

Abstract for the IS4SI online Summit 2021 Workshop

## **Digital Humanism: How to shape digitalisation in the age of global challenges?**

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### **A world worth living – Can Artificial Intelligence help to reach the goal?**

A world worth living for all human beings is a peaceful world where all people are free, equal and solidary with each other, where all resources are fairly shared, where not more is consumed than is recreated, where the nature is preserved, where the human rights are obeyed.

To a certain degree, this description may be seen as a synonym of humanism. Unfortunately, the goal is far from reached. On the contrary, the large part of the human population lives under precarious circumstances – to say the least. Moreover, the dominating form of economy destroys the natural resources and drives the world into a climate catastrophe. Although the global challenges are obvious for decades, the political leaders all over the world hesitate or outright refuse to take the necessary measures. Many states are ruled by dictators who oppresses their peoples. In the UN Charta from 1945, the meanwhile nearly 200 signature states promise “to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war”. The reality tells a totally different story.

Is there a way to overcome the global crisis with its many facets? Can Artificial Intelligence (AI) help? In the last 20 Years, one encounters quite an amazing list of successes in playing games like Chess and Go and many others as well as in much more practical applications like picture and language recognition and processing. These accomplishments and the accompanying promises of the AI experts have seduced politics and economy to consider AI as a key technology guaranteeing future added value. Many states have enacted AI strategies to exploit the technology and plan to invest into a leading role in AI.

In the presentation, I will argue that humanism and a world worth living in the area of digitalisation and AI in particular seem to be possible, but not at all automatically. The developments of future technologies including AI and robotics must be guided by the principles of humanism. Otherwise, the global crisis will become larger.

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Hans-Jörg Kreowski is (retired) professor for Theoretical Computer Science at the University of Bremen (Germany). Moreover, he is interested in various aspects of Computer and Society. He is board member of the Forum Computer Professionals for Peace and Social Responsibility (FifF) and the journal Wissenschaft und Frieden. Together with Wolfgang Hofkirchner, he chairs the Working Group Emergent Systems, Information and Society of the Leibniz Society of Sciences in Berlin which is also a Special Interest Group of IS4SI.