

Proposal for workshops – AGILE 2023

Delft, Tuesday 13 June 2023

<https://agile-online.org/conference-2023>

1. Workshop name/title (and acronym is applicable)

An Ethics Manifesto: Designing principles for geo-information initiatives

2. Description of the workshop by listing topic(s), objective(s) and planned outcome(s)

2.1 Topic(s)

Before the workshop the participants will be asked to read the article “An Ethically Informed Assessment for Geo-Information Ecosystems” to have an initial basic understanding of ethics in the context of geo-information.

- Lecture (Dr Stefano Calzati, TU Delft):

1a) Data as hybrid (informational-technical) processes

1b) Space as a sociotechnical construct

1c) Geo-information: An ecosystemic (fair) perspective

1d) Ethics as a built-in dimension of geo-information ecosystem: which principles?

1e) Possibility of an activity involving the use of a georeferenced tracking app to unveil possible biases

- Case studies

2a) Geo-information and/or communication design: Examples and lessons (Prof. Matteo Ciastellardi, Polytechnic Institute of Milan, Italy)

2b) Ethics of mobility ecosystems or issues of “ownership” of urban digital twins (Dr Fran Meissner, Twente University, Netherlands)

2c) National CORS data: Challenges and opportunities for governments (Dr Warakan Supinajaroen, Thailand Government)

- Discussion

3a) in groups

3b) all together (wrap up and drafting of the Manifesto)

2.2 Objective(s)

The lecture and the case studies constitute, respectively, the compass and basis for a discussion in groups (4-5 people; 5-10 groups) on the underpinning ethical principles of geo-

information-based initiatives. The principles will be extrapolated by the groups starting from the cases studies and by taking an ecosystemic perspective geo-information. The case studies do not represent the horizon of the whole discussion; they rather function as triggers – which ethical tensions do these examples bring to light? How to address them? – from which to generalize an ecosystem-oriented set of ethics principles (one group will further reflect on the idea of “fair ecosystem” to operationalise it as an incipit to the Manifesto). While the discussion (e.g. 45 mins/1h) will happen in groups (each one focusing on one case study, plus one on the lecture), the systematisation of the identified principles, will occur during a collective wrap up (e.g. 1h/1h30), leading to draft a 10-commandment Manifesto.

2.3 Planned outcome(s)

An ethics manifesto consisting of 10 commandments on how to conduct geo-information-based initiatives fairly.

The manifesto can become a prompt in BSc. geomatics classes (to familiarize students with ethical issues in the field), as well as a “oath” adopted by graduating students, GIS scholars and practitioners alike, all involved and committed to conducting geo-information-based initiatives fairly.

The collaborative design experience of the whole workshop will be synthetised in an article, ideally authored as an AGILE collective.

3. Abstract

With geo-information being increasingly valued and relevant to a diverse array of initiatives with socio-economic implications for different actors (including citizens), ethics is becoming an unavoidable dimension to account for when conducting such initiatives, by academics, the industry, public sector, as well as (non)institutional actors. Through, on the one hand, a theoretical framing of ethics as a process iteratively investing geo-information ecosystems and, on the other hand, the discussion of a series of geo-information-based and ethics-oriented case studies involving different actors, sectors and countries, the workshop will bring to light the ethical tensions that any geo-information initiative embeds. Such exploration will find a generalization in ethical principles which will then guide the collective drafting of a Manifesto for conducting geo-information initiatives in a fair way.

4. Short description of the intended length (half day) and the format of the workshop

Half day:

- Presentations: lecture (1 hour) and case studies (15mins each)
- In-group discussions (1h),

- collective wrap-up and drafting of the Manifesto (1h30)

5. Brief statement of the relevance of the workshop for AGILE

Ethics is an increasingly relevant topic for any initiative – be it from academia, the industry, the public sector or independent practitioners – based upon geo-information. The workshop moves beyond an understanding of ethics as a fuzzy/annoying “thing” to be dealt with, to rather show that ethics is embedded in everything we do with/through geo-information. The goal is to consolidate such understanding by collectively design an ethics Manifesto for geo-information-based initiatives which can not only be of use by a diverse array of actors, but also help institutionalise the discussion on ethics of/for geo-information.

6. What is the approximate number of expected participants?

Between 16 and 35

7. Names and e-mail addresses of the organizing member(s)

Leading AGILE member (or sponsor) and contact person: Dr Stefano Calzati, Urban Data Science group, Department of Urbanism, Knowledge Centre Open Data, TU Delft

Contributing AGILE members (including the persons involved) – at least one seconding AGILE member is needed:

Dr Fran Meissner (Twente University)

Prof Matteo Ciastellardi (Polytechnic Institute of Milan)

Contributing non-AGILE members (including the persons involved) – if applicable:

Dr Warakan Supinajaroen (Thailand government)

8. Additional information about previous workshops, if held.

N.A.

9. Expected resources needed

Internet connection (prof Ciastellardi, Dr Warapan Supinajaroen will likely present online)

Big-enough room to create from 5 to 10 groups for discussion

Big paper sheets where groups can jot down their reflections (also in the form of drawings) and coloured thick pens

Big-enough (for everybody to see) board where wrap-up discussion and the Manifesto will be drafted

Camera/video camera to record the event

10. Other information

N.A.