



25 February 2019

## PRESS RELEASE

### International speakers to examine the relevance of culture at AI symposium in Sydney

The Goethe-Institut is hosting a symposium called **'The Relevance of Culture in the Age of AI'** on Friday March 8th in Sydney. A panel of prominent and inspiring speakers from Australia, Germany, Singapore and New Zealand will appear to discuss the importance of cultural context as machines become more intelligent through the use of artificial intelligence.

Sonja Griegoschewski, Director of the Goethe-Institut in Australia, expects the event will encourage debate and discussion around AI while promoting the relevance of cultural, ethical and social aspects.

"Developments in artificial intelligence are happening faster today than ever before. In fact, AI is everywhere and it's already affecting our lives in ways many of us don't even realise. The dialogue surrounding around AI and its development must include us all, with philosophers, linguists, artists and people of different cultural and social backgrounds playing a role in shaping how it will impact society. The interest we have received in response to our symposium, illustrates that AI is definitely a topic people want to discuss and learn more about" she said.

#### Event details

**Date:** Friday 8th March 2019

**Time:** 4pm - 8 pm

**Address:** Goethe-Institut in Sydney, 90 Ocean Street, Woollahra NSW 2025

**Registrations for the event are now closed.**

#### Speakers:

**Interviews with the speakers can be arranged the day before the event on request.**

**[Toby Walsh \(Sydney, Australia\):](#)** A leading AI researcher who has been called the "rock star" of Australia's digital revolution. Scientia Professor of AI at UNSW and Technische Universität Berlin.

**[Theresa Züger \(Berlin, Germany\):](#)** PhD about digital forms of civil disobedience. Head of the Office for the Third Engagement Report at Alexander von Humboldt Institute for Internet and Society.

**[Angie Abdilla \(Sydney, Australia\):](#)** Founder & CEO of Old Ways, New. Leader of international consortium of First Nations technologists developing next iteration of Indigenous AI. Fellow at The Ethics Centre.

**[Melvin Chen \(Singapore\):](#)** Philosopher at Nanyang Technological University. Specialises in philosophy of AI, creative cognition research, ethics and meta-ethics, aesthetics and philosophy of the imagination.

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**[Aurelie Jacquet \(Sydney, Australia\)](#)**: Lawyer and Founder of Ethics in AI Australia. Chair for the National Mirror Committee within Standards Australia.

**[Karaitiana Taiuru \(Christchurch, New Zealand\)](#)**: Advocate and proponent for digital Māori rights, cultural appropriation, data sovereignty/digital colonialism and revitalisation of the Māori language with technology.

**Moderated by: [Fiona Martin](#)**: Research Director and Senior Lecturer in Convergent and Online Media at the University of Sydney.

The event, curated by the Goethe-Institut in cooperation with Aurelie Jacquet, is the first in a series to be held during 2019 and 2020. More events will be announced soon.

#### **Contacts:**

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#### **About the Goethe-Institut**

The Goethe-Institut is the cultural liaison between Germany and Australia. We are a not for profit, independent cultural organisation with a global reach. Our mandate is to promote the study of the German language abroad, and to encourage and facilitate international cultural exchange. The Goethe-Institut has 159 branches in 98 countries. Our branch in Melbourne was founded in 1972, followed by the Sydney branch in 1974. We work with partners and networks across Australia.

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