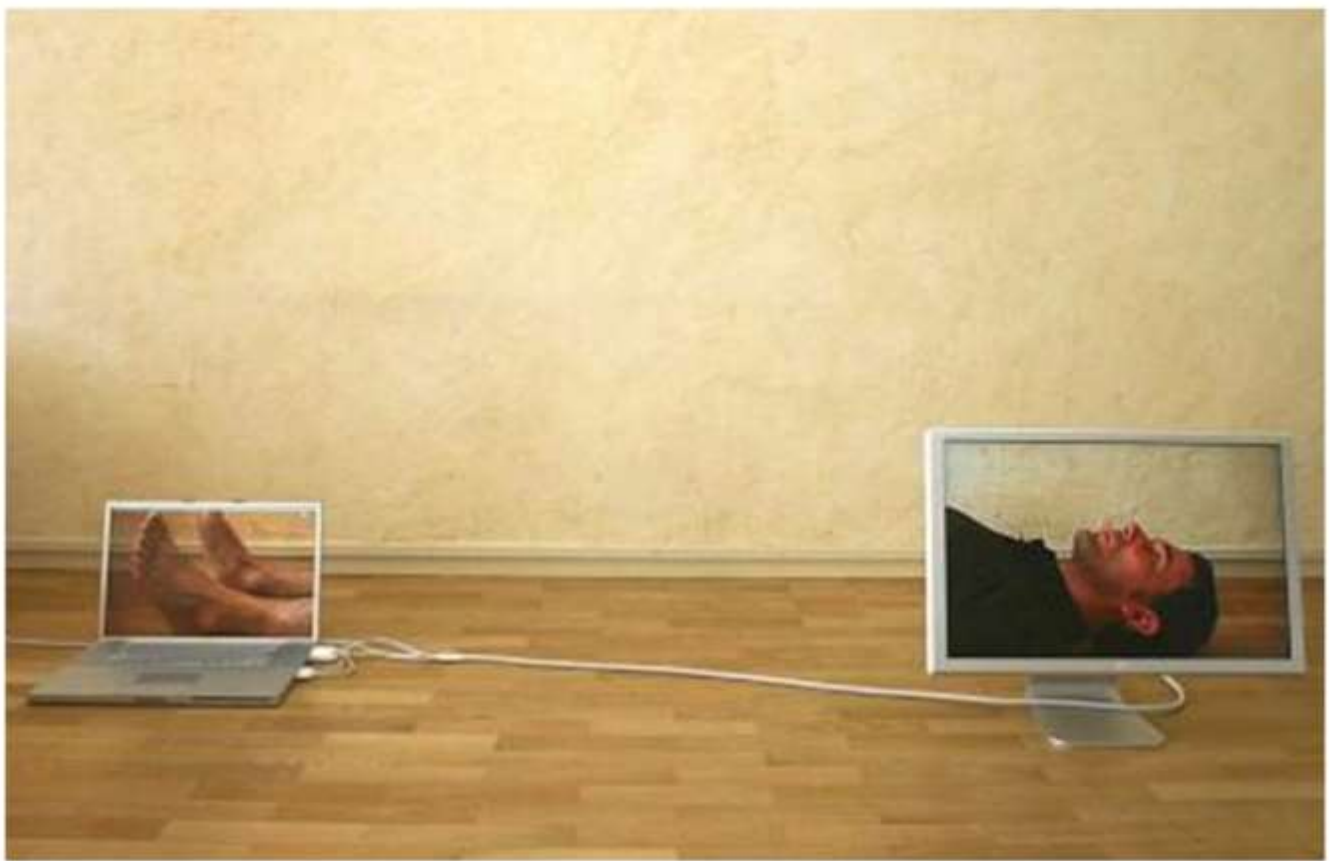


SOTERIA ETHICS AND PRIVACY WORKSHOP

ETHICAL, PRIVACY, SOCIAL ISSUES IN REMOTE
COMMUNICATION



November 17-18, 2022

L'ULTIMO MULINO – FIUME VENETO (ITALY)

NORIA – Association for Protection and Promotion of local, national, and European culture

About SOTERIA

The SOTERIA project aims to develop a user-centric, citizen-driven tool to help European citizens to manage their personal data. It will combine the creation of a digital identity to access online services with a user-friendly platform allowing a secured and easy data management while increasing citizens' awareness over their personal data.

Today, it has become critical for citizens to perform most of their day-to-day life actions remotely: medical consultations, management of bank accounts, payments for health systems, insurances, taxes, orders, all these activities can now be done online. This has been accelerated by the Covid-19 pandemic and this is expected to become the new standard.

Even if most service providers have made the effort to propose an e-access to their services, this dematerialisation still raises a number of questionings.

First, it is inconvenient for a citizen to register on different platforms, with a different account for each of them, a new password to remember, and personal information to complete repeatedly. The access to these accounts with a simple password may also be not secured enough for sensitive activities like management of bank accounts.

In addition, the personal data provided by the citizen is stored centrally, which favours the risk of data breaches, currently growing in number but also in severity.

Finally, the way personal data is managed by the service providers is rarely transparent, and citizens are most of the time uncertain of who monitors, accesses, and modifies their personal data. A recent study has shown that more than 70% of the citizens have concerns about the use of their data by companies.

To tackle these issues, SOTERIA proposes to develop a citizen-driven and user-centric revolutionary tool, uniquely combining, in a user-friendly manner, a high-level identification tool with a decentralised secured data storage tool. It will enable all citizens, whatever their gender, age, or ICT skills, to fully protect and control their personal data while also gaining enhanced awareness on potential privacy risks.

Citizens will have the opportunity to create in less than 30 seconds a unique digital identity, giving them the secured access to all online services. Their data will be stored in a digital vault, protected with advanced cryptographic technologies. Only the minimal data will be delivered to the service providers. Citizens will be fully aware of the data they share and be able to take the control on their privacy.

About this WORKSHOP

In 1928, French poet Paul Valéry wrote a short essay, *La conquete de l'ubiquité*, in which he argued that one day "It will be possible to send anywhere or to re-create anywhere a system of sensations, or more precisely a system of stimuli, provoked by some object or event in any given place. Works of art will acquire a kind of ubiquity. We shall only have to summon them and there they will be, either in their living actuality or restored from the past They will not merely exist in themselves but will exist wherever someone with a certain apparatus happens to be. A work of art will cease to be anything more than a kind of source or point of origin whose benefit will be available and quite fully so, wherever we wish. Just as water, gas, and electricity are brought into our houses from far off to satisfy our needs in response to a minimal effort, so we shall be supplied with visual- or auditory images, which will appear and disappear at a simple movement of the hand, hardly more than a sign. Just as we are accustomed, if not enslaved, to the various forms of energy that pour into our homes, we shall find it perfectly natural to receive the ultrarapid variations or oscillations that our sense organs gather in and integrate to form all we know. I do not know whether a philosopher has ever dreamed of a company engaged in the home delivery of Sensory Reality"¹.

Today, we live in the world that Paul Valéry dreamt of. Valéry was, however, a poet and would never have imagined that his prediction would come true, but for anything other than artistic activities.

Today we witness and participate in a reality where the world is, so to speak, 'distributed' in people's homes just like water, gas, and electricity. Not only has the Internet created a new form of virtual ubiquity, but it is revolutionising social life in its essential components, such as schooling and teaching; the exercise of democracy and voting; health and medical treatment. The expression 'remote communication' renders little and only partially what has been happening in recent years, that the pandemic crisis has rapidly precipitated. Human beings have always communicated remotely, and remote communication has always had a profound emotional value. Think of the beginning of Aeschylus' tragedy, Agamemnon, with the monologue of the sentinel who keeps watch in the night waiting to see the light signal on the horizon announcing the fall of Troy. However, what

¹ *On saura transporter ou reconstituer en tout lieu le système de sensations, – ou plus exactement, le système d'excitations, – que dispense en un lieu quelconque un objet ou un événement quelconque. Les œuvres acquerront une sorte d'ubiquité. Leur présence immédiate ou leur restitution à toute époque obéiront à notre appel. Elles ne seront plus seulement dans elles-mêmes, mais toutes où quelqu'un sera, et quelque appareil. Elles ne seront plus que des sortes de sources ou des origines, et leurs bienfaits se trouveront ou se retrouveront entiers où l'on voudra. Comme l'eau, comme le gaz, comme le courant électrique viennent de loin dans nos demeures répondre à nos besoins moyennant un effort quasi nul, ainsi serons-nous alimentés d'images visuelles ou auditives, naissant et s'évanouissant au moindre geste, presque à un signe. Comme nous sommes accoutumés, si ce n'est asservis, à recevoir chez nous l'énergie sous diverses espèces, ainsi trouverons-nous fort simple d'y obtenir ou d'y recevoir ces variations ou oscillations très rapides dont les organes de nos sens qui les cueillent et qui les intègrent font tout ce que nous savons. Je ne sais si jamais philosophe a rêvé d'une société pour la distribution de Réalité Sensible à domicile.*

is happening today with the digital revolution is something deeper: a new perception of the 'here and now' is being created, a new notion of the idea of 'presence'. As per Annette Markham's words "*Having a sense of presence without actually being there is a hallmark of Internet-mediated communication. Presence becomes a more complicated concept because it is determined by participation more than proximity*" (Markham, 2013, pp. 283, 294).

The idea of "presence" - a philosophical concept which has been crucial in most 1900 philosophy, from Husserl to Derrida - is now central to the digital world. The Internet is characterized by an ongoing tension between presence and reference, appearance, and representation. On the one hand, the digital world is a representation of reality like a stage where reality is merely performed; on the other hand, it is truer than reality and for many it has become the realest reality. Ultimately, the digital world is like a global *mise-en-abyme*, a collective play within a play. Human beings are "theatrical" in their constitution and, pace Sigmund Freud, the "theatrical drive" is likely to be even more primordial than any sexual drive². This is probably the profounder psychological reason why the digital world is that mentally pervasive and it is radically changing our life and conception of life.

The main features of the digital reality are, (1) language hybridization; (2) simultaneous capacity for synchronous and asynchronous communication; (3) human-machine hybridization; (4) privatization of global matters, publicization of private identities; (5) shared cognition and shared memory, nothing can be truly forgotten once it has been digitalised, and nothing can be no longer private and individual. Traditional approaches to ethics and privacy— based on regulations, information, and education— are still important, but they fail to capture the epochal novelty of the digital revolution and ultimately, to protect people, notably the most vulnerable ones.

This workshop aims to offer an opportunity to explore and discuss these themes amongst technical partners of the SOTERIA project and selected experts, including philosophers, ethicists, privacy scholars, fundamental rights advocates, AI experts, and experts from any other discipline which may contribute to the debate. The goal is twofold, 1) to assess the main ethical and privacy issues related to the SOTERIA project and discuss how ethical, gender and human rights considerations can be incorporated in its design, notably with reference to (a) digital illiterate; (b) migrants and mobile population; (c) senior citizens; (d) minors; (e) people suffering from any physical and/or mental disability; 2) to fulfil a prospective role, anticipating the major reasons for concerns and providing early warnings for emerging ethical, privacy, fundamental rights issues related to remote communication and digital identity.

² There are even biological reasons that could contribute to explaining this. Since the discovery of a class of neurons called "mirror neurons," which are activated both when individuals act and when they observe the same action performed by other individuals, growing evidence shows that higher animals possess a biological system of mimicry. Humans have developed such a capacity to its highest degree, and this is likely to be one of the main evolutionary advantages of our species.

Thursday, Nov 17, 2022

08:30-09:00	REGISTRATION AND WELCOME COFFEE
SESSION 1 - Chair: Emilio Mordini – NORIA - Italy	
09:00 - 09:15	<i>Welcome</i> - Emilio Mordini , Noria (Italy)
09:15 – 09:30	<i>The philosophy of the SOTERIA Project</i> - Montaser Awal , ARIADNEXT (France)
09:30 - 10:00	What is digital identity? From Identification to Recognition Keynote delivered by James L. Wayman - <i>Office of Biometric Identification Management - Department of Homeland Security</i> - Arlington, VA (USA)
10:00 - 10:30	<i>Discussion</i>
10:30 - 11:00	COFFEE BREAK
11:00 - 11:30	Remote Control Aaron Jaffe - <i>Florida State University</i> – Tallahassee, FL (USA)
11:30 – 12:00	<i>Discussion</i>
12:00 - 12:30	Human and artificial intelligence Luca Possati - <i>University of Porto</i> – Porto (Portugal)
12:30 – 13:00	<i>Discussion</i>
13:00-14:00	LUNCH BREAK
SESSION 2 - Chair: Montaser Awal – ARIADNEXT - France	
14:00 - 14:30	Title to be confirmed Keynote delivered by Annette N. Markham - <i>Information Studies & Digital Design, Aarhus University</i> - Aarhus (Denmark)
14:30 – 15:00	<i>Discussion</i>
15:00 - 15:30	COFFEE BREAK
15:30 - 16:00	AI Ethics - risks or possibilities Anna-Mari Rusanen - <i>Department of Digital Humanities University of Helsinki</i> - Helsinki (Finland)
16:00 – 16:30	<i>Discussion</i>
16:30 - 17:00	A Blind Spot in AI Ethics Alberto Romele - <i>Universität Tübingen</i> - Tübingen (Germany)
17:00 – 17:30	<i>Discussion</i>
17:30 - 18:00	Calm Technology Amber Case - <i>Calm Technology</i> – Portland, OR (USA)
18:00 – 18:30	<i>Discussion</i>
18:30 - 20:00	<i>Relax and informal conversation</i>

20:00 – 21.30	<i>Dinner</i>
21:30	<i>Informal conversation at the fireside</i>
Friday, Nov 18, 2022	
SESSION 3 - Chair: Oriol Ramos Terrades - <i>Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona</i> – Spain	
08:45 - 09:15	Identity: Revelation and Concealment Keynote delivered by Charles D. Raab - <i>University of Edinburgh</i> - Edinburgh (United Kingdom)
09:15 -09:45	<i>Discussion</i>
09:45-10:15	Practical Perspective and Privacy Issues in AI Ethics Albena Kuyumdzhieva - <i>European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency (EISMEA)</i>
10:15 -10:45	<i>Discussion</i>
10:45-11:00	COFFEE BREAK
11:00-11:30	A convivial-agonistic framework to theorise public service media platforms and them governing systems Tiziano Bonini - <i>University of Siena</i> - Siena (Italy)
11:30-12:00	<i>Discussion</i>
12:00-12:40	Minimal ethics - a framework for applied ethics in the digital sphere Closing lecture delivered by Vincent C. Mueller - <i>Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg</i> – Erlangen (Germany)
12:40 - 12:50	<i>Conclusive Remarks by the SOTERIA Project</i> - Montaser Awal , ARIADNEXT (France)
12:50 – 13:00	<i>Thank you and Arrivederci</i> – Emilio Mordini , Noria (Italy)
13:00 -14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 – 17:00	<i>Departure and free time</i>
17:00 - 19:30	Public Session (in Italian)
	Round Table on ethical and societal aspects of e-health Panel: <i>to be confirmed</i>

Participants

1. **Eunate Aranaarri** - Osakidetza – Spain
2. **Montaser Awal** – Ariadnext – France
3. **Corinna Balestrieri**- Noria – Italy
4. **Valeria Balestrieri** - Noria – Italy
5. **Tiziano Bonini** - University of Siena - Italy
6. **Amber Case** – Calm Technology – USA
7. **Eleonora Cividini** - Noria – Italy
8. **Davide Frey** - Inria – France
9. **Natale Imaz Ayo** - Osakidetza – Spain
10. **Aaron Jaffe** - Florida State University – USA
11. **Albena Kuyumdzhieva** - European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency (EISMEA)
12. **Giuseppe O. Longo** - University of Trieste – Italy
13. **Annette N. Markham** - Information Studies & Digital Design, Aarhus University - Denmark
14. **Emilio Mordini** - Noria – Italy
15. **Vincent Mueller** - Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg - Germany
16. **Guillaume Piolle** - Inria – France
17. **Luca Possati** – University of Porto – Portugal
18. **Charles D. Raab** - University of Edinburgh – United Kingdom
19. **Gillian Raab** - University of Edinburgh – United Kingdom
20. **Georg Richter** – IPCenter – Vienna – Austria
21. **Alberto Romele** - Universität Tübingen – Germany
22. **Anna-Mari Rusanen** - Department of Digital Humanities University of Helsinki - Finland
23. **Dave Singele** - KU Leuven – Belgium
24. **Oriol Ramos Terrades** - Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona – Spain
25. **James L. Wayman** -- Office of Biometric Identification Management -, Department of Homeland Security - Arlington, VA (USA)

Workshop Structure

The workshop is designed to bring together people with different background and expertise and with different points of view on privacy, ethics, and digital technology. A few basic rules for the workshop are:

- 1) Dialogic approach: participants are not being asked to defend their own views or to find the weakness in others' positions, but to explain their own perspectives.
- 2) Multidisciplinary approach: participants are expected to use the rich, multidisciplinary, context to identify existing and emerging issues and to propose win-win solutions.
- 3) Informal conversation: informal conversation and fireside chats will be the core of the workshop, which aims to allow technologists and engineers to engage experts from other disciplines in a fruitful and out-of-the-box conversation.

Venue, Date, Attendance

Workshop venue is

L'ULTIMO MULINO - Via Molino 45 - 33080 FIUME VENETO (ITALY)

<https://www.ultimomulino.info/>

Date: Nov 17-18, 2022

Attendance is only by invitation but the final session in Italian, which is open the general public.

