

FROM HUMANISM TO DIGITAL HUMANITIES

OCTOBER 03-04, 2024

FLORENCE, ITALY



About KUI Conference

The annual Culture and Computer Science conference series focuses on best practice examples, challenges and future trends at the intersection of culture and computer science focussing fields like physical and virtual spaces, mixed, extended, augmented, and virtual reality, hybrid systems, 3D technology, data collection and management, media integration, modelling, visualisation, and interaction. The conference addresses employees of cultural and creative industries, art and culture professionals, media and communication scientists, computer scientists, engineers, designers, and architects who conduct research and development on cultural topics.

Starting in 2023, the KUI conference, which had always taken place in Berlin until then, became itinerant with its first meeting in Lisbon, Portugal, and the current event in Florence, Italy, in 2024. The KUI abbreviation originated in the former German naming of the “Kultur und Informatik” conference series, which was replaced in 2013 with “Culture and Computer Science” due to the increased international focus.

Call for Papers KUI 2024

In the historic setting of Florence UNESCO World Heritage, the XXI edition of the International Conference on Culture and Computer Science invites scholars, researchers, and practitioners to explore the intersection of humanism and digital humanities. The entanglement between the physical world and computer-generated data cuts across and expands far beyond disciplines such as human-computer interaction, machine-to-machine communication, computer graphics, sensor systems, humanities, and artistic sciences such as sound, visual, culture and design studies.

Under the topic “From humanism to digital humanities”, this year’s KUI conference aims to investigate the role of humans within technological development, whether as creators of systems or users. Emphasis is placed on the concept of “culture” as a synthesis of both material heritage, such as landscape, cities, monuments, and artifacts, and immaterial heritage, such as beliefs, traditions, knowledge and customs concerning nature and the universe. This year’s call thus sets its focus on the digitalisation of cultural heritage, on strategies for the preservation and protection of cultural assets, welcoming proposals in the field of architectural restoration and digital documentation and notably placing humans at the centre as critical subjects who structure, utilise, and implement digital systems. The discussion also considers climate change and the risks of contemporary crises through the lens of culture and information technology in the framework of a new humanism. Beyond this focus, the conference is open for a wider spectrum of contributions dealing with digital technologies in the cultural sector, such as ethics, XR technologies, or sketching.

FOCUS TOPICS

1 | Humanising the Informatic

Dealing with AI, big data, and humanity.

“Humanizing the informatic” is a concept that emphasises the importance of considering human values, ethics, and concerns in the development and implementation of technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI) and use of big data. These technologies offer immense potential for innovation and progress, but they also raise complex ethical questions. Prioritising human-centric approaches, it is possible to ensure that AI and big data systems are designed and used in ways that respect human autonomy. This involves technical considerations and thoughtful engagement with diverse perspectives and experiences. Ultimately, “humanising the informatic” means recognising that technology should serve humanity rather than vice versa.

- Addressing ethical considerations at the intersection of artificial intelligence and cultural preservation.
- Navigating the challenges of handling vast amounts of data while maintaining a human-centric approach.
- Examining the symbiotic relationship between technology and humanity in the digital era.

2 | Steps forward in Digital Heritage

Innovative and advanced approaches to digitalising and conveying cultural heritage.

Advancements in interdisciplinary research on digital heritage represent significant strides in preserving and showcasing cultural legacy for future generations. This evolution unlocks new access, research, and education possibilities through innovative and advanced approaches to heritage. By harnessing technologies such as digital surveys, virtual reality, and artificial intelligence, it becomes possible to create immersive digital experiences that bring history and culture to life in unprecedented ways. These steps forward in digital heritage enhance the understanding and appreciation of the past and may ensure its preservation and accessibility for years to come.

- Showcasing cutting-edge technologies in the digitalisation and presentation of cultural heritage.
- Discussing challenges and breakthroughs in preserving and presenting cultural heritage in the digital and hybrid realm.
- Using innovative technologies and storytelling to transfer tangible and intangible cultural heritage into the present and future, reframing and recontextualising it for new insights and diverse audiences.
- Collaborative efforts for a more inclusive and comprehensive heritage preservation.
- Collections – exploitation, design, exhibition, and conveyance.
- Documentation, visualisation and interaction in museums and archives.
- Interactive multimedia solutions for museums, theatres, concert halls, exhibitions etc.
- Simulation of cultural sites (acoustic, visual, and material).

3 | Dealing with Disasters and Climate Change Threat

Digital approaches and interventions for managing old and recent natural and human-made disasters; digital countermeasure strategies for raising awareness and mitigating impacts.

In addressing the complexities of disaster management, it is crucial to consider both old and recent events, encompassing a spectrum of natural and human-induced calamities. Employing diverse strategies, including traditional methods, modern digital approaches, and interventions, is essential. By integrating historical knowledge and contemporary technologies, it is possible to develop comprehensive solutions that mitigate risks and enhance resilience. As climate change threatens global heritage, it urges to explore innovative digital countermeasures to raise awareness and mitigate its impacts. Through digital platforms, educational campaigns, and interactive tools, it is possible to engage communities and stakeholders in understanding the urgency of preserving heritage.

- Exploring ways to raise global awareness through digital means.
- Examining the importance of digitalisation of cultural heritage under risk.
- Discussing strategies for cultural heritage protection, safeguarding and reconstruction.
- Proposing new strategies for cultural heritage documentation and fruition.
- Examining the impact of climate change on cultural heritage.
- Unveiling innovative digital strategies to mitigate and counteract these threats.

4 | Digital Technologies in the Cultural Sector

In addition to the topics mentioned above, the conference invites research contributions and innovative examples from all areas of the application of digital technologies in the cultural sector, in particular from the following areas:

- Analogue and digital exhibition design
- Code and materiality
- Cultural techniques
- Digital and hybrid storytelling
- Digital exhibitions, science centres, museums, and galleries
- Ethics in culture and computer science
- Human–computer interaction
- Influence of art and culture on future technical developments and vice versa
- Interdependence between culture and computer science
- Intuitive usage of media systems
- Location-based and context-sensitive services in a cultural context
- Machine Learning for cultural applications
- Mixed reality, augmented reality, virtual reality systems
- Natural user interfaces
- Physical and virtual spaces, especially hybrid spaces
- Sketching

PROCEEDINGS

All accepted papers will be in the conference proceedings and indexed in Scopus.

IMPORTANT DATES

Full paper submission: **June 14th, 2024**

Notification of acceptance: July 19th, 2024

Early registration: August 23rd, 2024

Camera-ready Paper Submission: August 23rd, 2024

Late Registration: September 13th, 2024

Conference: **Thursday-Friday, October 3rd-4th, 2024**

Further information such as submission procedure, important dates and costs can be found on the conference website: <https://kui.htw-berlin.de>.