

# WESSEL H.M. REIJERS, PhD

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I am a postdoctoral researcher at the Institute of Media Sciences, at Paderborn University. Previously, I was a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Vienna, an associate in the ERC project BlockchainGov and a fellow 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 1 monograph (and 2 forthcoming), 1 edited volume, and 19 papers in peer-reviewed journals. 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

**2022-present: Paderborn University, Institute of Media Sciences**  
Postdoctoral Researcher.

## 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

**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

**2022-present: Technion, Israel Institute of Technology, Department of Arts and Humanities**  
Visiting Scientist.

**2022-2023: University of Vienna, Department of Philosophy**  
Postdoctoral Researcher.

**2020-2021: European University Institute, Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies**  
Research Associate, European Research Council (ERC) Project BlockchainGov, on the legal, ethical, and political impacts of distributed governance.

**2019-2020: University of Hamburg, Ethics in IT Research Group**

Visiting Scholar.

2018-2020: **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.

## PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

2018-present: **Senior Associate at Principia Advisory**, a world leading consultancy in the fields of organization ethics and responsible innovation.

## PUBLICATIONS

Total Citations: 1400 | H-Index: 16 (Google Scholar)

### **Books:**

1. **Reijers, W.**, Young, M. T., Coeckelbergh, M. (under contract). Introduction to the Ethics of Emerging Technologies. Cham: Palgrave Macmillan.
2. De Filippi, P., **Reijers, W.**, Mannan, M. (under contract). Blockchain Governance. Cambridge, Massachusetts: MIT Press.
3. **Reijers, W.**, Coeckelbergh, M. (2020). Narrative and Technology Ethics. Cham: Palgrave Macmillan.

### **Edited Volume:**

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

### **Journal Articles:**

1. **Reijers, W.** (2023). Technology and Civic Virtue. *Philosophy and Technology*, 36(4), 1-22.
2. Von Blomberg, M., **Reijers, W.** (2023). Who Deserves Credit? Banks for the Virtuous in Rural China. *Journal of Contemporary China*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10670564.2023.2248034>
3. Graziani, M., Dutkiewicz, L., Calvaresi, D., Amorim, J. P., Yordanova, K., Vered, M., Nair, R., Abreu, P. H., Blanke, T., Pulignano, V., Prior, J. O., Lauwaert, L., **Reijers, W.**, Depeursinge, A., Andrearczyk, V., & Müller, H. (2022). A global taxonomy of interpretable AI: unifying the terminology for the technical and social sciences. *Artificial Intelligence Review*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10462-022-10256-8>
4. **Reijers, W.**, Orgad, L., & Filippi, P. de. (2022). The Rise of Cybernetic Citizenship. *Citizenship Studies*, 1–20. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13621025.2022.2077567>
5. de Filippi, P., Mannan, M., & **Reijers, W.** (2022). The a legality of blockchain technology. *Policy and Society*, 00(0), 1–15. <https://doi.org/10.1093/polsoc/puac006>
6. Orgad, L., **Reijers, W.** (2021) Making the Perfect Citizen: Lesson's From China's Social Credit System. *Vanderbilt Journal of Transnational Law*, 54(5), 1087-1121.

7. **Reijers, W.** (2020). Responsible Innovation Between Virtue and Governance: Revisiting Arendt's Notion of Work as Action. *Journal of Responsible Innovation*, 7(3), 471-489.
8. Filippi, P., Manan, M., **Reijers, W.** (2020). Blockchain as a Confidence Machine: The Problem of Trust & Challenges of Governance. *Technology in Society*.
9. **Reijers, W.** (2019). Beyond Postphenomenology: Ihde's Heidegger and the Problem of Authenticity. *Human Studies (Published Online)*.
10. **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.
11. **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)*.
12. **Reijers, W., Ossewaarde, M.** (2018). Digital Commoning and its Challenges. *Organization*, 25(6), 819-824.
13. Coeckelbergh, M., Dupont, Q., & **Reijers, W.** (2018). Towards a Philosophy of Financial Technologies (Editorial). *Philosophy & Technology*, 31(1), 9-14.
14. **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.
15. Ossewaarde, M., **Reijers, W.** (2017). The Illusion of the Digital Commons: 'False Consciousness' in Online Alternative Economies. *Organization*, 24(5), 609-628.
16. **Reijers, W., Brolcháin, F. O., & Haynes, P.** (2016). Governance in Blockchain Technologies & Social Contract Theories. *Ledger Journal*, 1(1), 134-151.
17. **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.
18. Coeckelbergh, M., & **Reijers, W.** (2016). Narrative Technologies: A Philosophical Investigation of the Narrative Capacities of Technologies. *Human Studies*, 39(3), 325-346.
19. **Reijers, W.** (2015). Technical Universities Beyond Marketization: Educating the Virtuous Engineer. *Krisis*, (2), 99-106.

### **Book Chapters**

1. **Reijers, W., & Dupont, Q.** (2023) Prolegomenon to Contemporary Ethics of Machine Translation. In Moniz, H. & Escartin, C. (Eds.), *Towards Responsible Machine Translation*. Cham: Springer.

### **Published Papers in Conference Proceedings:**

1. Cossar, S., **Reijers, W., & De Filippi, P.** (2022). From Liberal Democracies to Blockchain Systems: The Instrumentalization of Decentralization. Proceedings of the ETHICOMP 2022, 315. University of Turku.
2. **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.
3. **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.

4. 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.
5. 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.
6. **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.
7. **Reijers**, W. (2016). “Digital Money Acts”: a Postphenomenological Approach to Monetary Technologies. In *Digital Ecosystems Proceedings: Digital Humanities* (pp. 69–84). Warsaw.
8. 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.
9. **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.
10. Coeckelbergh, M., & **Reijers**, W. (2015). Cryptocurrencies as Narrative Technologies. *Ethicomp Proceedings, SIGCAS Computers & Society*, 45(3). Leicester.

#### **Review Articles:**

1. **Reijers**, W. (2020). Blok, Vincent: Heidegger’s concept of philosophical method: innovating philosophy in the age of global warming. *Continental Philosophy Review*.
2. **Reijers**, W. (2020). Romele, Alberto (2020): Digital Hermeneutics: Philosophical Investigations in New Media and Technologies. *AI & Society*.
3. **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.
4. **Reijers**, W. (2015). Mark Coeckelbergh: Money machines: Electronic Financial Technologies, Distancing, and Responsibility in Global Finance. *Ethics and Information Technology*, 17(3), 231–235.

#### **Other (non-peer-reviewed):**

1. Meyer, M., Lechterman, T., **Reijers**, W., Eggert, L. (2021). *Certified Ethical Emerging Technologist (CEET)*. Rochester: Logical Operations.

## **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,

**Organisation:**

2022: Workshop Organiser, University of Vienna  
“Political Cybernetics,” 40 participants, December 1.

2022: Reading Group, Online  
“Readings in Political Cybernetics,” 60 participants, March-June (bi-weekly).

2021: Workshop Organiser, Fonds Ricoeur  
“Interpreting Technology,” 20 participants, December 3.

2021: Programme Committee Member CEPE/IACAP, Hamburg, July 5-9.

2019: Workshop Organiser, WZB Berlin Social Science Center  
“Digital Citizenship in Cities,” 30 participants, Berlin, 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 was 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**

*April 26, 2023:* KI Camp. Berlin, Germany: “Are You a Cybernetic Citizen?”

*March 2, 2023:* Cities and Human Mobility Symposium. Vienna, Austria: “Civic Virtue and Emerging Technologies.”

*September 2, 2022:* Digital Citizenship Workshop. Nijmegen, the Netherlands: “The Rise of Cybernetic Citizenship.”

*February 2, 2021:* CITO lecture series. University College Dublin, Ireland: “Social Credit: The Circulation of Reputational Value.”

*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**

### ***Instructor/Lecturer***

2023: “Ethics of Emerging Technologies” (326002s)  
Technion, Department of Humanities and Arts  
Complete course, Bachelors-level.

2023: “Ethics of Emerging Technologies” (2023S 180249-1)  
University of Vienna, Department of Philosophy  
Complete course, Masters-level.

2023: “Argumentation Theory” (2023S 180160-1)  
University of Vienna, Department of Philosophy  
Complete course, Bachelors-level.

2022: “Blockchain Governance” (180077-1)  
University of Vienna, Department of Philosophy  
Complete course, Masters-level

2022: “Readings in Political Cybernetics” (180028-1)  
University of Vienna, Department of Philosophy  
Complete course, Bachelors-level

2022: “Ethics of Emerging Technologies” (326002s)  
Technion, Department of Humanities and Arts  
Complete course, Bachelors-level.

2022: “Philosophy and Ethics of Emerging Technologies” (2022S 180179-1)  
University of Vienna, Department of Philosophy  
Complete course, Masters-level.

2022: “Argumentation Theory in Philosophy” (2022S 180027-5)  
University of Vienna, Department of Philosophy  
Complete course, Bachelors-level.

2021: “Philosophie, Gesellschaft und IT“ (SoSe 2021)  
University of Hamburg, Ethics in IT Research Group  
Bachelors-level.

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.

### ***Teacher training***

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

### ***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**

2023: Article on the Dangers of ChatGPT, published in Dutch (at the Groene Amsterdammer) and in German and French (at Philosophie Magazine).

<https://www.groene.nl/artikel/de-hedendaagse-sofist>

<https://www.philomag.de/artikel/technosophistische-schattenspiele>

2022: Blogpost for New Public on “The Myth of Trustlessness.”

<https://newpublic.org/article/1933/the-myth-of-trustlessness>

2021: Blogpost for the Institute of Art and Ideas on “Blockchain: Our Escape from Digital Feudalism.” <https://iai.tv/articles/could-blockchain-end-big-tech-auid-1949>

2021: Podcast interview on Philosophical Disquisitions, on social credit systems.

<https://philosophicaldisquisitions.blogspot.com/p/podcast.html>

2020: Blogpost on Oxford Business Law Blog, on “Blockchain as a Confidence Machine: The Problem of Trust & Challenges of Governance.”

<https://www.law.ox.ac.uk/business-law-blog/blog/2020/10/blockchain-confidence-machine-problem-trust-challenges-governance>

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*