

## Q&A WASP-HS February 12 event

### Calls

Is there a limit to the number of applications from each organization?

- MMW and MAW calls: limit, if any, is set by the Wallenberg Foundations in their call text
- Call for junior recruitments: each university is limited to 3 proposals as described in slide 20.
- Call for affiliated PhDs: no limit per organisation, but the total for each cohort is set at 40 students (including those associated with WASP-HS projects and recruitments)
- Later calls (e.g. society collaboration, guest professors, ...): decisions will be made prior opening the call

Will there be an opportunity to associate a project with WASP-HS through the MAW/MMW call in 2021?

- We don't know yet what are the plans from MAW/MMW for 2021. As far as we know there will be no further calls for WASP-HS topics in MAW/MMW calls after 2020.

Can the same project application be sent to MAW and MMW?

- The rules for the applications to MAW and MMW are defined by the foundations themselves. As WASP-HS, we have no say on these.

Applications to MMW and MAW call for 2020, does it have to be associated to WASP-HS before applying?

- No, anyone that meets the requirements of the MAW/MMW calls can apply to these.

How do you look at proposals coming from a university in collaboration with a (non-university) research institute?

- If these are proposals for the junior recruitments, such proposals also need to be accompanied by a declaration by the vice-chancellor, and the collaboration needs to be justified in the vision description of the proposal (see slide 20).

In an application, would also non-research organisations be welcome as a partner (e.g. industrial company)?

- This is a requirement for all our society collaboration instruments (PhDs in society and collaboration projects/expeditions). For MAW/MMW projects, please refer to the rules of the foundations.

How do you look at project proposals coming commonly from two universities?

- We welcome these and in fact already several of the current projects are collaborations across universities. See our website for the list of current projects.

Should all proposals be submitted from the vice chancellor or can they come from deans or heads of departments?

- All the proposals for the junior recruitments should be accompanied by a declaration by the vice-chancellor. This is because the university needs to guarantee the conditions for these positions (see slide 18). For the MAW/MMW calls, the rules are set by the foundations. For other calls, the rules may be different and will be set when those calls open.

Do the junior positions have to be connected to funded Projects?

- No, any university can apply for the junior recruitment positions independently of whether they have a funded project.

What is the definition of Junior in the junior positions?

- These positions are equivalent to *biträdande lektor*

What is your view on collaboration with already on-going research programs?

- We welcome collaboration in general. In the case of on-going projects, it will be up to the members of the project to decide on what are relevant collaborations for their projects.

When will it be possible to apply for the joint international projects?

- Not before 2021.

Will a call for guest professors be continuous, or with fixed deadlines?

- There is no decision on this yet.

### Graduate school

How do you see interaction between existing non-WASP-HS projects (and PhDs) and the WASP-HS community?

- Non-WASP-HS PhD students will have the opportunity to participate on our activities through the affiliated PhD instrument. See slide 16.

What are the courses? Can we propose courses? How do we get involved in graduate teaching?

- More information about the Graduate School courses will be made available soon, including the ways in which you can participate.

You mentioned that this is an interdisciplinary project, what are the implications for a PhD student, as he/she needs to comply to standards within the subject (e.g. law, economics...)?

- Our graduate school should be understood as an extension school. Each PhD student will be enrolled and needs to comply with the rules and expectations of their own faculty or department. The conditions for participating in WASP-HS graduate school are described in slide 15.

How are the PhD students selected? Individual direct applications or applied from the Universities?

- For the PhD students associated with the MAW/MMW accepted projects, the PhD proposal will be approved by WASP-HS after which the rules and procedures of the university must be followed

## Definitions and perspectives

AI is a very wide concept. In the research field of humanities and social science, what is the definition of AI?

- AI is indeed a complex and poorly defined concept that can mean many things to different people. From the perspective of Humanities and Social Sciences it is important to realise that an AI system is more than its technological components alone. It includes the socio-technical context where it is developed and used, with its variety of stakeholders, institutions, cultures, norms and spaces. Understanding the impact of AI should therefore be this whole socio-technical system and not solely the software.

WASP HS integrate H, S, and technologies. What about natural sciences?

- Natural and life sciences are not a specific focus of WASP-HS. However, we will welcome multi-disciplinary proposals that include natural and life sciences alongside humanities, social sciences and technology.

To what extent is WASP-HS interested in not only "AI as phenomena in society (consequences of AI)", but also "AI as a methodological tool aiding social and humanities (e.g. digital humanities)"?

- Our focus is indeed the understanding of AI as a phenomena in society, by applying and extending humanities and social sciences methods and approaches, rather than using AI technology as a tool for humanities and social sciences. However, proposals that bridge the two aspects are welcome

Given the prevalent computer science background in people involved in the management of the program, and some in the current crop of projects, how do you ensure HS competencies/viewpoints?

- The members of WASP-HS management have a very multi-disciplinary background. Even if the scientific director has indeed a computer science background, she is mostly known for her own multi-disciplinary approach to AI. Also current set of accepted project is multidisciplinary.

## WASP and WASP-HS

Will WASP and WASP-HS have shared activities and events?

- Yes.

What constitutes a WASP-HS project and what is rather a WASP project?

- All WASP-HS projects will have a clear humanities and/or social sciences component.

Will projects from Computer Sciences have an advantage in WASP-HS? Is it (more) beneficial then to collaborate with researchers and projects from CS?

- Not necessarily. However, given that the aim of WASP-HS is to study the impact of AI in society and humanity, it is important that all projects have a sound understanding of AI but this does not mean that computer science researchers need necessarily to be involved.

## Evaluation and the future of WASP-HS

How will the knowledge from the research projects within WASP-HS be applied in the future?

- Much of this will depend on each project. For the program as a whole, we expect that our industry and society collaborations, as well as the international cooperation, will provide opportunities to apply and extend knowledge generated in the projects.

Beyond Twitter and other social media, is there an email list?

- We are planning a mailing list and newsletter. More information on this will be shared soon in our website.

This seems to be a unique program, are there similar efforts internationally?

- At this scale in terms of financial means and national coverage, WASP-HS is indeed unique. Where it concerns the focus, there are other international initiatives, including those at our international partners, e.g. the [Institute for Humane AI at Stanford](#), the [College of Computing at MIT](#) and [NTU Institute for Science and Technology for Humanity](#).

What attempts are done to evaluate the program? Will the result be official?

- The program will have a continuous evaluation with reports at middle and at the end. An international scientific advisory board is being appointed that will evaluate and advise the program.

Will there be collaborations with other foundations, for example KK-stiftelsen?

- There are no specific plans but we don't exclude collaborations.