

BDFI Inaugural Symposium Agenda

11.00 **Platform opens**

11.15 **Welcome**
by Hugh Brady, Vice-Chancellor,
University of Bristol

11.25 **Keynote**
by Academic Co-Directors,
Prof. Susan Halford and Prof. Dimitra Simeonidou

11.40 **PANEL 1**
Remaking digital futures
Chair: Prof. Susan Halford

- John Manley, CCO, Asking Bristol.
- Alex Taylor, Reader in Human Computer Interaction, City University London
- Charlie Warwick, Head of Futures Advice, Government Office for Science
- Eva Feukeu, Futures Literacy Project Officer / Africa Coordinator, UNESCO

12.30 **Comfort break**

12.45 **PANEL 2**
**The Future of Wireless Connectivity:
A Human Need or a Human Right?**
Chair: Prof. Dimitra Simeonidou

- Peter Williamson, Professor of International Management and
Director of Studies in Management Studies;
Chair of the Global issues Dialogue Centre at Jesus College
- Howard Benn, VP Research Samsung
- Simon Saunders, Honorary Prof. University of Bristol

13.35 **Closing Remarks**

13.45 **Event closes**



Directors



Professor Susan Halford

Professor Susan Halford is a social scientist, Professor of Sociology and President of the British Sociological Association. Susan has a long-standing commitment to interdisciplinary research across the social sciences and engineering. Her research focuses on the politics and practices of digital data, methods and infrastructures, with particular attention to questions knowledge, power and inequalities, and she is committed to developing collaborative spaces where new forms of knowledge about digital data, methods and architectures can be pioneered.



Professor Dimitra Simeonidou

Professor of High-Performance Networks and Director of Smart Internet Lab at the University of Bristol. Her specialisms are in the fields of high-performance networks, programmable networks, wireless-optical convergence, 5G and smart city infrastructures. Dimitra has been the Technical Architect and the CTO of the smart city project, Bristol Is Open, and leads the Bristol City/Region 5G urban pilots.

— Panellists —

PANEL 1: REMAKING DIGITAL FUTURES



John Manley

Dr John Manley spent 28 years at Hewlett-Packard's European Research Laboratories, based in Bristol. He retired as Laboratory Director for Cloud Computing. He was Chair of the International Advisory Board of TOUCAN (Towards Uitimate Convergence of All Networks), a member of the Strategic Advisory Board of LCSITS (Large-scale Complex IT Systems) and a member of CERN Grid OpenLab. He was a Lay Member of the University of Bristol Board of Trustees for 9 years, also serving as Chair of the University IT Committee. In 2020 he was appointed High Sheriff of the County of City of Bristol – a one-year Royal appointment. During this time he founded AskingBristol, a systems approach to democratizing asking, giving and connecting in the charity/voluntary space of a city region. He is a Visiting Professor in the Faculty of Business and Law, University of the West of England, Bristol.



Alex Taylor

Dr. Alex Taylor is a Reader in Human-Computer Interaction and Co-Director of the Centre for HCI Design. He has been contributing to the areas of Science & Technology Studies and Human-Computer Interaction (HCI) for over eighteen years, and held positions in both academia and industrial research, including the University of Surrey, Goldsmiths, Xerox EuroPARC and Microsoft Research. His interests are in how digital technologies are co-constitutive of forms of knowing and doing, and, as a consequence, provide a basis for fundamental transformations in society. He has published widely with over 60 conference, journal and book publications. Alex has five industry and grant funded PhDs (Microsoft Research, AHRC, and EPSRC), and holds grants for ongoing projects with two EPSRC Network Plus programmes.



Charlie Warwick

Charlie Warwick is currently Head of Futures Advice at the UK Government Office for Science, working on cross-departmental, cross-sector foresight projects and programmes to promote the development of more 'joined up', human-centric and resilient policy and design. Prior to her government work, Charlie consulted global consumer brands on business model innovation, always with a longer-term (5+ year) outlook. She has a BA from the University of Oxford and is the 2019 Next Generation Foresight Award Winner for Europe, for her work on UK high street regeneration.



Eva Kwamou Feukeu

Eva Kwamou Feukeu is an Anticipation Specialist acting as the Africa coordinator for Futures Literacy at UNESCO. She is an experienced facilitator and lab designer involved in labs run mainly in Africa and Europe since 2014, a member of the editorial board of the scientific journal *Futures* and a full member of the World Futures Studies Federation (WFSF) and Plurality U+ network. A jurist by training, she focuses her recent works on the role that norms play in the production and evolution of anticipatory systems using lessons learned from decolonial studies and pluralist legal contexts as evidence of complexity. She is also keen to work on African representations and uses of the future. She is currently a Wof Lancaster (UK) and a research fellow on Decolonial Comparative Law at Max Planck Institute for Comparative Private International Law. She holds a Master's Degree in business litigation and arbitration and a Bachelor in African studies from Sciences Po Paris.

Read more: [African Futures: an Interview.](#)

PANEL 2: THE FUTURE OF WIRELESS CONNECTIVITY**Howard Benn**

Howard Benn started his career in the fixed telecommunication sector (Plessey) back in 1982, did his degree and PhD at Bradford University, moving into radio based communications in 1989. He started working in ETSI GSM standards committees in 1993, helping create 3GPP and chairing 3GPP RAN 4 from 1998 to 2007. He has been a board member of ETSI since 2008, is currently advising the ICANN board on mobile technology, and a member of a number of advisory boards for UK universities and research programs. His current role is 'Vice President Communications Research' for Samsung Electronics R&D Institute in the UK, managing a team of engineers covering ETSI, 3GPP, and GSMA. His team are also very active in the EU Horizon 2020 program with a focus on the 5G PPP activities. He also sits on the UK5G government advisory committee looking at the future of communications technology in the UK, and an advisor to the UK government on international free trade agreements.

**Professor Peter Williamson**

Peter is Professor of International Management at the University of Cambridge, Judge Business School and Fellow of Jesus College. He is Chairman of Bizagi Group and has served as a non-executive director of companies spanning whisky through to green energy. Formerly with Merrill Lynch and The Boston Consulting Group, he earned his PhD in Business Economics from Harvard University. His research covers globalisation, strategy, M&A and ecosystem innovation. He is the author of ten books. The latest, *Ecosystem Edge* (2020) explains how companies can build and leverage a network of partnerships the sustain competitiveness in the face of disruption.



Prof. Simon Saunders

Prof. Simon Saunders is a specialist in the technology of wireless communications, with a technical and commercial background derived from senior appointments in industry, academia and regulation. He is a Visiting Professor at King's College London, Honorary Professor at the University of Bristol, Advisor to the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport and Trustee of the charity Music for All.

He founded the Small Cell Forum and chaired this industry association from 2007-12, growing membership to 150 companies and working with 3GPP to create the first standards for small cells. He also acted as Director of Emerging & Online Technology for Ofcom. At Google, he worked with operators globally to enhance wireless connectivity via a range of advanced initiatives, combining wireless networks, artificial intelligence and network virtualisation. In 2019 Simon organised the world's first 5G music lesson on behalf of charity Music for All, led by musician Jamie Cullum.

He has invented over 15 patented wireless technologies and served on technical advisory boards of several companies and universities.