

TDDE32 Seminar 4: Reflections on sustainability and dilemmas

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Instructions

- At the seminar we will practice debating about sustainability issues related to the use of IT. For each of the topic proposals, you are to prepare your own factual claims that can be used in the debate. You are to write down questions, with answers to those questions and hints, in the same format as in the first Dilemma seminar, with references to each claim. You will need to write these claims on pieces of paper that can be shared in class for playing Dilemma.
- In your group, you will need to divide the different debate topics between yourselves so that each person prepares to discuss for **both positions**, for **at least two** of the debate topics.
- Each person is required to bring **four questions and answers related to the debate topics** chosen, of those presented below.
- Bringing those questions and answers, and being prepared to discuss the topics outlined is **mandatory for participation in the seminar**.

Topics

Higher productivity through IT?

Some argue for increased digitization as a means to achieve higher productivity in companies, but not all are convinced that the introduction of more complex IT systems will lead to higher productivity.

Position #1: Argue in favor of the use of IT to achieve higher productivity.

Position #2: argue **against** the use of IT to achieve higher productivity.

The new gig economy

Companies such as Amazon and Uber rely on digital services to have temporary workers deliver packages or drive people. For the companies, this is a way to offer services without having permanent staff.

Position #1: argue **for** this development.

Position #2: argue **against** this development.

Digitization of workplaces

Many workplaces make use of IT support systems for an increasing number of tasks. However, there are also many examples of where the use of advanced IT systems add stress to important societal functions such as police and emergency services.

Position #1: argue **for** increased digitization of workplaces.

Position #2: argue **against** increased digitization of workplaces.

Complicated, omnipotent technical systems

IT systems are becoming increasingly complicated. They manage cash and inventory flows of companies, medical information at hospitals and much of our tax records. However, they tend to cost more and more to develop and maintain.

Position #1: argue **for** the use of large IT systems.

Position #2: argue **against** the use of large IT systems.

Sources

- The [Productivity Paradox](#) from MIT Technology Review, 2018
- [The Gig Economy](#) from Harvard Business Review, 2018
- [Why The Gig Economy is a Scam](#), TEDx talk by journalist and author James Bloodworth, 2020
- Klimmt, C., Hefner, D., Reinecke, L., Rieger, D., & Vorderer, P. (2018). [The permanently online and permanently connected mind. Mapping the cognitive structures behind mobile Internet use.](#) In P. Vorderer, D. Hefner, L. Reinecke & C. Klimmt (Eds.), Permanently online, permanently connected. Living and communication in a POPC world (pp. 18-28). New York: Routledge
- [More than half of IT projects still failing](#) from CIO Magazine, 2016
- [The Social Credit System in China](#), overview from Wikipedia
- [How social media and algorithms influence elections](#), The Guardian, May 2017
- On the concept of a [Filter Bubble](#), Wikipedia
- [10 Ways Machine Learning will affect our life](#) from Medium, 2019
- [This is how AI bias really happens, and why it's so hard to fix](#) from MIT Technology Review, 2019
- [Can computer algorithms be free of bias?](#) from Mind matter news, 2019

Seminar

- Groups 1-3 in T2, groups 4-5 in S26
- Arrange furniture to have a table where you can play, but maintain distancing please, making sure those online are connected
- You only need to answer questions pertaining to your own debate topic. Separate and mix the questions so that they are related to the topics you have chosen.
- Before debates, take some time to prepare yourselves.
- We don't have to follow the strict format of Dilemma here, but we will make sure that all get to participate in debates and all get to answer the questions that you have brought.
- Our debriefing at the end will focus on what makes a good set of questions and what makes a good debate.