

# WILHELM E. J. KLEIN

## PERSONAL INFORMATION

*Institution* City University of Hong Kong  
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## EDUCATION

*2013 - 2018* City University of Hong Kong  
*Ph.D* School of Creative Media  
Dissertation: *Vector Utilitarianism – Concept and Application of an Ethic For a Technological Present and Future*  
My Ph.D thesis devises a naturalistic ethical framework able to encompass entities traditionally outside the circle of ethical consideration such as machines and artificial intelligences.

*2012 - 2013* The University of Edinburgh, Scotland  
*M.Sc.* *Environment, Culture & Society* · School of GeoSciences  
Thesis: *The hourly 'Action T4': Failing to address Anthropogenic Animal Suffering*  
My Masters thesis is a work in animal ethics, which assesses and ethically critiques the scale of global, industrial use of animals.

*2008 - 2011* University of Bayreuth, Germany & Hanyang University (Republic of) Korea  
*B.A.* *International Economics & Development* · School of Economics (University of Bayreuth)  
*Global & Environmental Ethics* · Division of International Studies (Hanyang University)  
Thesis: *Scarlet Climate: Symptom Treatment vs. Economic & Societal Cure*  
My undergraduate thesis contrasts symptom treatments with system causes to climate change and highlights the socio-economic changes needed to address this crisis.

## RESEARCH & 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 Prof. 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

	In Press	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.

## CONTRIBUTIONS

*IEEE, 2019*      *Apr. 2019*      **Ethically Aligned Design, First Edition**  
Contribution to the *Methods to Guide Ethical Research and Design* section of the IEEE Global Initiative on Ethics of Autonomous and Intelligent Systems.  
Ethically Aligned Design: A Vision for Prioritizing Human Well-being with Autonomous and Intelligent Systems, First Edition.

## 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)  
*Reviewer*      Digital Games Research Association Conference · (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 Overseas Research 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

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS & COMMUNITY WORK

In the past I have worked with various grass roots organisations, beginning as a teenager, campaigning to improve network connectivity in the German countryside as member of GeFoKom e.V. (Gemeinschaft zur Foerderung Kommunikativer Medien - society for the advancement of communication technologies). At Bayreuth University, I was co-founder and lead-coordinator of a conference series on economics and management in a sustainability context (*Bayreuther Oekonomiekongress*), which has since grown into the largest student-organised conference of its kind in Europe, annually attracting an academic, private and public sector audience of over a thousand participants. I have been involved in the organisation of various events of the *Chaos Computer Club* (CCC), which the Guardian described as "... one of the most influential digital organisations anywhere, the centre of German digital culture, hacker culture, hacktivism, and the intersection of any discussion of democratic and digital rights" (Cadwalladr, 2014).

I am also an executive member at the *OpenRoboethics initiative*, which has been granted an official NGO seat at the United Nations and part of the *Global Initiative for Ethical Considerations in the Design of Autonomous Systems*. I am a Free Software Foundation Europe fellow, and former director of Hong Kong's hackerspace *DimSum Labs* for which I organised numerous cryptoparties, workshops and presentations, and worked with the local *Internet* and *Open Data* societies to contribute e.g. to Hong Kong's *Digital 21 Strategy* agenda.

Personally and scholarly, I have been influenced by the works of Peter Singer, Josuha Greene and William McAskill, as well as the rationalist approach put forward by LessWrong and adjacent communities. I founded Hong Kong's first Humanist Student Society (at CityU), have been a member of the local sceptic and humanist societies in Bayreuth, Seoul and Edinburgh and am an Effective Altruism supporter.

## OTHER EXPERIENCE

### *2018 - present*      Motion Capture Startup *Z Transform*

In collaboration with my former colleague, Dr. Huy Phan, we are currently working on a novel, deep-learning based motion capturing technology to be brought to the general market.

In April 2019, *Z Transform* was admitted to the Machine Intelligence Garage programme, delivered by Digital Catapult as part of the CAP-AI project and is part funded through the European Regional Development Fund.

### *2012*                      Zero-Energy House Construction

Together with my best friend and his father I built a 250 sqm 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.

## ADMINISTRATIVE WORK

<i>Member</i>	CUPA Post-graduate Association, City University of Hong Kong · (2013 - 2018)
<i>Student Rep.</i>	School of Creative Media, City University of Hong Kong · (2013 - 2016)
<i>Member</i>	Students' Association, University of Edinburgh · (2012 - 2013)
<i>Student Rep.</i>	Environment, Culture & Society · (2012 - 2013)
<i>Int. Student Rep.</i>	Hanyang University, Seoul · (2010 - 2011)
<i>Student Rep.</i>	Int. Economics & Development, University of Bayreuth · (2008 - 2010)

## PERSONAL INTERESTS

Outside academic life, I am a passionate reader of science fiction and have been a technology enthusiast ever since I watched my first episode of Star Trek and first laid hands on a Commodore C64.

Today, I spend much of my free time designing, building, competing or simply tinkering around with various robots and devices. Preferably those which move and fly, such as multicopters & fixed wings but also replicative and tooling ones, such as 3D printers, CNC mills, etc.

Following my less technological inclinations, I am also an amateur blacksmithing, woodworking and gardening enthusiast and an avid Archer, Traveller and Hiker.

## LANGUAGES

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

## ACADEMIC REFERENCES

Prof. Katina Michael

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