

Online Franco-African Seminar in Digital Sciences - LIRIMA
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Why digital ethics ?

Abstract

If ethical reflection has always developed and draws many of its foundations from the Greek philosophy of antiquity, we are today witnessing a renewed fundamental interest, sometimes also somewhat opportunistic.

This interest is particularly due to the global digitisation of our societies. It is linked to the feeling of artificial intelligence resulting from advances in digital sciences and technologies such as machine learning, constraint resolution, optimisation, robotics or modelling of reasoning.

Ethics is at the heart of the reflection of scientists wishing to develop their research in an ethical and honest way. It is also at the heart of entrepreneurial thinking, where ethics rightly becomes an argument for competitiveness. It is also a crucial point in the management of the city, where it asks politicians to re-examine the value hierarchies that their decisions involve.

The ethics of digital integrates the ethical reflections developed since antiquity, but because it deals with the very concept of information, it presents specificities that we will enlighten and discuss.

Biography

Claude Kirchner is emeritus research director at Inria, the French national research institut on informatics and applied mathematics, member of the National Consultative Ethics Committee for health and life sciences, and director of the French National Pilot Committee for Digital Ethics created in December 2019.

His scientific interests and contributions focus on logic and semantic foundations for the design and implementation of robust, reliable and secure digital systems, with applications to cybersecurity.

He has been the first director of the Inria Bordeaux – Sud-Ouest research centre from 2008 to 2010, Inria's CEO for science and technology from 2010 to 2014, and has been chairing Inria's operational ethics committee from 2012 to 2018.

He is or has been member of numerous scientific committees in France and abroad, chairman of the committee for ethical research in digital science in France, member of the prospective committee of the CNIL. He is member of the scientific committee of ANSSI (the French National Agency for Security of Information Systems) and is co-chair of the French-Japanese academic cooperation on cybersecurity. He was awarded the 2002 French Academy of Sciences grand prize for the Franco-Chinese cultural foundation.