

Think&Act !

Understanding, Thinking and Acting in a Complex World

International Academic Project

2023-2024

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Context

The IUT de Paris-Rives de Seine, a component of Université Paris Cité, is an institute of applied sciences offering programs in 6 professional fields (Business and Administration Management, Computer Science, Data Science, Information and Communication, Marketing, Social Work) and training 3,000 students yearly. As part of its international policy, our institute considers internationalization beyond student mobility and language skills, as a process of raising students' awareness of the major issues facing the contemporary world. Indeed, being a citizen of the world also means realizing that we must all, and collectively, seek "where to land" (Latour 2017) and develop tools (ability to think, to understand others, to act) to this end. Current events show that young people, the first to be affected by climatic, geopolitical, and economic crises, are questioning the meaning of their curricula and the professions they will be called upon to practice. Increasingly, they are looking for programs that are consistent with their concerns as citizens in a world in crisis. With this in mind, the Think&Act! project offers a humanist culture program combining knowledge, reflection and practical workshops on missions students will contribute to define.

The Think&Act! Projects offers a series of activities around the following themes:

- Digital technologies and ethics: what can be delegated to machines?
- Equality and diversity: How to welcome differences without freezing identities?
- Anthropocene and climate change: What implications for our professional practices?

For each theme, a keynote lecture is given by a researcher or professional whose experience or work enables him/her to address these issues from an international perspective. This conference is followed by a round-table discussion bringing together professionals from a variety of fields, thus inviting students to question theoretical contributions in the light of these experiences. Finally, students carry out a project in response to a commission from a structure (association, company, IUT) by teams of students from the IUT and diverse partner universities, in hybrid or distance mode; they are supervised by professors from each department, in coordination with professors from the partner universities.

Objectives

- Training young citizens and professionals towards being well informed and ready to act responsibly in the face of today's major challenges.
- Contributing to the success of undergraduates
 - o by reinforcing their motivation through the realization of concrete projects rich in encounters and responding to their preoccupations;

- by reinforcing the ability to link knowledge acquisition, reflective activity and the resolution of concrete problem situations;
 - by enhancing the complementarity of skills and competencies through teamwork;
 - by developing creativity and valuing initiative.
- Developing project management skills and the ability to find one's place in the socio-economic environment (analysis of situations, expectations and needs; ability to work with a variety of partners; ability to present one's project and modify it by taking partners into account). In so doing, our objective is also to reinforce readiness to act in the socio-economic world by encouraging students to develop concrete projects through encounters with socio-economic structures in the Ile-de-France region and the territories of partner institutions.
- Developing intercultural skills (ability to listen to different points of view and different ways of doing things), adaptability, cooperation and negotiation skills, as well as language skills, by working in multi-disciplinary and international teams.
- Developing digital skills by working remotely in international teams (videoconferencing tools, various collaborative tools, publishing and broadcasting tools). Ideally, subject to funding, study trips could be organized at the end of these sessions, enabling students from different countries to meet up and discover the areas in which they have worked, some of them remotely (on the model of the Erasmus+ Blended Intensive Programs).

Planning

- October-November 2023: completion of the three thematic sessions, according to the program below;
- November 2023-January 2024, or spring 2024 (depending on the professors and groups of students): completion of the assignments by students in small international teams;
- May 2023: at the end of the program, an evaluation will be carried out with the aim of improving the future editions of this project.

Think&Act!

2023-2024 Programme

October 24, 2:30-5:30 pm CET (UTC+1)

Ethics and digital technologies: What can be delegated to machines?

Participants: Students in

- Computer Science/ICT,
- Data Science/Business Intelligence,
- Information-Communication (Advertising, Journalism, Library, information & archival studies),
- Management & Administration,
- Social Work.

2:30-3:30 pm: Keynote :

- Isabelle Falque-Pierrotin (*to be confirmed*): State Advisor; President of the Autorité Nationale des Jeux; former President of the CNIL (Commission Nationale de l'Informatique et des Libertés).

4:00-5:30 pm: Roundtable:

- Raja Chatila: Professor of Robotics, AI and Ethics, Sorbonne Université/CNRS; Member of the Comité Consultatif National d'Éthique;
- Damien Fontanes: Data Science Product Manager, ALEIA; Secretary General ClusterIA; Volunteer, Data4good.
- [2 more participants to be confirmed]

October 25, 2:30-5:30pm CET

Equality and diversity: How to welcome differences without freezing identities?

Participants: Students in

- Business and Administration;
- Social work.

2:30-3:30 pm: Keynote:

- Michel Wieviorka: Professor of Sociology, EHESS.

4:00-5:30pm: Roundtable:

- Marie Mercat-Bruns, Assistant Professor of Private Law, CNAM; Adjunct Professor at the Graduate School of Law, Sciences Po; Specialist in non-discrimination law;
- Anne Zhou-Thalamy, PhD. Researcher in sociology, EHESS; former diversity consultant in UK and France;
- Alice-Titia Rizzi, Assistant Professor in psychology, Université Paris Cité, Clinical Psychologist at the Maison de Solenn (MDA), Hôpital Cochin; Specialist in transcultural situations.

November 15, 2:30-5:30 pm CET

Climate change and anthropocene: What implications for our professional practices?

Participants: Students in

- *Information-Communication*
- *Data Science*

2:30-3:30 pm Keynote:

- Catherine Larrère: Philosopher, Emeritus Professor, Université Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne; specialist in environmental ethics and environmental justice.

4:00-5:30: Roundtable:

- Christel Fauché: Marketing innovation manager, Orange; specialist in green re-direction;
- Mélina Longpré: Sustainable Development Coordinator, Bouygues Group;
- Joffrey Lavigne: Political analyst, Agence Vraiment Vraiment; Doctoral researcher at the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle.
- [3 more participants to be confirmed]