



Dark Patterns and Generational Divides: Information System Design for Younger and Older Internet Users

Interdisciplinary Thinkshop
as part of the

TUDiSC Project **DESIGNATE**

(Disruption on the Internet: More Sovereignty towards Deceptive
Technologies)

December 11, 2023

GER 013, von-Gerber-Bau, Bergstr. 53, 01069 Dresden
TUD University of Technology Dresden

Building on the multidisciplinary analysis of decision architectures that counter the actual interests of users in the framework of DESIGNATE so far, the Thinkshop aims to foster interdisciplinary discussions on sovereignty towards deceptive technologies specifically with regard to protection and participation of younger and older people online. Both younger and older user groups are prone to deviate from (stereo)typical models of user sovereignty, which shape user- and human-centered approaches to countering dark patterns on diverse interfaces. In the name of protecting younger and older user groups such as children and seniors, their participation and potential benefits are curbed. This Thinkshop explores the foundations for and examples of interface design as a tool to balance their interests and rights to participation and protection against dark patterns.

The program reflects the three disciplines that make up the DESIGNATE project, i.e. legal science, psychology and computer science and aims to add further perspectives on generational divides from further disciplines and sub-disciplines. Fundamental rights and multi-level legislation carry expectations to both user behavior, user needs and interface design both for younger and older groups of users. These expectations regarding user behavior and needs are to be measured against insights from psychology and communication science. On that basis, approaches to information system design for children, youth and seniors will be presented and evaluated as measures countering deception by dark patterns. A special focus will be on transparency by design and participatory methods such as co-designing. Transdisciplinary takes on transparency and dark patterns are particularly important as transparency is a complex term referring to different other concepts such as explainability, interpretability, openness, accessibility, and visibility. Co-participatory design methods promise to fulfill the promise of empowering younger and older people.

As Thinkshop, the event is conceived not only as an opportunity for interdisciplinary exchange, but also for the development of transdisciplinary approaches to dark patterns and generational divides. Following inputs from several disciplines, participants will be asked to discuss the ideas presented amongst themselves on the basis of guiding questions. Hence, the Thinkshop requires active involvement of all participants.

If you would like to participate, please e-mail katharina.kaesling@tu-dresden.de.

When: December 11th, 2023, all day-Thinkshop

Where: GER 013, von-Gerber-Bau, Bergstr. 53, 01069 Dresden

Contact: JProf. Dr. Katharina Kaesling, katharina.kaesling@tu-dresden.de

Thinkshop Itinerary

December 11, 2023

GER 013, TUD University of Technology Dresden

09:15 *Welcome*

I. **Philosophical Background (09:20)**

Input by *Marius Bartmann* (Philosophy, University of Bonn): **Practical Reasoning und Digital Choices**

II. **DESIGNATE Perspectives on Dark Patterns (10:10)**

A Legal Perspective: *Anne Lauber-Rönsberg* (Law, TUD University of Technology Dresden)

A Psychological Perspective: *Sebastian Pannasch* (Psychology, TUD University of Technology Dresden)

A Computer Science Perspective: *Thorsten Strufe* (Computer Science, KIT Karlsruhe Institute of Technology)

Introductory Round: All Participants and Perspectives

III. **Legal Backgrounds and Requirements (11:20)**

Input by *Katharina Kaesling* (Law, TUD University of Technology Dresden): **Children's Rights and Special Legal Requirements** - From the General Data Protection Regulation to the Digital Services Act

Input by *Helena Kowalewska Jahromi* (Law, TUD University of Technology Dresden): **The legal Background for the Protection of older People Online**

Lunch (12:30)

Coffee and Interdisciplinary Discussions in light of the Guiding Questions provided

IV. **Minors' and Seniors' Behavior and Needs Online (14:15)**

Input by *Jane Müller* (Psychology, FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg): **Needs of Children Online from a Media Educational Perspective**

Input by *Deborah Löschner* (Psychology, TUD University of Technology Dresden), **Needs of Seniors Online from a Psychological Perspective**

Input by *Anna Kümpel* (Communication Science, TUD University of Technology Dresden): **The Use of Information by Senior Citizens on Social Media**

Coffee and Interdisciplinary Discussions in light of the Guiding Questions provided

V. Sovereignty by Design for Children and Seniors (16:30)

Input by *Tomasz Hollanek* (Technology Ethics, University of Cambridge): **Reconciling Design and Transparency Critique**

Input by *Cristina Gena* (Computer Science, University of Turin): **Child Computer Interaction: Designing Interactive Systems for and with Children**

Input by *Ruggero Pensa* (Computer Science, University of Turin): **Designing and Testing Educational Tools for Children**

Interdisciplinary Discussions in light of the Guiding Questions provided

VI. Transdisciplinary Conclusions (18:15)

For all interested: Joint Visit of a Christmas Market