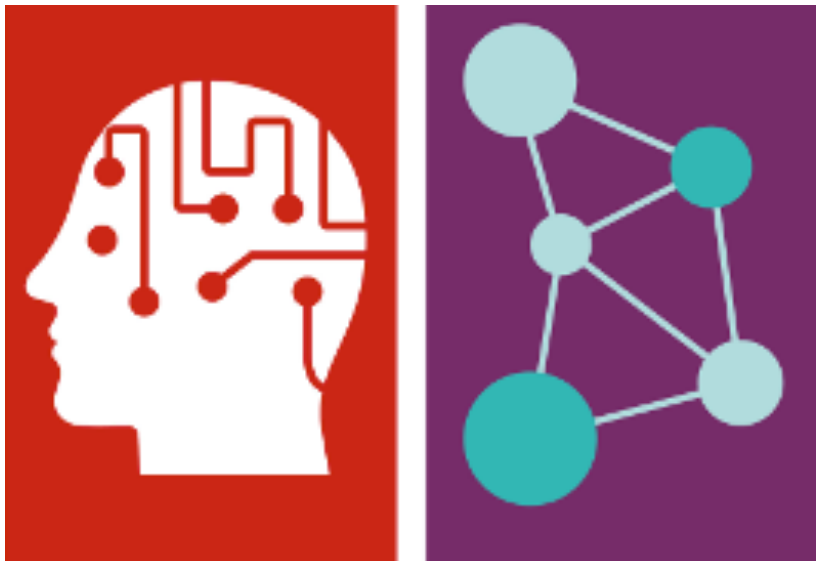
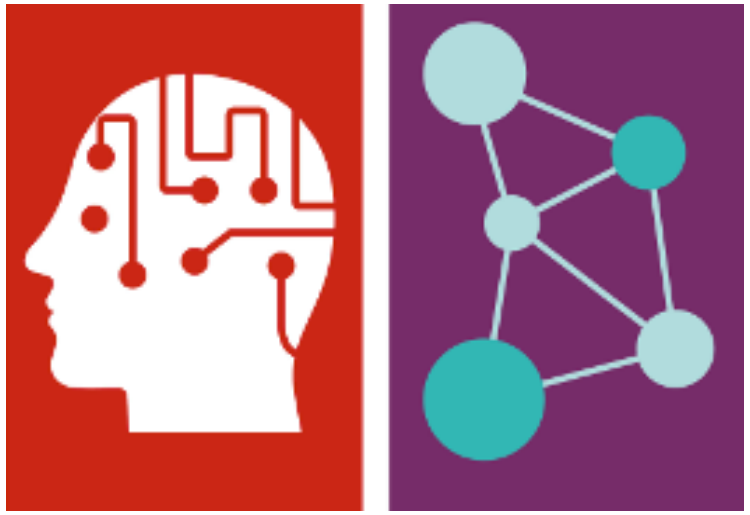




Data Autonomy Year 1 @ JTS

Mag. Dr. Oskar J. Gstrein, LL.M.

Theme Coordinator
Associate Professor
Director BSc Data Science & Society



Outline

1. Definition Recap
2. Recap of activities
3. Ongoing initiatives
4. Outlook for next months
5. Associate Initiatives

1. Definition

Essentially, data autonomy is based on informational self-determination, yet expands it in three dimensions: First, informational self-determination remains limited to the citizen-state relationship. The scope of data autonomy expands to private actors, in cases where those are particularly powerful. Secondly, data autonomy expands beyond individual rights and duties, including organisational autonomy as an enabler for individual autonomy. Thirdly, data autonomy addresses harmful inferences resulting from the use of systems based on machine learning or artificial intelligence. Therefore, it is not limited to risks stemming from statically labelled data (e.g. data stored in databases).

> In its broadest sense, data autonomy describes the ability of individuals and organisations to make meaningful decisions about their data.
>
> Gstrein, Ars Aequi, 2023

Working Definition UG (I)

‘Data autonomy is the effective capacity of the academic community of the University of Groningen to make meaningful decisions about access to data, data flows, the uses of data and the design of the informational environment, to the degree necessary to freely and independently pursue the university's mission, to promote knowledge dissemination and to protect the rights of its students and employees. This capacity is required to protect academic freedom and the independence of the university.’

Titus Stahl

Working Definition UG (II)

Outlook: The working definition requires further consideration and input from the stakeholder community.

Themes that guide this discussion about the use of data at the UG include: privacy, ownership, transparency, creation, collection, accessibility, shareability, storage, protection, security, and autonomy related to the use of data and digital services.



Let us make this a value-driven (& not a power-driven) discussion!

Promote human dignity and fundamental rights, have a vision that is (politically) shared, avoid discrimination, nationalism, protectionism, geopolitcal conflicts, etc.



2. Recap of Activities

2. Recap of activities

- Co-Organised 9 events relating to the theme on international, national and regional level since Jun 23
- Presented at 10 events in this role for international, national and regional audiences since May 23
- Worked on 2-peer reviewed publications
  - 1 published / 1 accepted subject to major reviews and resubmitted
- Worked on publication for the broader public
  - Editing a blog on the theme (contributions welcome!)
  - Submission to Ars Aequi journal on Data Autonomy and higher education
  - ‘Bierviltjes’ actie Lustrum

2. Other relevant activities

- Research/Outreach
  - Navigating the EU AI Act: Innovation, Regulation, and the Future of the Digital Society organised on 6 Feb 24
  - Co-Founder The Surveillance Studies in Groningen Network for All (SSiGNAll) based on UG Incentive Found
    - Working with colleagues from faculties Law, FEB, Arts, Philosophy
- Teaching (developed/planned to start autumn)
  - AI voor beleidsmakers - 3 ECTS micro-credential in Oct/Nov 24
    - Plan to do with CF, Law, FSE, AI Hub Noord-Nederland
  - Contribution DSS to Geospatial Data Science Minor
  - HOVO cursus AI in Sep/Oct 24

2. Collaboration with theme coordinators

- Together with all theme coordinators
- Textbooks to Textbots: ChatGPT's Role in Reshaping Education
  - Together with Joëlle and Tommaso
- Preparing a contribution to European Researcher's Night

3. Ongoing activities

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- Development of the Data Autonomy Index (DAIX)
  - The vision behind DAIX is to empower individuals and organizations to achieve greater control over their data, helping ensure privacy and autonomy and privacy in their data management practices. The Index is designed to serve as a basis for organizations to evaluate their data practices and identify areas for improvement. We hope this will facilitate discussions among stakeholders with diverse backgrounds, promoting a collaborative approach to data autonomy.
- Discussing launch of Yearbook of Data Autonomy (YoDA)
  - Doing this together with UG Press/Open Access/Online First



4. Plans for future activities

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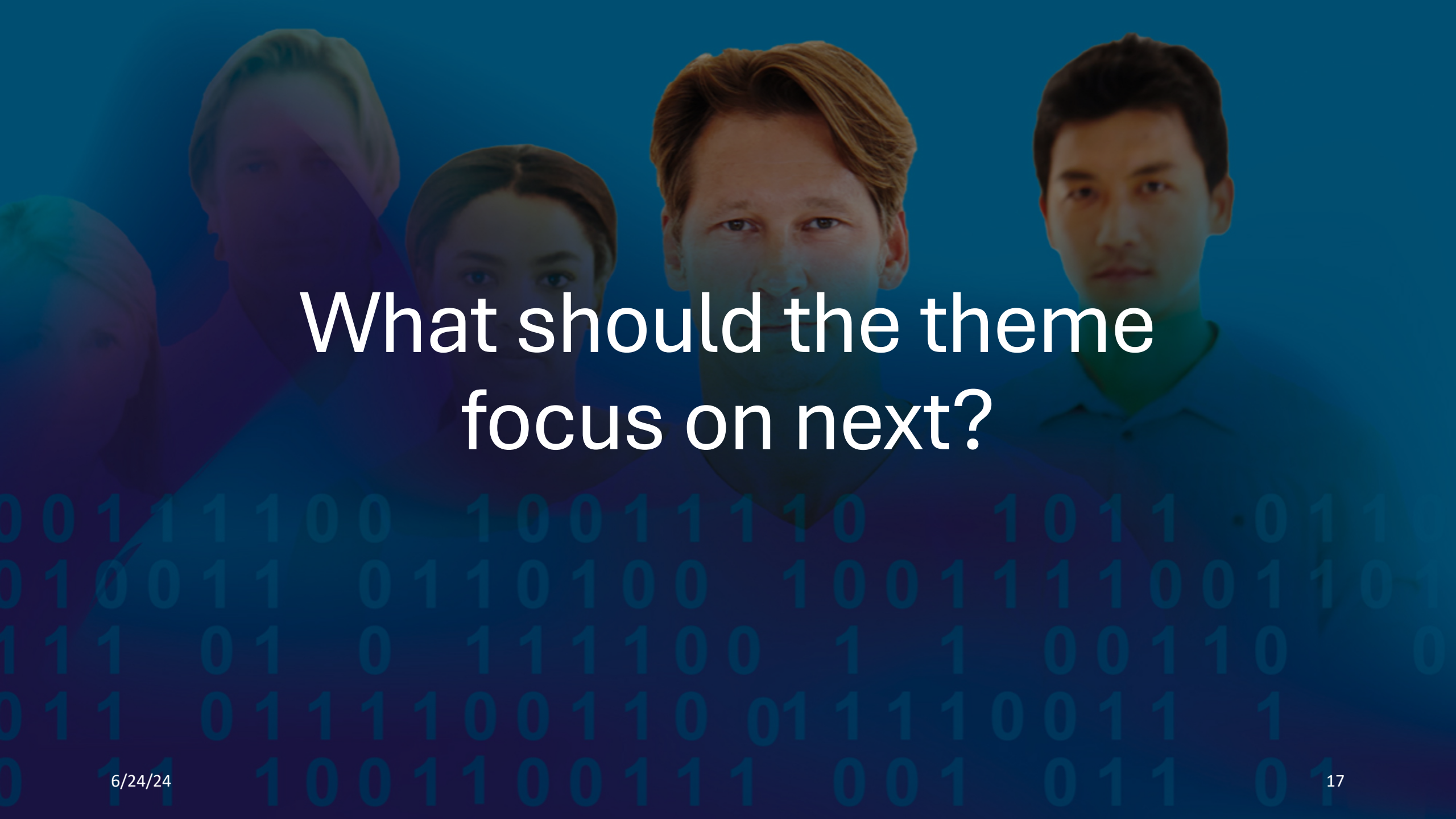
- Working on European Researcher’s Night in Forum
- Preparing to write a manifesto with Jonge Akademie – Big Tech in Education Group (9 Sep 24)
- Investing more in awareness/outreach
  - Invite Bert Hubert for a talk
  - Talk to people from Estonia how they run digital government
  - Talk to people from University of Innsbruck / FU Berlin
  - Stay in contact with SURF (Public Values) / Public Spaces
  - Engage with student organisations more again
  - Think more about how to work with ambassador network

5. Associate initiatives

- At UG
  - Open Source Programme Office (OSPO meetup 12 Jun 24)
  - CIT (important to breach academic/admin divide – going forward?)
  - Library / UG Press
- Beyond UG
  - KNAW / Jonge Akademie ‘Big tech in Education’ (9 Sep 24)
  - SURF – Public Values
  - Public Spaces



What should the theme focus on next?