

Digital Society

Pasteurizing Play Beyond Binaries: Encountering an ethical and rights- respecting future at work, rest, and play

Public talk by

Prof. Dr. Florence Chee

Loyola University Chicago, Center for Digital Ethics and Policy

Drawing on decades of research into ethical issues in game design, Florence Chee examines international contexts-home, school, and public/private platforms-where trust must be persistent. She explores how AI systems use data from individuals with varying consent abilities, such as children, especially where boundaries are unclear. Considering the pastoral as a model, Chee asks us to weigh the Faustian bargains between convenience and surveillance, and how these risks are communicated and understood. Who is implicated across different play settings: streets, workplaces, and clinics?

In this work, Chee identifies food safety initiatives like pasteurization as a metaphor for regulation in games and data-driven business models shaping our work, rest, and play. She addresses how to govern technologies with current legal and ethical challenges, proposing a pastoral framework aligned with consensus guidelines from the Rome Call for AI Ethics, OECD, UNESCO, and others, to counter predatory and extractive relationships between users, data, and digital systems.

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