'Beyond the workforce; how education in STEM impacts society'. Panel discussion. 03/03/22.

International Women's Day

THE **DIGITAL** HUB

Niamh Donnelly, Co-Founder and Director of AI and Software, Akara Robotics.

Niamh Donnelly is a co-founder of Akara, a robotics and AI spin-out of Trinity College Dublin. Niamh holds a Bachelors degree in Engineering from DCU and a Masters in AI and Machine learning from UCD.

She has previously held engineering positions at Etsy and Syze (AI start-up based in Dublin) and has also worked as an AI consultant at Krisolis. She has won national awards for her AI research and was recently named by Silicon Republic as one of "20 women doing fascinating work in AI, machine learning and data science" and recognized globally as one of "50 women in robotics you need to know about 2021" by Robohub.

Prof. Aphra Kerr, Department of Sociology Maynooth University and Principal Investigator at the SFI ADAPT Centre. **(Panel Moderator)**

Dr. Aphra Kerr is a Professor in Sociology at Maynooth University in Ireland where she lectures on social aspects of the media and technology primarily to social science and humanities students and she is chair of the MA in Digital Societies. She is a PI at the Science Foundation Ireland funded ADAPT Centre for Digital Content Technology, a multi-institutional research centre in Ireland (2021-2027) and a co-PI in the Global Media and Internet Concentration Project (2021-2026).

Her research focuses on the ethics and social impacts of Artificial Intelligence across media, games and everyday contexts, digital policy and literacy, and diversity and inclusion in STEM and the creative industries. Much of her research is interdisciplinary working alongside academics, activists, and practitioners from the technical disciplines.

Her academic publications include Global Games: Production, Circulation and Policy in the Networked Age, Routledge, 2017, and she was associate editor of The International Encyclopedia of Digital Communication and Society, Wiley-Blackwell, 2015. In 2020 she was accepted into the Academy of Europe and in 2016 she received a Distinguished Scholar award from the international Digital Games Research Association (DiGRA). For more see Maynooth University work website, LinkedIn or twitter @aphrak.

Dr. Katriona O'Sullivan, Digital Skills Lecturer, The Assisting Living & Learning Institute, Department of Psychology, Maynooth University, Maynooth University and Principal Investigator, STEM Passport for Inclusion project.

Dr Katriona O'Sullivan is Lecturer of Digital Skills in the Assisting Living & Learning Institute, Department of Psychology, Maynooth University. She is the Principal Investigator on the STEM Passport for Inclusion project, featured recently on RTE's Changemaker series.

She holds research grants from the Irish Research Council and Science Foundation Ireland leading an initiative to tackle digital inequality in education. Katriona was research fellow in Trinity College Dublin and worked with Lady Margaret Hall, and Kellogg college, where she led the programme of research which informed the development and assessment of the first foundation year in Oxford University. She also successfully led the largest HEA PATH funded programme entitled Turn to Teaching.

She has been invited speaker at the World Education Forum and the European Gender Action Workshop on Women and Digitalization. She has worked with Irish policy makers to develop policies around education and inclusion. She has published research on equality, gender, education, inclusion, and STEM.

Prof. Mara Tanelli, Full Professor of Automatic Control, Politecnico di Milano.

Mara Tanelli is a Full Professor of Automatic Control at the Politecnico di Milano. Her research activities focus on active control of ground vehicles, "Smart Mobility", industrial analytics and sliding-mode control. She is co-author of more than 175 scientific publications and more than 20 patents in these research areas. She is currently Associate Editor for the IEEE Transactions on Control Systems Technology and the IEEE Transactions on Human-Machine Systems. Since 2021, she is Chair of the Technical Committee on Automotive Control of the IEEE CSS and Vice Chair for publications of the IFAC Technical Committee on Automotive Control.

At the Politecnico di Milano, since 2020 she has been serving as Students Advocate (Ombudswoman). Further, she is member of the steering committee of the "POP: Equal Opportunities at Politecnico di Milano" initiative, also coordinating the working group in charge of the redaction of the "Gender Budget" and the "Gender Equality Plan" of the university. She is also in the Executive Committee of Fondazione Politecnico Milano, within which she is delegate for STEM activities, and liaison for Politecnico di Milano in the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion workgroup of the CAESAR network of universities of science and technology.

Vicky Twomey-Lee, Coder, Tech Event Organiser, Diversity in Tech Advocate – page/whykay

Vicky is a coder, tech event organiser and diversity in tech advocate in her spare time, and currently is working as the Community Lead (Tech Mystic 🧙) at Yard.

You can find out more via https://beacons.page/whykay