

# WILHELM E. J. KLEIN

## PERSONAL INFORMATION

*Institution* City University of Hong Kong  
*Department* School of Creative Media  
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## EDUCATION

- Ph.D* 2013 - 2017 City University of Hong Kong  
School of Creative Media  
Dissertation: *Vector Utilitarianism – Concept and Application of an Ethic For a Technological Present and Future*  
This research project seeks to devise an ethical framework suitable for a world filled with technology. It examines the way we perceive ourselves and the technologies we create, and provides normative guidance for a peaceful coexistence.
- M.Sc.* 2012 - 2013 The University of Edinburgh, Scotland  
*Environment, Culture & Society* · School of GeoSciences  
Thesis: *The hourly 'Action T4': Failing to address Anthropogenic Animal Suffering*  
The thesis presents a critique of human practices which result in the continued, extensive suffering (and death) of over 175 billion sentient beings per year.
- B.A.* 2010 - 2011 Hanyang University, (Republic of) Korea  
*International Economics & Development* · Division of International Studies  
Exchange programme for undergraduate studies final year. Focus on Global, Business & Environmental Ethics, Globalisation and Media & Society.
- B.A.* 2008 - 2011 University of Bayreuth, Germany  
*International Economics & Development* · School of Economics  
Thesis: *Scarlet Climate: Symptom Treatment vs. Economic & Societal Cure*  
This thesis examines systemic causes, criticises insufficient stalling tactics and concludes only significant socio-economic changes to be fit to address Climate Change.

## RESEARCH &amp; TEACHING EXPERIENCE

	2015 / 2018	Technologies in Art, Science and Everyday Life
Course Leader		As lecturer for this class, I was responsible for syllabus design, lectures, examination and student support.
	2017	Philosophy & Ethics of Technology
Senior Research Associate		As senior research associate, I mainly worked on a project on the ethics of free-to-play games with Olli T. Leino.
	2013 - 2014	Cinema East & West
Teaching Assistant		The teaching assistant for this course, I organised and supervised the tutorial sessions supplementing the main lecture.

## PUBLICATIONS

	<i>forthcoming</i>	Exceptionalism in the Ethics of Humans, Animals and Technology W. E. J. Klein
<i>J. of Information, Communication and Ethics in Soc., V.17 I. 2</i>		This essay examines exceptionalisms exhibited by various works in technology ethics. It criticises a priori superiority suppositions and instead argues for a level, metaphysical and ethical playing field for all relevant agents.
	2018	“Sex Robots” Revisited – A Reply to the Call for a Ban W. E. J. Klein, V.W. Lin
<i>SIGCAS Comput. Soc., V.47 I.4, 107121</i>		This essay critically examines the claims and propositions put forward by the Campaign Against Sex Robots. It finds the majority highly problematic and offers alternative points of view.
	2017	Robots & Free Software W. E. J. Klein
<i>A World with Robots, Springer 2017, 63-76</i>		This chapter examines whether the arguments put forward by Free Software, which advocate and address general computing issues, also apply for robots. It summarises the key arguments of the Free software movement and tests whether or not they are transferable to robot contexts.
	2016	Problems With Moral Intuitions Regarding Technologies – And How To Address Them W. E. J. Klein
<i>IEEE Potentials, V.35 I.5, 40-42</i>		This article examines possible reasons for both technologists’ and the general public’s apparent difficulty with the moral judgement of modern technologies. To improve this situation, it suggests a deliberate intentional stance as a tool for thinking that harnesses human moral cognitive biases.

2016 **Can We Trust For-Profit Corporations to  
Protect Our Privacy?**  
W. E. J. Klein

*IEEE Technology  
and Society  
Magazine V.35 I.3,  
17-20*

This essay examines the compatibility between for-profit corporations and strong notions of privacy, and finds corporations' profit maximisation imperative, their "surveillance capitalism" business models, as well as their autocratic mode of operation strongly inhibitive of such a compatibility.

2016 **Pocket Psychopaths – An Anthropomorphic  
Intentional Stance to Facilitate Moral Intuitions  
about (Consumer) Technology**  
W. E. J. Klein

*EEE XPlore, 2015  
IEEE International  
Symposium on  
Technology and  
Society (ISTAS)*

This essay employs an anthropomorphic intentional stance to describe and analyse the relationship especially between young users and (consumer) technology by treating smart phones, social networks etc. as if they were human. By doing so, the intention is to allow for an easier intuiting of the moral dimensions of technologies.

2015 **Robots Make Ethics Honest – and Vice Versa**  
W. E. J. Klein

*SIGCAS Comput.  
Soc., V.45 I.3,  
261269.*

This article re-examines theoretical foundations for robot ethics, focusing particularly on human self-perception and the resulting distortions in our understanding of our own material origins, our concept of morality, our illusion of possessing free will, all augmented by robots as conceptual intuition pumps, representing archetypical walking and talking, fully naturalistic agents.

2017 **Identity Crisis in the Pearl River Delta**  
M. Poon, W. E. J. Klein

*Digital Culture &  
Society (DCS): V.  
3, I.1*

This article provides a discussion of different conceptions of Hacking and Making as expressed in conversations with members of the Hong Kong Hacker and Maker community.

PEER-REVIEWED CONFERENCES

*May, 2016* **Riding the Absent Technophant – About the  
Ethical Obligations that Flow from Technologists'  
Expertise-Enabled Moral Intuitions**  
W. E. J. Klein

*Forum on  
Philosophy,  
Engineering &  
Technology*

This presentation provides an introduction to moral psychology, dual-process moral reasoning, importance of moral intuitions and moral expertise, suggesting an elevated ethical obligation for engineers and technologists due to their expertise-enabled augmented moral expertise.

*Nov. 2015* **AI & Preference Utilitarianism**  
W. E. J. Klein

*Social Implications  
of Artificial  
Intelligence*

This presentation examines how various notions of Artificial Intelligence fit into different interpretations of preference utilitarianism and discussed the (in)significance of consciousness in this context.

## INVITED TALKS & WORKSHOPS

- Jul. 2018* · *AI Alignment & Self-Driving Cars*, Luwig-Erhard-Berufsschule Schweinfurt, Germany
- Jul. 2016* · *Language Barriers & Globalisation*, Luwig-Erhard-Berufsschule Schweinfurt, Germany
- 2014; 15* · *Uranium Marble Ring Oscillator Workshop*, DimSum Labs, Hong Kong
- Jun. 2015* · *Brain-Hacking: Haptic Compass Belt*, DimSum Labs, Hong Kong
- Jul. 2015* · *Introduction to Drones*, DimSum Labs, Hong Kong
- Jul. 2014* · *The Ethics of Social Networks*, Luwig-Erhard-Berufsschule Schweinfurt, Germany

## ACADEMIC SERVICE

- Reviewer* Journal of Information, Communication & Ethics in Society · (2019)
- Member* Ethicomp Steering Committee · (ETHICOMP)
- Track Chair* Technology Meta-Ethics Track · (ETHICOMP 2018)
- PC Member* Member of the Programme Committee of the International Conference on Robot Ethics and Standards · (ICRES 2018)
- Reviewer* Member of the Review Committee for Tracks:  
*The Animal and the Technological: Para/Post-Human Paradoxes;*  
*Code, Language, Network, Politics;*  
*Biopolitics/biopower: Genetics (G), Nanotechnology (N) and Robotics (R);*  
*Techno-sex* · (ISEA 2016)

## NOTABLE AWARDS & GRANTS

- 2017 · Chow Yei Ching School of Graduate Studies Conference Grant
- 2016 · Chow Yei Ching School of Graduate Studies Research Activities Grant
- 2016 · Research Grants Council of Hong Kong Conference Grant
- 2015 · Chow Yei Ching School of Graduate Studies Outstanding Academic Performance Research Tuition Scholarship
- 2015 · Research Grants Council of Hong Kong Conference Grant
- 2015 · Research Grants Council of Hong Kong Conference Grant
- 2014 · Chow Yei Ching School of Graduate Studies Outstanding Academic Performance Research Tuition Scholarship
- 2013 · Research Grants Council of Hong Kong PhD Fellowship (HKPFS)
- 2013 · Chow Yei Ching School of Graduate Studies Entrance Scholarship
- 2012 · Univ. of Edinburgh, School of GeoSciences Strongest Application Bursary

## NOTABLE PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS & COMMUNITY WORK

<i>Executive Member</i>	Open Roboethics initiative (ORi) · (2014 - present)
<i>Committee Member</i>	The Global Initiative for Ethical Considerations in the Design of Autonomous Systems · (2016 - present)
<i>Affiliate</i>	Heterodox Academy · (2016 - present)
<i>Director</i>	Dim Sum Labs Hong Kong (Hackerspace) · (2013 - 2016)
<i>Member</i>	Chaos Computer Club · (2012 - present)
<i>Member</i>	Edinburgh Hacklab · (2012 - 2013)
<i>Member</i>	University of Edinburgh Humanist Society · (2012 - 2013)
<i>Fellow</i>	Free Software Foundation Europe · (2014 - present)
<i>Founder</i>	City University of Hong Kong Humanist Society · (2014 - present)
<i>Student Rep.</i>	Int. Economics & Development, University of Bayreuth · (2008 - 2010)
<i>Int. Student Rep.</i>	Hanyang University, Seoul · (2010 - 2011)
<i>Student Rep.</i>	Environment, Culture & Society · (2012 - 2013)
<i>Student Rep.</i>	School of Creative Media, City University of Hong Kong · (2013 - 2016)

## OTHER EXPERIENCE

### 2012                      Zero-Energy House Construction

Together with my best friend and his father I built a self-sustaining zero-energy house from scratch.

### 2011 - 2012              Assistant for Sustainability & Eco-Tourism Consulting

Based in Singapore, I prepared and facilitated training workshops and strategy consulting for sustainability and ecological/environmental tourism all over South East Asia.

### 2009 - 2012              Co-founder, Deputy Director

Now Europe's largest student-organized economic conference, the Bayreuthian Economic Congress discusses globalisation and sustainability strategies and management methods on an annual basis. In my role as deputy director, I was (among other things) directly responsible for planning, team-management and organisational procedures.

## Languages

ENGLISH	· Excellent
GERMAN	· Mother tongue
KOREAN	· Intermediate
LATIN	· Intermediate
CHINESE	· Beginner

## ACADEMIC REFERENCES

Prof. Katina Michael

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Faculty of Engineering and Information Sciences  
School of Computing and Information Technology  
University of Wollongong

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Prof. Richard William Allen

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Prof. Olli Tapio Leino

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