

Summer School

TechFusion 2024: Towards Future Innovations

11th to 13th of September 2024



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Sponsored by the DigIT – Digital Twins for Intelligent Transportation Systems Project funded by the UKIERI Institutional Research & Mobility Partnerships



Welcome to the "TechFusion 2024: Towards Future Innovations" Summer School! We are delighted to have you join us for this exciting and enriching three-day event. Our programme is designed to bring together students, researchers, industry professionals, and academic experts to explore the latest advancements in next-generation wireless networks and intelligent transportation systems, and to equip you with essential skills for your future careers. Over the next three days, you will have the opportunity to engage with thought leaders, participate in hands-on workshops, and network with peers who share your passion for technology and innovation.

Day 1: Cutting-Edge Technologies in Wireless Networks

The first day is dedicated to exploring the recent advancements in wireless communication technologies. We will dive into the innovations driving the future of wireless networks, including 5G and beyond, edge computing, and the integration of machine learning in wireless systems. Through industry talks, panel discussions, and technical sessions from highly commended academic researchers, you will gain insights into the state-of-the-art developments and future trends shaping the wireless communication landscape.

Day 2: Digital Twins and Intelligent Transportation Systems

On the second day, we will focus on the transformative impact of intelligent transportation systems. The sessions will cover topics such as autonomous vehicles, V2X communication, digital twin technology, and the application of AI and data analytics in transportation. You will hear from leading researchers and industry experts about the challenges and opportunities in creating smart and sustainable transportation solutions.

Day 3: Empowering Future Innovators & Engineering Education

The final day is designed to empower students and researchers with the skills and knowledge necessary for their professional growth and development. The sessions will include workshops on graduate competencies, AI prompt engineering, and the use of AI in education. Additionally, we will address sustainability topics to highlight the importance of integrating environmental considerations into technological advancements. This day aims to equip you with practical tools and insights to excel in your academic and professional journey.

We look forward to your active participation and hope that this summer school will inspire and motivate you to contribute to the future of technology and innovation.

Let's embark on this exciting journey together!

Day 1: Cutting-Edge Technologies in Wireless Networks

Venue: C211, 2nd Floor, College Building

Chair: Dr Purav Shah

10:00 – 10:20	Registration, Coffee and Networking
10:20 – 10:30	Welcome Sally Priest, Deputy Dean Research and Knowledge Exchange, Faculty of Science and Technology, Middlesex University
10:30 – 11:10	Aryan Kaushik, University of Sussex <i>Integrated Sensing and Communications: A Tale of 6G Innovation beyond just Communications</i>
11:10 – 11:50	Hamed Ahmadi, University of York <i>O-RAN: a way towards to AI-enabled and democratized mobile networks</i>
11:50 – 12:30	Davide Sestili, University of Camerino, Italy <i>Blockchain and IoT integration challenges and future directions</i>
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch and Networking
13:30 – 14:10	Karthik Vaidhyanathan, IIIT Hyderabad, India <i>Self-adaptation meets EdgeAI: Model Balancer in Action</i>
14:10 – 14:50	Georgia Sakellari, University of Greenwich <i>Emerging technology to shape the future of emergency responders (H2020-RESCUER project) - (tbc)</i>
14:50 – 15:00	Coffee Break
15:00 – 15:40	Huan Nguyen, LDTRC, Middlesex University <i>Digital Twins for IoT and 6G Networks</i>
15:40 – 16:20	Krishna Chaitanya, WW Tech Lead for Industry – IoT, Amazon AWS, USA <i>Accelerate Operations Excellence with Digital Twins, 5G Private Network and Edge Computing</i>
16:20 – 17:00	Panel Discussions & Closing Remarks

Day 2: Digital Twins and Intelligent Transportation Systems

Venue: C219, Creative Suite, 2nd Floor College Building

Chair: Dr Glenford Mapp

10:00 – 10:20	Registration, Coffee and Networking
10:20 – 10:30	Welcome Glenford Mapp, Associate Professor in ITS, Computer Science
10:30 – 11:10	Simon Edwards, Newcastle University <i>A Connected and Autonomous Future for Transport - Meeting the Challenge</i>
11:10 – 11:50	Soufiene Djahel, Coventry University <i>CAVs-enabled Safer, Smarter and More Sustainable Mobility</i>
11:50 – 12:30	Berk Canberk, Edinburgh Napier University <i>AI-Enabled Digital Twin Systems and Networks for 6G era.</i>
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch and Networking
13:30 – 14:10	Mona Jaber, Queen Mary University of London

	<i>Is IoT the needed accelerator for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in 2030?</i>
14:10 – 14:50	Thomas Pelzer, Product Manager Aerial & 3D Products, Cyclomedia <i>3DNL: Large-scaled, Fully Automated Production of High-Quality 3D Mesh Models</i>
14:50 – 15:00	Coffee Break
15:00 – 15:40	Arindam Ghosh, TCS/JLR UK <i>Building a Connected Vehicle Testbed (tbc)</i>
15:40 – 16:00	Raja Vara Prasad, IIIT Sri City, India <i>Integral Simulations and Models to analyse wireless link of Autonomous UAVs</i>
16:00 – 16:20	Hrishikesh Venkataraman, IIIT Sri City, India <i>IoT based Connected Vehicles for Automated Vehicular Platooning</i>
16:20 – 17:00	Panel Discussions & Closing Remarks





Day 3: Empowering Future Innovators and Engineering Education






Venue: C219, Creative Suite, 2nd Floor College Building

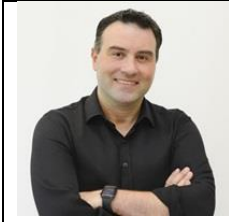
Chair: Dr Ramona Trestian

10:00 – 10:20	Registration, Coffee and Networking
10:20 – 10:30	Welcome Mehmet Karamanoglu, Head of Department Design Engineering and Mathematics
10:30 – 11:10	Homeira Shayesteh, Middlesex University <i>Embedding UNSDGs into curriculum: A programme Level approach</i>
11:10 – 11:50	Steve Jones, Siemens, UK, <i>Siemens - Helping to Build the Digitalisation Talent Pipeline</i>
11:50 – 12:30	Andrea Pereira, AtkinsRéalis, UK <i>From revision to railways: making the transition into industry</i>
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch and Networking
13:30 – 14:10	Alessandro Bigiotti, University of Camerino, Italy <i>Blockchain and IoT for Industry 4.0 Security and Traceability</i>
14:10 – 14:50	Daniel Camacho Leal, Talisis, Mexico <i>AI Literacy and Proficiency: Educational Innovation and Organizational Change</i>
14:50 – 15:00	Coffee Break
15:00 – 17:00	Workshop on Prompt Engineering: from manufacturing to cognitive labour
17:00- 17:10	Closing Remarks

Speakers' Biographies

	<p>Dr Aryan Kaushik has been Assistant Professor on senior grade with University of Sussex, UK, since 2021. Prior to that, he has been with University College London, UK (2020-21), University of Edinburgh, UK (2015-19), and Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Hong Kong (2014-15). He has also held visiting appointments at Imperial College London, UK (2019-20), University of Bologna, Italy (2024), University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg (2018), Athena RC, Greece (2021), and Beihang University, China (2017-19, 2022). He has been External PhD Examiner internationally such as at Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, Spain, in 2023. He has been an Invited Panel Member at the UK EPSRC ICT Prioritisation Panel in 2023 and has led several collaborative projects forging industry and academic collaborations on topics of strategic importance. He has been Editor of three books on ISAC (2024 Edition), 6G NTN (2025 Edition) and ESIT (2025 Edition) by Elsevier, and several journals such as IEEE Open Journal of the Communications Society (Best Editor Award 2023), IEEE Communications Letters (Exemplary Editor 2023), IEEE Internet of Things Magazine (including the AI for IoT miniseries), IEEE Communications Technology News (initiated the IEEE ComSoc Podcasts series), and several special issues such as in IEEE Wireless Communications Magazine, IEEE Network Magazine, and many other IEEE venues. He has been an invited/keynote and tutorial speaker for over 75 academic and industry events, and conferences globally such as at IEEE ICC 2024, IEEE GLOBECOM 2023 and 2024, IEEE VTC-Spring 2023 and 2024, IEEE ICMLCN 2024, IEEE WCNC 2023, IEEE MeditCom 2023 and 2024, One6G Summit 2023 and 2024, and many other events worldwide. He has been chairing in Organizing and Technical Program Committees of 10 flagship IEEE conferences such as IEEE ICC 2024 and 2025, IEEE ICMLCN 2024 and 2025, and IEEE WCNC 2023 and 2024, etc. He has been General Chair of over 18 workshops for IEEE ComSoc conferences such as at IEEE ICC 2024, IEEE GLOBECOM 2023 and 24, IEEE WCNC 2023 and 2024, IEEE PIMRC 2022, 2023 and 2024, and many others.</p>
	<p>Dr Hamed Ahmadi is a Reader in Digital Engineering, at the School of Physics, Engineering and Technology, University of York, UK where he is the director of iTWINS lab and deputy pillar lead for Advanced Communications in the university's Institute for Safe Autonomy. He is also an adjunct associate professor at the school of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, University College Dublin, Ireland. He received his Ph.D. from National University of Singapore in 2012 where he was a SINGA PhD scholar at Institute for Infocomm Research, A-STAR. Since then he worked at different academic and industrial positions in the Republic of Ireland and UK. Dr. Ahmadi has published a book and more than 100 peer reviewed book chapters, journal and conference papers. He is the ML/AI work package lead for the York-led £7.8M YO-RAN and £5.5M REACH, which are projects developing 5G open radio access networks in collaboration with industry and funded by UK Government.</p> <p>He is Associate Editor in Chief of IEEE Communication Standards magazine, a senior member of IEEE, and Fellow of UK Higher Education Academy. He has been the Networks working group chair of COST Actions CA15104 (IRACON) and CA20120 (INTERACT). He had chairing roles in organising and technical programme committee of several IEEE flagship conferences including IEEE ICC 2024, EUCNC 2025 and 2019, and PIMRC 2024 and 2019. He is also the treasurer of the IEEE UK and Ireland Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee. His current research interests include the application of machine learning in wireless networks, Open Radio Access and Networking, green and sustainable networks, airborne networks, Digital twins of networks, and Internet-of-Things.</p>
	<p>Dr Davide Sestili obtained his PhD degree in Computer Science at University of Camerino. Currently, he is a Contract Researcher at the University of Camerino. His main research interests are related to the world of blockchains and distributed ledgers, with a focus on distributed ledger and blockchain scalability issues and the integration of distributed ledger technologies with the Internet of Things. Recently, they filed an EU patent on Blockchain integration using IoT for Smart Grids.</p>
	<p>Dr Karthik Vaidhyanathan is an Assistant Professor at the Software Engineering Research Center, IIIT-Hyderabad, India where he is also associated with the leadership team of smart city living lab. He obtained his Ph.D. from the Gran Sasso Science Institute, Italy. He is a double master's degree holder in Computer Science with specialization in Software Engineering for adaptive systems and machine learning. His main research interests lie in the intersection of software architecture and machine learning with a specific focus on building sustainable and self-adaptive software systems. His research focuses on how machine learning techniques can be leveraged to better architect self-adaptive systems and further how to better define architecting practices for developing Machine Learning-enabled software systems. As a part of his research activities, he serves as a reviewer/organizing committee member in various</p>

	workshops, conferences, and journals. He is also an editorial board member of IEEE Software. Karthik also poses more than five years of industrial experience in building and deploying ML products/services.
	<p>Dr Georgia Sakellari is an Associate Professor of Networked Systems, with particular interest in the security, performance and energy efficiency of heterogeneous Internet of Things environments and edge computing. She is currently P.I. of the €7M H2020 RESCUER project on developing a secure technology toolkit for the next-generation of First Responders, enhancing their operational capacity, safety and secure communication, specifically in adverse conditions, both environmental and infrastructure-wise; and was the P.I. of the €6.3M H2020 C4IIoT project on building an Industrial Internet of Things cyber security framework for malicious and anomalous behaviour anticipation, detection, mitigation and end-user informing. Dr Sakellari has a PhD in Computer Networks from Imperial College London, a MSc (MBA) in Techno-Economic Systems and a MEng in Electrical and Computer Engineering from the National Technical University of Athens. She is on the editorial board of the IEEE IT Professional journal and Elsevier's Simulation Modelling Practice and Theory Journal and currently, she is also serving as expert evaluator and reviewer for the European Commission.</p>
	<p>Prof Huan Nguyen received the B.Sc. degree from the Hanoi University of Science and Technology, Vietnam, in 2000, and the Ph.D. degree from the University of New South Wales, Australia, in 2007. He is currently a Professor of Digital Communication Engineering with Middlesex University London, U.K., where he is also the Director of the London Digital Twin Research Centre and the Head of the 5G/6G & IoT Research Group. He leads research activities in digital twin modelling, 5G/6G systems, machine-type communication, digital transformation and machine learning within his university with focus on industry 4.0 and critical applications (disaster recovery, intelligent transportation, e-health, and smart manufacturing). He has been leading many council/industry funded projects, publishing 130+ peer-reviewed research papers, and serving as the Chairs for several high impact international conferences</p>
	<p>Dr Krishna Doddapaneni works at Amazon AWS in the Industrial IoT sector. He is the Worldwide Tech Lead for Industry Partners – IoT. Within Amazon, he worked in several areas of IoT integration. Prior to that, he worked for Altiux Innovations as a Solutions Architect. He received his PhD from Middlesex University London in 2014 and has held several researcher positions within universities and industry.</p>
	<p>Dr Simon Edwards is a Senior Researcher in Inclusive Mobility at the School of Engineering, Newcastle University. His specialities include all aspects of Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS), with 20 years' experience leading the FMG's (formerly TORG) participation in the portfolio of EU projects in this field. Through this, he has developed extensive experience in successful funding applications, project management, deployment site management, trial design and evaluation, and stakeholder engagement, as well as international dissemination. In recent years, FMG has repositioned itself more towards UK funding opportunities, and he led the involvement in Connected and Autonomous Vehicle (CAV) projects, whilst also participating in alternative fuels research, with particular interest in the potential for hydrogen.</p>
	<p>Prof Soufiene Djahel holds a Ph.D. degree (2010) from USTL (FR), a Magister degree (2007 - Distinction) from UAMB (DZ) and a State Engineering degree (2004 - Distinction Best Engineer in the Faculty of Engineering) from UBMA (DZ). He is a Professor in the Centre for Future Transport and Cities (CFTC) at Coventry University (UK). His previous appointments include Senior Lecturer in Cyber Security then Reader in Connected and Autonomous Systems at the University of Huddersfield (UK), Senior Lecturer in Computer Science at Manchester Metropolitan University (UK), and Engineering Research Manager at University College Dublin (IE). His research interests include the design and evaluation of communication, planning, optimization and security algorithms and techniques to unlock the potential of emerging wireless connected and autonomous systems, such as CAVs and UAVs, in enabling smarter, safer, and more sustainable cities. His research aims to drive the innovation in the future mobility and other critical services in smart cities with a focus on enhancing the efficiency, sustainability and resilience to cyber threats. His research was supported by the Newton Fund, JSPS, EPSRC DTP, and the Transport Systems Catapult. He is the recipient of the FY2021 JSPS Invitational Fellowship for Research in Japan award from the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science.</p>



Prof. Berk Canberk is a Professor within the School of Computing, Engineering and The Built Environment at Edinburgh Napier University-UK, where he leads interdisciplinary research and initiatives in AI-enabled Digital Twins, IoT Communication, and Smart Wireless Networks. He's also an affiliated Professor within the Department of Artificial Intelligence and Data Engineering at Istanbul Technical University (ITU) and Adjunct Faculty within the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Northeastern University USA. He is also the Innovation Director of BTS Group, the biggest network automation and cloud computing company in Turkey. He is a distinguished recipient of the UK Royal Academy of Engineering's Global Talent Endorsement. He is an IEEE Senior Member, and he acts as an active Associate Editor at several world-leading academic journals such as IEEE Transactions on Vehicular Technology, Elsevier Computer Networks Journal, Elsevier Communication Networks Journal, and IEEE Communications Letters. He's actively involved in several conferences as TPC chair and Organizing Committee Member. In his research group named Broadband Communication and Network Automation Research Group (BCRG, www.bcrgr.uk), he leads the research activities in highly interdisciplinary fields in digital twins and IoT, actively supervising 6 PhD and 2 MSc students. So far, he has supervised 16 MSc students, and 6 PhD students who are now all tenure-track professors. In the last 5 years, he has published over 100 academic papers, 2 books, 7 book chapters, 3 approved US patents and 12 patents waiting for approval. Prof. Canberk has been a Post-Doctoral researcher at Georgia Institute of Technology USA between 2011-2013. He received his PhD in Computer Science from Istanbul Technical University (ITU) Turkey in 2011, his MSc in Telecommunications Engineering from the Chalmers University of Technology Sweden in 2005, and his BSc in Electrical Engineering from ITU in 2003. He was an Associate Professor at Department of Computer Engineering at ITU between 2016-2021, and full Professor between 2021-2022. He has been involved with several industrial research activities with leading technology companies all over the world, including research scholarship program funding with Google Deepmind, TUBITAK, BTS Group Turkey, Turkcell, Turkish Telekom, and Uniper Energy Germany.









Dr Mona Jaber is a Senior Lecturer on the Internet of Things at Queen Mary University of London. She is a leading expert in mobile communication with a specialisation in radio and backhaul design of cellular networks; a topic in which she published multiple articles including the top 75 most cited paper in IEEE Access. Since joining QMUL in 2019, she started a new research group that examines the intersection between IoT and machine learning in the context of sustainable living. Three fast-evolving research directions have emerged where the first investigates multi-modal data in the modelling of urban mobility, the second examines data privacy-preserving machine learning for smart energy and health, and the third elaborates the digital twin paradigm as a simulation platform for IoT-enabled sustainable living. In 2023, she launched a new multidisciplinary research lab titled Digital Twins for Sustainable Development Goals which features a multidisciplinary team for ushering in SDG-related research through technical innovation related to IoT, AI, and Digital Twins.



Thomas Pelzer is the Product Manager for Aerial and 3D Products at Cyclomedia Technology, Netherlands. His technical areas of expertise are in LiDAR, aerial datasets and 3D models. Having a strong commercial background, he knows about the importance of asking the right questions and listening to users and prospects to derive key requirements. This is both about new content and new functionality. User requirements are translated into actionable tickets for the cross-functional teams to pick up and integrate in Street Smart, and/or provide data & insights solutions as online services. Thomas as Product Manager orchestrates between commercial and technical teams to make sure the right components are delivered in time.



Dr Arindam Ghosh is the Lead Data Scientist and Emerging Technology Innovation Lead at Tata Consultancy Services, UK. He received his BSc. (First Class Honours) degree in Computer Science from University of Kent (UKC) Canterbury, Kent, United Kingdom, in 2007 with distinction in his final year project. He was with Cisco Systems, in Reading, UK, (2007–2008), working as a year in industry placement as an intern. He received his M.Sc. degree in Computer Networks Management (with Distinction) from Middlesex University London, in 2009. In the year 2016, he received his Ph.D. degree in Vehicular Communication Networks at the Department of Computer Science, Middlesex University, London. Dr Ghosh is a distinguished member of several Professional Bodies in the UK, such as the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET), the British Computer Society (BCS) – (The Chartered Institute for IT). His research interests include investigating prediction techniques for proactive handover approaches in Vehicular Ad hoc Networks (VANETs) for Ubiquitous Communication for DSRC radios in Vehicular Communications.

	<p>Dr Raja Vara Prasad has been with the Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT), Sri City since June 2016, where he is currently the Assistant Professor of Electronics and Communication Engineering. His research interest includes Wireless Sensor Networks, IoTs, and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs). He also worked for different sponsored projects such as Pervasive Sensor Networks theme of Indo-UK IUATC in the year-2010-2011, Smart buildings of Cyber Physical Systems (CPS) hub and Internet of Things project of IITH from 2012 to 2015. He is presently working on funded projects like “Advanced Aerial Mapping (AAM) Rider: Yield Detection System for Mango Farms using UAVs” funded by TiHAN-IITH under NM-ICPS Scheme of Govt of India. He is one of the Co-Investigator in the multidisciplinary and multi-institute project titled “Design and Fabrication of Autonomous Passenger Drone” sponsored by the MeitY India from May 2019 and contributed in the communication interface and long-range communications aspects of Passenger Drone.</p>
	<p>Dr Hrishikesh Venkataraman completed his Master’s from IIT Kanpur, India in 2004 and PhD from Jacobs University Bremen, Germany in 2007. He worked in Irish national research center – RINCE, from 2008-2013; and as Technical Architect in Tech Mahindra CTO office from 2013-2015. He has been a German DAAD fellow with TU Dresden from 2003-2004 and a fellow of Irish Research Council from 2008-2010. Currently, Prof. Venkataraman is a Professor and Dean (Research and Development) at IIIT Sri City. In addition, Prof. Venkataraman heads the “Smart Transportation Research Group”. He is an Associate Editor of SAE Journal of Connected and Automated Vehicles. He has published more than 100 research papers in journals and conferences including ACM, Elsevier, IET, IEEE and Springer. He has 1 granted US patent, 2 Indian patents, 6 patents pending and 1 granted trademark.</p>
	<p>Dr Homeira Shayesteh is a Senior Lecturer in Architecture & BIM at Middlesex University. She received her PhD from Bartlett UCL where she also worked as post-doctoral researcher and design tutor until 2017. She was part of the delivery team of Digital Built Britain contributing to the UK government construction strategy. She trained as an architect and have years of experience in applied research and practice in the built environment. Her research interest lies in applied data-driven approaches to sustainable, regenerative, and inclusive architecture/urbanism and from the users' point of view in response to global societal challenges and UNSDGs. She has many publications in peer reviewed journals and presented in prestigious conferences such as CISBAT, Space Syntax, CIB, SEEDS, COBEE, UK Higher Education Conference and Advance HE. Homeira is the Pedagogic Research Group Lead for Faculty of Science and Technology in Middlesex University and chairing the UNSDG in Curriculum teaching group. She is member of University’s Environmental Steering Group and Barnet Built Environment Skills Steering Group.</p>
	<p>Steve Jones is the Connected Curriculum Lead at Siemens, leading the development of their national Connected Curriculum initiative. This initiative merges Siemens' latest Industry 4.0 technologies into learning materials for the Higher Education sector. Institutions are given the freedom to share and tailor industry tools, resources, and course materials to their teaching style. The initiative brings industrial hardware and software together into an off-the-shelf bundle that includes simulation environments, curriculum examples, case studies, and real-life problem-solving tutorials. It provides a once-in-a-generation opportunity for academia and industry to work together. Steve is a highly experienced engineer and senior manager specialising in STEM (Science, Engineering, Technology and Maths) education and training for the past 20 years. Demonstrating a proven track record of developing and delivering innovative Engineering and Technology training for global companies, A specialist in outstanding curriculum innovation and employer engagement across industry and education.</p>
	<p>Andrea Pereira is a Graduate Engineer at AtkinsRéalis, UK. She has worked on the HS2 project in the UK and has also navigated Smart City projects in the Middle East. She completed her BEng in Computer Systems Engineering (First Class Honours) in 2023 from Middlesex University, UK. She is a passionate, curious and versatile being with an appetite to navigate through the world of engineering, technology, innovation, travel, food, and cultures.</p>
	<p>Alessandro Bigiotti is a computer scientist. He is currently a Ph.D. student in blockchain technology, winner of a national interest call. During his training period he gained experience in GPU Computing, Artificial Intelligence and Blockchain. He has experience in the corporate field having worked as an IT consultant and data scientist for some companies. He is currently conducting research on interoperability protocols between different blockchains and the application of Blockchain in private contexts, especially for industry 4.0.</p>



Daniel Camacho is an AI Strategist and Prompt Engineer. Currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Engineering Sciences with a research scholarship, focusing on AI and Prompt Engineering. His academic background includes a degree in Public Accounting and two MBAs in Finance and Global Management, with theses on "Behavioral Economics" and "Corporate Application of Blockchain Technology." With over 15 years of experience in technology, business, academia, innovation, and scientific research, Daniel has been an independent consultant, entrepreneur, speaker, and professor. He is the author of books like "Tokenomics" and "Crypto Papers" and recognized international publications and scientific research papers. He coined the term "meta-student," referring to educational and academic engagement in the metaverse. Currently, he is the Director of the Artificial Intelligence Laboratory at Talisis, conducting research and developing solutions to address technological evolution, aiming to empower people through technology.