NIKA MAHNIČ (they/them) nikamahnic.com

EDUCATION

Queen Mary University of London (2020 –)
Politics PhD, School of Politics and International Relations (SPIR)
- Researching proprietary computational infrastructures and programmes underlying the British digital welfare state (de)formation
- Supervised by Dr Elke Schwarz and Prof Kimberly Hutchings
- Postgraduate students' representative with the SPIR Equality, Diversity and Inclusion committee

King's College London, University of London (2017 - 2018)
Big Data MA, Department of Digital Humanities (Distinction)
- Final thesis (supervised by Prof Btihaj Ajana) focused on persuasive technologies, surveillance and behavioural change or nudging

Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana (2012 - 2016)
Cultural Studies and Anthropology BA
- Award for best student performance at Faculty (Distinction)
- Final thesis (supervised by Dr Karmen Šterk) focused on technofetishism and sex robots

Semester exchange
Amsterdam University College, University of Amsterdam (2016)
Faculty of Social and Cultural Sciences, European University Viadrina (2015)

Scholarships
2020 - 2023 UKRI AHRC London Arts and Humanities Partnership PhD scholarship
2017 - 2018 Ad Futura MA scholarship (Slovenian government)
2015 - 2016 Erasmus+ scholarship for exchange students
2013 - 2016 Zois state merit scholarship

WORK EXPERIENCE

Queen Mary University of London, School of Politics and International Relations (2023 -
Research Assistant, Public Responses to Austerity in Healthcare
Research Assistant/podcast producer, Global Politics Unbound research group
Teaching Associate, War in World Politics and Power in Global Governance modules

King's College London, Faculty of Social Science and Public Policy (2021 –)
Graduate Teaching Fellow, School of Education, Communication & Society
Civil and Political Rights (2021-2023), Social Justice and Policy Analysis (2021)

HM Government Department for Work and Pensions, Business Strategy Analysis (2022)
Researcher, analyst (UKRI policy placement, 3 months)
- Research to help develop new models of service delivery

Journal of Future Robot Life (2020 – 2022)
Editorial Board member, reviewer

Institute for Culture of Diversity Open (Grounded Festival) (2018 – 2021)
Programme Curator, Researcher
- Programme curation for ***Intimacy in the Age of Artificial Intelligence* (2018)**, ***Automation and Power* (2019)**, **Truth (2020)** and **The State (2021)** conference editions that attracted individuals from academia, civil society and government
- Responsible for the thematic focus, developing event formats and content, inviting speakers
- Copywriting, PR and content creation in Slovenian and English

Aksioma Institute (2019 – 2020)
Community Relations Director

- Community outreach, communications, copywriting, programme development for **MoneyLab#8** conference

Danes je nov dan / Today is a New Day Institute (2011 -)
Co-founder, Researcher, Writer, Data Analyst / Board Member

- Setting up and running a civic technology NGO focused on transparency, accountability and human rights
- Conceptualising and managing digital campaigns
- Writing and editing articles and features, copywriting, grant proposals
- Data accuracy monitoring and liaising with stakeholders for Google Digital News Initiative-funded open-source tool Parlameter for parliamentary analysis and visualisation; data-driven research and feature writing

Pekinpah Association (2017)
Strategy Trainee

- Researching audience segmentation, sector-specific crowdfunding and alternative financing models
- Devising a communication and outreach strategy for Spider Festival 2017 (Festival of radical bodies)
- Conceptualising a digital networking and collaboration platform for connecting artists and producers in the field of dance and performance art that served as a template for a successful Horizon 2020 grant proposal, devising an (un)conference

Aksioma Institute (2015)
Grant Proposal Assistant

Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana (2013 – 2015)
Teaching and Research Assistant
- Teaching the methods of academic writing for Social and Political Anthropology course
- Organising a discussion group and symposium on the topic *Body and technology*

Radio Študent (2012 – 2017)
Writer, Journalist and Proofreader
Writing articles and interviewing guests on intimacy, politics and digital technologies as part of Culture and Humanities Editorial
- Proofreading for all editorial departments

Tribuna Newspaper (2013 – 2015)
Writer, Journalist

LANGUAGE AND OTHER SKILLS

- Slovenian (native)
- English (professional, C2)
- Italian (professional, C1)
- German (basic)
- Serbian (basic)
- Norwegian (basic)

Computer skills: **Gephi, RStudio, VennMaker, MS Office**
Social data analysis and network analysis in **R**

CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS

- 2023 Intervention at the Naked Empire: New tools/old stories and the colonial inheritance of the rules-based order BISA CPD workshop, Ordering the Material theme, Queen Mary University of London
- 2023 ***Data rentierism and the lucrative promise of state digitalisation*** paper presentation at the PSA British & Comparative Political Economy specialist group Early Career Researchers workshop, King's College London
- 2023 ***State (In)capacity and UK Government Information Technology under Tony Blair*** paper presentation at the Special Interest Group in Computing, Information, and Society annual conference (SIGCIS)
- 2023 Data Ownership workshop, University of Cambridge, UK
- 2023 ***Government information technology and its state(d) boundaries*** presentation at Data: Materialities, Infrastructures, Critiques workshop, Cambridge Digital Humanities, University of Cambridge, UK
- 2023 Digital Good Network summer school, University of Sheffield
- 2023 Logic, Limits, Contingency: A Critical Digital Spring School, Freie Universität Berlin, Germany
- 2022 ***Histories of proprietary government information technology in the UK*** paper presented at the Datafied welfare states pre-conference (Governing with data track), University of Copenhagen, Denmark
- 2022 ***Information technology and state (de)formation*** paper presented at the MANCEPT workshop in analytical political theory, Digital Democracy: Governance and Resistance in a Digital Era panel, University of Manchester, UK
- 2022 Selected participant for Taming the iMonster: Regulating digital platforms – University of Vienna, Austria
- 2021 ***Technological solutions for (outsourcing) responsibility and accountability*** paper presented at the Association of Social Anthropologists (ASA) 2021 conference on Responsibility, University of St. Andrews, UK
- 2021 Moderator of Corona Brunch and Manifesti/Feministi, as part of the festival edition on The State - Festival Grounded, Slovenia
- 2020 In conversation with Dr Mark Coeckelbergh on Deepfakes and the Danger of Totalitarianism, as part of the festival edition on Truth - Festival Grounded, Slovenia
- 2020 In conversation with Dr Julia Schneider, author of We Need To Talk, AI comic book – Aksioma, Slovenia
- 2019 Volunteer at CogX, The Festival of AI and Emerging Technology - London, UK
- 2019 ***Left to our own devices*** paper presented at the Technology and society conference (Surveillance track) organised by the Working Group on Philosophy of Technology - KU Leuven, Belgium
- 2019 Selected participant for Human and Artificial Intelligence: How Will We Live and Work in the Future? seminar - Institute for Manufacturing, University of Cambridge, UK
- 2019 Selected participant for the Surveillance Override workshop led by Sarah Grant and Joana Moll - Critical Engineering: Radical Tools for Interventions in Infrastructures - Aksioma, Slovenia

- 2019 Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) <u>conference</u> on *Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency of sociotechnical systems* attendee - Atlanta, Georgia, US
- 2018 <u>SEEDIG</u> (South Eastern European Dialogue on Internet Governance) Fellow - Ljubljana, Slovenia
- 2016 <u>TRANSOR</u> (Research Network for Transdisciplinary Studies in Social Robotics) Robophilosophy conference - University of Aarhus, Denmark
- 2016 Summer school in political theory Freedom: Question or Answer? - University of Primorska, Slovenia
- 2015 Speech, Criticism, Activism panel moderator, as part of the festival edition on the <u>Autonomy of Migration</u> – Grounded Festival, Slovenia
- 2015 International training for youth workers - <u>Loesje International</u>, Germany
- 2014 International summer school Image in Media and Digital Formation - University of Primorska, Slovenia
- 2014 Selected participant for the Data for Societal Impact <u>workshop</u> – <u>Design Biotop</u>, Slovenia

INVITED CONTRIBUTIONS AND SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- 2022 <u>Book review</u> Platform Socialism: How to Reclaim our Digital Future from Big Tech by James Muldoon - LSE Review of Books
- 2021 <u>Lecture</u> **Sediments in the machinery for a future** at The End of the World seminar - Kulturpunkt's journalistic school, SCCA-Ljubljana Centre for Contemporary Arts's School of Art and MaMa's Human rights film festival
- 2021 Input on the draft of UNESCO <u>Recommendation</u> on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence
- 2021 **Offshoring And Other Magic Tricks of Global Finance** <u>publication</u>, interview with RYBN – Aksioma, Slovenia
- 2021 Speaker at the *Ethics of data reuse in the digital society* event organised by the Ministry of Administration, Slovenia
- 2020 Keynote speech **Privacy and depersonalisation** at <u>Cryptoparty Slovenia</u>
- 2019 Paper **Artificial governance: emerging technologies in public sector**, at the 11th International Conference on Information Technologies and Information Society (ITIS2019) - Faculty of Information Studies in Novo Mesto, Slovenia
- 2019 Discussing smart cities at <u>EDO film festival</u> about cities, urbanity and architecture
- 2019 Invited lecture **The art of surveillance intelligence**, Feminism Today series in Trubar Literature House - Ljubljana, Slovenia
- 2019 Invited speaker on facial recognition as part of East of Queer or Where You Find It series in Pritličje - Ljubljana, Slovenia
- 2019 **Encountering bloody others in mined reality** <u>article</u>, AI & Society (Springer) journal, special edition on Ethics of AI and Robotics
- 2018 <u>Performative lecture **Measures of intimacy**</u>, Grounded Festival, Slovenia
- 2017 Contribution to the House of Lords Select Committee on Artificial Intelligence report <u>AI in the UK: Ready, Willing and Able?</u>
- 2015 Editorial and article about virtual reality pornography in <u>*Body and technology,* proceedings</u> of the 8th Cultural studies symposium - Kult.Co Cultural studies Association, University of Ljubljana
- 2014 Lecture at the symposium *Democracy between politics and economy*, part of the 45th anniversary of Radio Študent - Ljubljana, Slovenia
- 2014 **Gamification of Politics: Start a new game** <u>article</u> and Nanopolitics handbook <u>review</u> - Teorija in praksa journal, special edition on Cultural studies of video games
- 2013 <u>Article</u> on digital activism (with Jasmina Ploštajner), Goethe Institut publication *Politik 2.0. Das Internet und die Zukunft der Demokratie*
- 2013 <u>Article</u> on new social movements in Slovenia (with Dr Karmen Šterk and Jasmina Ploštajner) - ČKZ - Journal for Critique of Science, for Imagination and New Anthropology

ARTISTIC ENGAGEMENT

- 2022 <u>Migration poems</u> – The Calvert Journal/New East Digital Archive
- 2020 Core player in <u>Unrealism</u> and part of <u>Journey into a Living Being – From Social Sculpture to Platform Capitalism</u> exhibition; author of one of the chapters in <u>Heart of an Avatar: A Preliminary Document of the Internet</u> NFT book published by Folia – <u>Omsk Social Club</u>, Germany
- 2019 <u>Performer</u> with the Right Left <u>project</u> by Jan Rozman - Festival of Performance, Slovenia
- 2019 Research assistant and production assistant for <u>Marija Bozinovska Jones</u> and <u>Omsk Social Club</u>, <u>Technologically fabricated intimacy: blockchain and dating apps</u> - Somerset House and King's College London, UK
- 2018 Script preparation and more than 150 performances as Olympia Rossum with <u>Ergonomics</u>, as part of XShared Spaces festival - Kammerspiele Munich, Germany
- 2018 Video interpretation for <u>Sex in the Digital Age</u> exhibition, representing King's College London (Department of Digital Humanities) - Ars Electronica festival Linz, Austria