

WESSEL H.M. REIJERS, PhD

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I am a postdoctoral research associate in the Global Citizenship Governance project at the Robert Schuman Centre, European University Institute. Previously, I have been a researcher in the Max Weber Programme; one of Europe's most competitive postdoctoral programmes, with 1400 applications in the and a success rate of 4% (2018). My fields of expertise include philosophy and ethics of technology, philosophical hermeneutics, responsible innovation, citizenship studies, and science and technology studies. I have an extensive publication record, with 12 papers in peer-reviewed journals, published in the last four years. I hold a PhD from Dublin City University (2019), and an MSc (2014) and a BSc (2012) from the University of Twente. I have extensive practical experience as well, having worked on projects integrating ethics in research, and having owned and run a small company.

CURRENT POSITION

2020-present: European University Institute, Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies
Research Associate, Global Citizenship Governance; The Role of Technology in Citizenship Governance: The Case of COVID-19.

EDUCATION

2015-2018: Dublin City University, School of Computing

PhD in Ethics of Digital Content Technologies

Dissertation: "Practising Narrative Virtue Ethics of Technology in Research and Innovation"

Supervisors: Bert Gordijn and Declan O'Sullivan

My dissertation develops a novel approach for practising ethics in research and innovation. It first offers a review of existing methods, and analyses how they deal with the anticipation of ethical issues of emerging technologies, the shaping of ethical design practices, and the evaluation of ethical impacts of existing technologies. This is followed by a critical discussion of the existing methods, outlining their shortcomings and offering recommendations for improvements. Subsequently, a novel philosophical approach is developed that synthesises insights from work on virtue ethics by MacIntyre and Vallor with Ricoeur's philosophical hermeneutics. Finally, the theoretical approach is translated into a practical method consisting of three phases that offer ways for analysing technical practices, evaluating them, and developing a broad set of prescriptions, including the use of an ethical oath, civic education and democratic decision-making in research and innovation practices. To demonstrate how this method could be practically used, a tool for reflecting on ethical impacts of innovation practices is developed and evaluated in practice: the Ethics Canvas.

2012-2014: University of Twente

Master (MSc) in Philosophy of Science, Technology and Society. *Cum Laude*

Thesis: "Critique of Digital Money"

Supervisor: Peter-Paul Verbeek

2013-2014: University of Warsaw

Exchange Student in the Master Programme Philosophy of Being, Cognition and Value

2007-2012: University of Twente

Bachelor (BSc) in Public Administration – European Studies

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2019-present: **University of Hamburg, Ethics in IT Research Group**
Visiting Scholar

2018-present: **WZB Berlin Social Science Center, Global Citizenship Law Research Group**
Visiting Scholar

2018-2020: **European University Institute, Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies**
Max Weber Fellow; Research Associate, Global Citizenship Governance

2016: **University of Vienna, Department of Philosophy**
Visiting Scholar

PUBLICATIONS

Total Citations: 380 | H-Index: 9 (Google Scholar)

Book:

1. **Reijers, W.**, Coeckelbergh, M. (2020). *Narrative and Technology Ethics*. Cham: Palgrave Macmillan.

Edited Volume:

1. Coeckelbergh, M., **Reijers, W.**, Romele, A. (Eds.). (2021). *Interpreting Technology*. Lanhan: Rowman and Littlefield. *Forthcoming*.

Journal Articles:

1. **Reijers, W.** (2020). Responsible Innovation Between Virtue and Governance: Revisiting Arendt's Notion of Work as Action. *Journal of Responsible Innovation*.
2. **Filippi, P.**, Manan, M., **Reijers, W.** (2020). Blockchain as a Confidence Machine: The Problem of Trust & Challenges of Governance. *Technology in Society*.
3. **Reijers, W.** (2019). Beyond Postphenomenology: Ihde's Heidegger and the Problem of Authenticity. *Human Studies (Published Online)*.
4. **Reijers, W.**, Gordijn, B. (2019). Moving From Value Sensitive Design to Virtuous Practice Design. *Journal of Information, Communication, and Ethics in Society*, 17(2), 196-209.
5. **Reijers, W.**, Wuisman, I., Manan, M., De Filippi, P., Wray, C., Rae-Looi, V., Vélez, A., & Orgad, L. (2018). Now the Code Runs Itself: On-chain and Off-chain Governance of Blockchain Technologies. *Topoi (Published Online)*.
6. **Reijers, W.**, Ossewaarde, M. (2018). Digital Commoning and its Challenges. *Organization*, 25(6), 819-824.
7. Coeckelbergh, M., Dupont, Q., & **Reijers, W.** (2018). Towards a Philosophy of Financial Technologies (Editorial). *Philosophy & Technology*, 31(1), 9-14.
8. **Reijers, W.**, Wright, D., Brey, P., Weber, K., Rodrigues, R., O'Sullivan, D., & Gordijn, B. (2017). Methods for Practising Ethics in Research and Innovation: A Literature Review, Critical Analysis and Recommendations. *Science and Engineering Ethics*, 24(5), 1437-1481.
9. Ossewaarde, M., **Reijers, W.** (2017). The Illusion of the Digital Commons: 'False Consciousness' in Online Alternative Economies. *Organization*, 24(5), 609-628.

10. **Reijers, W.**, Brolcháin, F. O., & Haynes, P. (2016). Governance in Blockchain Technologies & Social Contract Theories. *Ledger Journal*, 1(1), 134–151.
11. **Reijers, W.**, & Coeckelbergh, M. (2016). The Blockchain as a Narrative Technology: Investigating the Social Ontology and Normative Configurations of Cryptocurrencies. *Philosophy & Technology*, 31(1), 103-130.
12. Coeckelbergh, M., & **Reijers, W.** (2016). Narrative Technologies: A Philosophical Investigation of the Narrative Capacities of Technologies. *Human Studies*, 39(3), 325–346.
13. **Reijers, W.** (2015). Technical Universities Beyond Marketization: Educating the Virtuous Engineer. *Krisis*, (2), 99–106.

Published Papers in Conference Proceedings:

1. **Reijers, W.** (2020). 9 Hermeneutic Principles for Responsible Innovation. In Paradigm Shifts in ICT Ethics: Proceedings of the ETHICOMP 2020 (pp. 411-413). Universidad de La Rioja.
2. **Reijers, W.**, Koidl, K., Lewis, D., Harshvardhan, J. P., & Gordijn, B. (2018). Discussing Ethical Impacts in Research and Innovation: The Ethics Canvas. In D. Kreps, G. Fletcher, & M. Griffiths (Eds.), *IFIP Advances in Information and Communication Technology*, HCC13, Poznan, Poland, September 19-21, 2018. Cham: Springer International Publishing.
3. Koidl, K., Conlan, O., **Reijers, W.**, Farrell, M., & Hoover, M. (2018). The BigFoot Initiative: An Investigation of Digital Footprint Awareness in Social Media. In Proceedings of the 9th International Conference on Social Media and Society (pp. 120-127). ACM.
4. Escartin, C. P., **Reijers, W.**, Lynn, T., Moorkens, J., Way, A., & Liu, C. H. (2017). Ethical Considerations in NLP Shared Tasks. In Proceedings of the First Workshop on Ethics in Natural Language Processing. Valencia.
5. **Reijers, W.**, Gordijn, B., & O’Sullivan, D. (2016). Narrative Ethics of Personalisation Technologies. In D. Kreps, G. Fletcher, & M. Griffiths (Eds.), *Technology and Intimacy: Choice or Coercion: 12th IFIP TC 9 International Conference on Human Choice and Computers*, HCC12 2016, Salford, UK, September 7-9, 2016, Proceedings (pp. 130–140). Heidelberg: Springer International Publishing.
6. **Reijers, W.** (2016). “Digital Money Acts”: a Postphenomenological Approach to Monetary Technologies. In *Digital Ecosystems Proceedings: Digital Humanities* (pp. 69–84). Warsaw.
7. Moorkens, J., Lewis, D., **Reijers, W.**, Vanmassenhove, E., & Way, A. (2016). Translation Resources and Translator Disempowerment. In *Actes du Workshop on Ethics In Corpus Collection, Annotation & Application (ETHI-CA2)*, LREC, Portoroz.
8. **Reijers, W.**, Vanmassenhove, E., Lewis, D., & Moorkens, J. (2016). On the Need for a Global Declaration of Ethical Principles for Experimentation with Personal Data. In *Actes du Workshop on Ethics In Corpus Collection, Annotation & Application (ETHI-CA2)*, LREC, Portoroz.
9. Coeckelbergh, M., & **Reijers, W.** (2015). Cryptocurrencies as Narrative Technologies. *Ethicomp Proceedings, SIGCAS Computers & Society*, 45(3). Leicester.

Review Articles:

1. **Reijers, W.** (2020). Romele, Alberto (2020): Digital Hermeneutics: Philosophical Investigations in New Media and Technologies. *AI & Society*.
2. **Reijers, W.** (2019). Shannon Vallor, *Technology and the Virtues: A Philosophical Guide to a Future Worth Wanting*, Oxford University Press, 2016. *Kennedy Institute of Ethics Journal*, 19(1), 17-27.

3. **Reijers, W.** (2015). Mark Coeckelbergh: Money machines: Electronic Financial Technologies, Distancing, and Responsibility in Global Finance. *Ethics and Information Technology*, 17(3), 231–235.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Refereeing:

BMC Medical Ethics | AI & Society | Ethics and Information Technology | Science and Engineering Ethics | Journal of Agricultural and Environmental Ethics | Philosophy of Management | Science, Technology and Human Values | *Techne* | Journal of the Commons | Human Studies

Organisation:

2019: Workshop Organiser, WZB Berlin Social Science Center
“Digital Citizenship in Cities”, 30 participants, November 10.

2019: Workshop Co-Organiser, European University Institute
“Digital Dictatorship or Digital Republic? Law and Ethics of China’s Social Credit System”, 30 participants, Florence, January 30.

2018: Online eLearning modules for the IEEE Blockchain Initiative.

2018: Conference Co-Organiser, Trinity College Dublin
“Ethics in Research and Innovation: Methods and Best Practices”, 50 participants, Dublin, July 5-6.

2015-2017: Research Assistant, SATORI Project
The Satori project is an EU funded international research project, aimed at developing a common European framework for ethical assessment for research and innovation.

2011-2013: Co-owner, Cognit V.O.F.
As co-owner, I have been responsible for managing the company Cognit V.O.F. that provides guided tours in the Roombeek neighbourhood and assists the municipality of Enschede with real estate services.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

June 12-14, 2020: Max Weber Conference – Drivers and Consequences of Transformation. Florence, Italy. “Transforming the Citizen: Social Scoring and Civic Virtue”.

May 9-11, 2019: Constitutional Challenges in the Algorithmic Society. Florence, Italy: “Two Modes of Automated Governance”.

September 24-26, 2018: Ethicomp 2018. Sopot, Poland: “Bringing Virtue to ‘Value’ Sensitive Design”.

February 14-17, 2018: Robophilosophy. Vienna, Austria: “Robots: in Between Labour and Practice”.

June 13-17, 2017: SPT2017. Darmstadt, Germany: “Narrative Ethics of Personalised Assistants”.

June 5-8, 2017: Ethicomp/CEPE 2017. Turin, Italy: “Narrative Technologies Meets Virtue Ethics”.

September 7-9, 2016: HCC-12. Manchester, UK: “Narrative Ethics of Personalisation Technologies”.

May 23-28, 2016: LREC 2016. Portoroz, Slovenia: “Declaration of Principles for Data Experiments”.

September 7-9, 2015: Ethicomp 2016. Leicester, UK: “Cryptocurrencies as Narrative Technologies”.

TEACHING

Teacher training

2019: Max Weber Teaching Certificate; training activities and teaching practice.
European University Institute, Max Weber Programme.

Instructor/Lecturer

2019: “Citizenship and Technology”
Masaryk University, Department of Political Science
Bachelors- and Masters-level.

2016, 2018: “Research Ethics Module” (GS604)
Dublin City University, Institute of Ethics
PhD-level, research focused.

2015, 2017: “Applied Ethics Module” (HSS302)
Dublin City University, Institute of Ethics
Bachelors- and Masters-level.

Guest lecturer

2020: “Human Rights and International Order” (24277; Online)
IDC Herzliya
Masters-level.

2018: “Information Ethics” (IS30370)
University College Dublin, School of Information and Communication Studies
Masters-level.

2016: “Introduction to Philosophy of Technology and Media” (180084 VO-L)
University of Vienna, Department of Philosophy
Bachelors- and Masters-level.

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

2018-2020: Max Weber Fellowship, European University Institute

2017: EU Funding Award, ADAPT Centre (2500, - Euro)

2016: Ernst Mach Scholarship, University of Vienna (2820, - Euro)

MEDIA

2020: Interview in Cointelegraph Magazine. <https://magazine.cointelegraph.com/2020/05/20/open-source-ethics-decentralized-blockchain/>

LANGUAGES

Dutch: Native | *English*: C2 | *German*: B1 | *French*: A2