

Junior researchers' participation in panel on digitalisation and climate change

Each year, Aarhus University organises the MatchPoints conference, which aims to shed light on key current issues and build bridges between researchers, politicians, businesses, media and the general public. In 2021, MatchPoints will focus on digitalisation and its many impacts on our society. Entitled 'Democracy and Culture in the Digital Age', the conference will be held on 27 to 29 May 2021 in Aarhus, Denmark.

Among the topics to be treated at MatchPoints 2021 is the ambiguous relationship between digitalisation and climate change. Digitalisation constitutes both an enormous support and a challenging obstacle in the fight against climate change. While the vast social and technological changes required by the green transition cannot be realised without extensive use of digital technologies, IT corporations are among the largest CO₂ emitters in the world.

How can ground-breaking digital trends help us understand the causes and effects of climate change? How can the IT sector become more sustainable and deliver more effective mitigation strategies? And can activist initiatives in and academic studies of social media contribute to pushing democracies in a greener direction? These and other questions will be discussed in a one-day workshop that will be held on Friday 28 May in connection with MatchPoints 2021.

The workshop will consist of panel debates featuring senior researchers, politicians and industry representatives. Confirmed participants include Steen Hildebrandt, Emeritus Professor at Aarhus BSS, and Christoffer Karoff, Head of the Department of Geoscience at Aarhus University. Other relevant participants at MatchPoints 2021 include Lars Frelle-Petersen, future permanent secretary of the Danish Ministry of Climate, Energy and Utilities, and Davor Meersman, General Manager of Open & Agile Smart Cities.

In that connection, MatchPoints 2021 also wants to include promising junior researchers to allow for new perspectives on these issues, and to build relations between new and established actors. COWIfonden has granted a donation to invite and sponsor junior researchers' participation in the workshop on digitalisation and climate change at MatchPoints 2021.