From Algorithmic States to Algorithmic Brains

22nd and 23rd September 2016
NUI Galway
G10 Moore Institute,
Hardiman Building

The modern age is characterised by two technological trends. The first is the increased outsourcing of human agency to intelligent algorithms; the second is the increased integration between mind and machine. The purpose of this workshop is to explore the political, legal and ethical implications of both trends. If we outsource political and bureaucratic decision-making authority to machines, what effect does this have on key political values such as transparency, democratic participation, fairness, and efficiency? And if we integrate more with machines what effects might this have on our personal virtues, autonomy, and our sense of self?

The workshop is taking place as part of the Algocracy and Transhumanism project which is funded under the IRC New Horizons scheme.
DAY ONE - 22nd September 2016

9:30 - Registration/Coffee

10:00 - 10:45 - Introduction - ‘Why Algocracy and Transhumanism?’ John Danaher

10:45 - 12:30 - SESSION ONE - Building Algorithmic Governance Systems

Tal Zarsky (Haifa) - ‘Good decisions by proxy’
Anders Sandberg (Oxford) - ‘There is plenty of time at the bottom: The Ethics of Time Compression in Computing’

Respondent: Rónán Kennedy (NUIG)

12:30 - 13:30 - Lunch

13:30 - 15:15 SESSION TWO - Algorithmic Governance in Practice

Pip Thornton (NUIG/Royal Holloway) - ‘Poem.Py: A Critique of Linguistic Capitalism’

15:15 - 15:30 - Break

15:30 - 17:15 SESSION THREE - Autonomous Systems, Rights and Responsibilities

Sven Nyholm (Eindhoven) - ‘Ethics Behind the Wheel and Under the Hood: Vehicle-Autonomy and Responsibility-Loci’
David Gunkel (Northern Illinois) - ‘Other Problems: Rethinking Ethics in the Face of Autonomous Machines’

Respondent: Niall O’Brolchain (NUIG)

17:15 - 18:00 - Reception

19:30 - Dinner @Tribeton - City Centre

DAY TWO - 23rd September 2016

9:00 - 9:30 - Coffee

9:30 - 11:15 SESSION FOUR - Technological Control and Political Power

Rachel O’Dwyer (Maynooth) - ‘Do Blockchains have politics?’
Laura Hille (Leuphana) - The control of life and everything living. Biohacking as a Technology of Cybernetic Biopolitics

Respondent: Pip Thornton

11:30 - 13:15 SESSION FIVE - Building Better People

Laura Cabrera (Michigan State) - Neuroenhancement and Human Values: How they Affect Each Other
Jonathan Pugh (Oxford) - Moral Bio-Enhancement, Freedom, And The Parity Principle

Respondent: John Danaher

13:15 - 14:15 - Lunch

14:15 - 16:00 SESSION SIX - The Future of Technological Governance

Alberto Giubilini (Oxford): AI and the Artificial Moral Advisor’
Chris Noone/John Danaher - A Research Agenda for Algorithmic Outsourcing

Group Discussion

16:00 - Close