

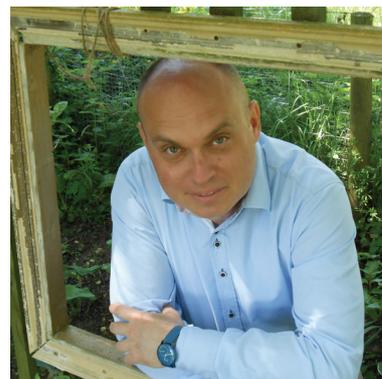
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Dan Podjed, PhD, is an applied anthropologist from Slovenia, devoted to developing people-friendly and planet-centred products and services. He is a Research Fellow at the Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts, a Researcher at the Institute for Innovation and Development of the University of Ljubljana, and an Assistant Professor for Cultural and Social Anthropology at the University of Ljubljana. At these institutions and in industry, where he was employed from 2012 to 2014, he has led several applied and interdisciplinary projects (DriveGreen, Invisible Life of Waste, etc.) and has been involved in design and development of several ethnography-based IT solutions (EU Horizon 2020 projects MOBISTYLE, TripleA-reno, U-CERT, etc.).

He founded the EASA Applied Anthropology Network (Convenor from 2010 to 2018; Executive Advisor from 2018), and co-founded the Why the World Needs Anthropologists international symposium – the main European meeting of applied anthropologists, annually organised since 2013. He is the author of many academic articles and monographs on people-centred design, human-technology interactions, digital surveillance, sustainable lifestyle, volunteering, and altruism. His recent book, *Seen: Why We Like Watching Others and Being Watched in Return*, was published in 2019 at ZRC Publishing House (in Slovenian language) and was well received by readers and media.

Invited lecture: Humans and technologies – collision or sustainable coexistence?

Abstract: Technologies have enabled Homo sapiens – the ‘wise man’ – to start transforming its own environment, inhabit all continents of the planet and embark on discovering the outer space. With the rise of digital technologies, however, the intellectual primate of the human species might be endangered. Human ‘processors’, i.e. brains, have not significantly changed in the past 40,000 years. Meanwhile, the digital processors quite consistently confirm the Moore’s Law, which explains that the processing power of computers doubles about every two years.

What does the future hold for humanity? Will humankind be able to coexist with exponentially improving technologies, designed in Industry 5.0? Does the ascent of artificial intelligence necessarily mean the descent of humans? Is Life 3.0, based on silicon instead of carbon, actually on the rise – and will perhaps manage the planet better than people? These are some of the questions raised in the presentation, which will emphasise opportunities for sustainable cohabitation of human and artificial intelligence and point out dangers and potential threats for humanity and planet in the time of Industry 5.0.

The speech will provide practical suggestions for the development of ‘humane technologies’, adapted to cognitive capabilities of people, constructive for interpersonal relations and meaningful for the planet. To develop these kind of technologies, cooperation between engineers, social scientists and other experts will be inevitable, since only one branch of science will not be able to solve the complex ‘jigsaw puzzle’ of contemporary time. Therefore, innovative solutions of – and for – the future of people and planet will be designed in inter- and transdisciplinary teams.