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CCAI

UKRI AI CENTRE FOR DOCTORAL TRAINING IN CITIZEN-CENTRED AI

Pre-application workshops & webinar 2026-2027

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Aim

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- **Supporting applicants in developing strong research proposals required for applying to CCAI**
- **House Rules:**
  1. Anti-racist
  2. Gender inclusive
  3. Respect
  4. Sensitivity
  5. Supportive

Digital Citizens



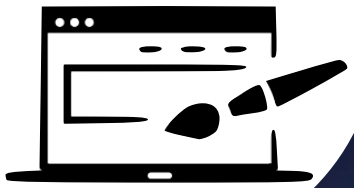
Citizens not users

Digital Civics

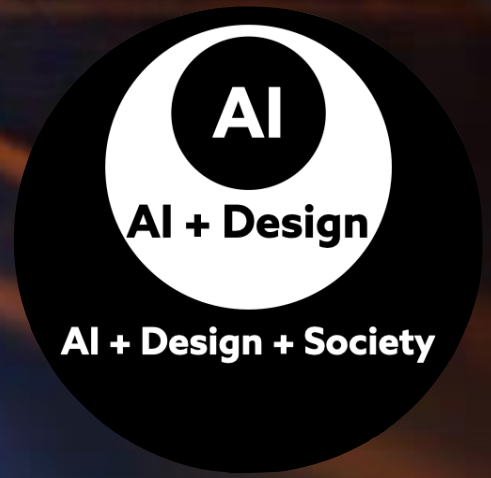


Transforming power relations

Digital Design



People & planet centred implications



AI + Design + Society

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Agenda

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Time	Activity
10 minutes	Introduction and overview of workshop
10 minutes	Hearing from current students
15 minutes	Looking at good examples
10 minutes	Discussing what makes a good research proposal
20 minutes	Formulating an outline for your proposal
10 minutes	Break
15 minutes	Giving constructive feedback
5 minutes	Break
20 minutes	Outlining problem statement, research questions & methods
10 minutes	Key take aways and Q&A

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What is Citizen Centred AI?

- **UKRI** funded **Centre of Doctoral Training (CDT)** - funding to train 60 PhD students (an intake of 12 students per year for 5 years)
- A vision of **making AI work for citizens**, foregrounding citizen engagement
- CCAI **does not focus on a single sector**, rather seeking researchers as **multi-disciplinary activists**



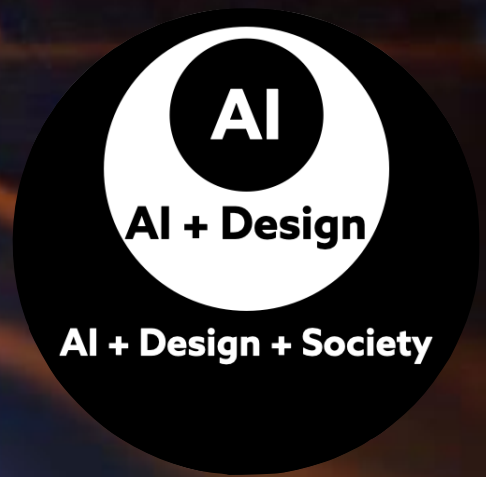
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Strategic Challenges

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Growing up with AI

How should children and young people shape the AI-enabled world they are growing up in?

Resilient Societies

How can citizens help shape safer online environments in an age of AI?

Health & Care

How can patients, citizens and healthcare professionals meaningfully shape the AI systems increasingly becoming part of health and care?

The Future of work

How should people shape the role that AI plays in the future of work?

More than Human AI

What would AI look like if humans were not the only stakeholders whose interests mattered?

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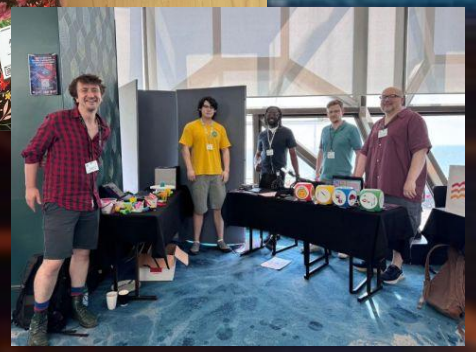
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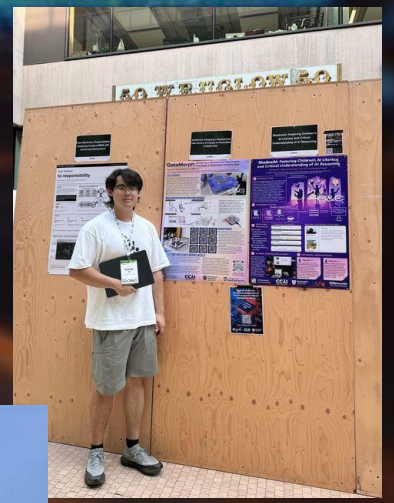
Important Dates

- Send in your applications for feedback before the **11th of December**
  - CCAI.CDT@Northumbria.ac.uk
- Application submission deadline- **11th of January**
- Invitations for interviews- **4th February**
- Interviews- **15th-19th February**
- Offers will be sent on **22nd February**











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Current Students

1. How did you go about putting your PhD proposal together?
2. Were there any challenges you faced and how did you overcome them?
3. Any tips you would like to share?









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Exploring Examples

In your groups, please look at the proposals we shared with you:

- Identify what parts of the proposals make them good proposals and why
- Please use the pens and papers to write down notes based on your discussion
- Share with the rest of the room one thing that you thought made the proposals good proposals











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Outlining your ideas

- Write down/sketch what you are interested in researching and why. Share and discuss with others in the room.
- While putting together what you want to research, think about/write/sketch:
  - What is the issue/topic or problem?
  - Why do you want to do this research?
  - Why is this research important? who will benefit from this research?







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Break
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Outlining a proposal

Use template 2 to come up with:

- a problem statement
- the research questions that will be attempted

Discuss and share with others







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Literature

- In each research challenge on the CCAI website
- ACM Digital Library- https://dl.acm.org/
- CSCW https://dl.acm.org/conference/cscw
- CHI https://dl.acm.org/conference/chi/proceedings
- DIS https://dl.acm.org/conference/dis/proceedings
- PDC https://dl.acm.org/conference/pdc/proceedings
- FAccT https://dl.acm.org/conference/facct/proceedings
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- Big Data + Society https://journals.sagepub.com/home/bds
- AI and Ethics https://link.springer.com/journal/43681

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Q&A

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