Kate Crawford guest of the Digital Centre at the Fondazione Giorgio Cini

'Calculating Empires: Mapping Technology and Power over Time' is the title of the lecture-conference to be held on 8 May by one of the world's leading researchers on artificial intelligence. Joining Kate Crawford in conversation will be researcher and artist Vladan Joler.

How can we understand the workings of technology and power in our time? This question – central to today's social debate – will be the focus of **Kate Crawford's talk on 8 May 2025** (3–5 pm), during a lecture-dialogue **organised by AOA, the Academy of the Digital Centre – ARCHiVe** at the Fondazione Giorgio Cini.

The event will be accessible via Zoom and in person at the Digital Centre – ARCHiVe on the Island of San Giorgio Maggiore in Venice, following prior registration.

Also speaking at the event will be **Vladan Joler**, academic and artist, co-author with Kate Crawford of the groundbreaking work *Calculating Empires: A Genealogy of Technology and Power Since 1500*, presented in 2024 at Fondazione Prada in Milan and winner of the European Commission's Grand Prize for Science, Technology and Art.

This work will form the central theme of the conference. Blending research and design, science and art, Crawford and Joler explore the history of empires across five centuries, interweaving **the evolution of technology and power**. In doing so, they invite us to look beyond the current spectacle surrounding artificial intelligence and ask how we got here – and where we might be headed.

"Our technological systems are becoming increasingly complex, interconnected, automated and opaque," explain the two artist-researchers. "Industrial transformations in the field of artificial intelligence are further concentrating power while accelerating polarisation and alienation. But these forces are part of a longer historical trajectory. **If we want to confront the urgent challenges of the present –** including climate catastrophe, colonial wars and economic inequality – **we must engage with the intertwined nature of their histories.**"

Kate Crawford

Kate Crawford is **one of the world's foremost scholars on the critical issues raised by artificial intelligence.** She is a professor at USC Annenberg in Los Angeles, Senior Principal Researcher at MSR in New York, and was the first Visiting Chair in AI and Justice at the École Normale Supérieure in Paris. Her most recent book, *Atlas of AI: Power, Politics, and the Planetary Costs of Artificial Intelligence*, has won multiple awards and has been translated into twelve languages.

She currently leads the Knowing Machines Project: a transatlantic collaboration among scientists, artists and legal scholars investigating how AI systems are trained. She has served as an advisor to the United Nations, the White House, and the European Parliament.

Over a twenty-year career, Kate Crawford has also created **artistic installations and visual investigation projects**. Her 2018 project *Anatomy of an AI System*, also developed with Vladan Joler, has been exhibited in over a hundred international shows, and won the Design of the Year award. It was also listed among the Design of the Decades and is part of the permanent collections of the MoMA, the V&A Museum, Ars Electronica Center and the Design Museum in London.

The Digital Centre – ARCHiVe

The Digital Centre – ARCHiVe of the Fondazione Giorgio Cini is dedicated to technological research for the digitisation, dissemination and enhancement of cultural heritage. It collaborates with a broad network of cultural and academic institutions worldwide, integrating the humanities with emerging technologies.

The Digital Centre – ARCHiVe is at the cutting edge of the Fondazione Giorgio Cini's contemporary activities:

- **it digitises the documentary, photographic, artistic and archival heritage** of the Foundation as well as and external institutions (e.g. the Fondazione Pomodoro, Archivio Sottsass etc.), designing new research pathways and using artificial intelligence and machine-learning tools;
- it organises and promotes the **ARCHiVe Online Academy (AOA), a free educational programme** focused on digital humanities, involving international experts from various disciplines and research fields. With over 1,700 participants, the 2025 programme includes more than ninety hours of training. Classes and courses are open to all, and offer academic credit for students from partner universities;
- it creates and curates **Digital Libraries** to make the Foundation's literary and editorial heritage openly accessible;
- it hosts and closely collaborates on the **Venice Long Data Project**: a partnership between the Foundation and Ca' Foscari University funded by the EU, in which a team of physicists work on historical data density using AI applications;
- **it commissions a new artwork every two years** from international artists, providing access to the Foundation's digital heritage to create new narratives and original visions of the island. In 2022, Mattia Casalegno and Martux_m created *La Maschera del Tempo*; in 2024, the collective *Universal Everything* created *Chameleon*;
- in 2024, it launched *D.AI.R. – Digital Artist in Residence*: an experimental residency programme for creatives, developers, researchers and artists.

The Digital Centre – ARCHiVe was founded in 2018 by the Fondazione Giorgio Cini, in partnership with the Factum Foundation and the Digital Humanities Laboratory of the École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL-DHLAB). It is supported by the Helen Hamlyn Trust, committed to fostering innovative, medium- and long-term cultural, artistic and non-profit projects.

Info: **Fondazione Giorgio Cini Onlus**

Digital Centre – ARCHiVe
archive@cini.it | T. +39 041 2710451
www.archive-venice.org

Press Office
stampa@cini.it | T +39 041 2710280 | M +39 340 8237494
www.cini.it/press

Fondazione Giorgio Cini
ONLUS

Ufficio Stampa

stampa@cini.it
T. +39 041 2710280

cini.it