The Wallenberg AI, Autonomous Systems and Software Program – Humanities and Society
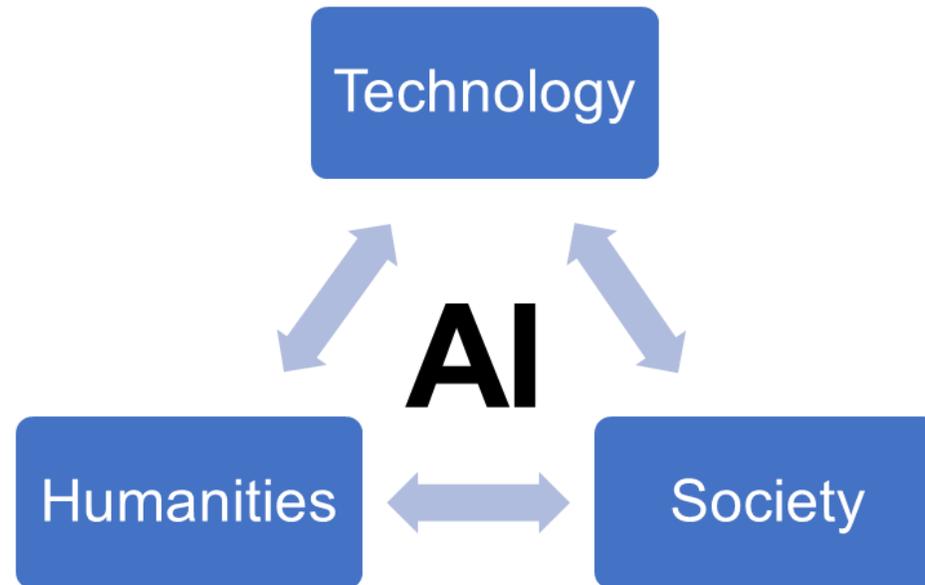
A brief presentation and some reflections

Copenhagen 5 February 2020

Kerstin Sahlin – Chair

WASP—HS

The vision of WASP-HS is to realize excellent research and develop competence on the consequences and challenges of artificial intelligence and autonomous systems for humanities and society.

WASP—HS

1. Funding of individual 5 year projects and with the aim of forming an interdisciplinary community across the funded projects

2. A national graduate school with the aim to raise the knowledge level in Sweden

3. Recruitments of junior and visiting faculty across disciplines to strengthen WASP-HS excellence

4. International partnerships and activities

5. Collaboration with industry and public agencies

WASP—HS

Theme Distribution

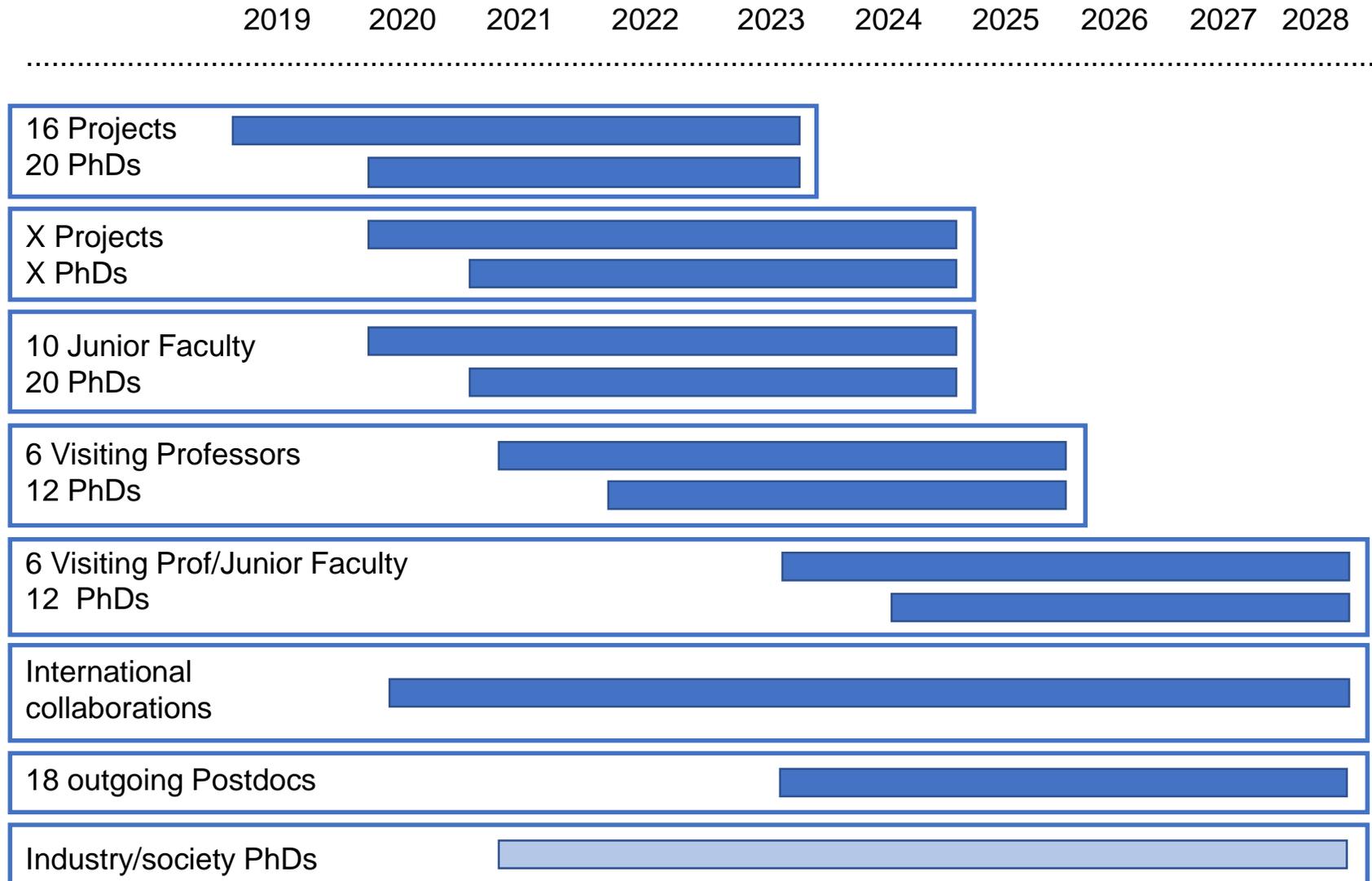|	
Ethics, autonomous systems and AI	4
Economy of autonomous systems and AI	2
Law for autonomous systems and AI	1
Social consequences: democracy, professions, consumer trust, science, health care, wellbeing, labour, diffusion of AI	8
Improved information systems for autonomous systems and AI	1

Disciplines Distribution (PI)

Computer science, interaction design	3
Law. sociology of law	3
Economics	2
History of science, socio-technical studies	2
Cognitive science	1
Education	1
Linguistics	1
Media and communication	1
Management	1
Political science	1

- 16 projects
- hosted by 8 universities and one research institute
- most projects are interdisciplinary

WASP–HS

In 2020, the Marianne and Marcus Wallenberg Foundation and Marcus and Amalia Wallenberg foundation have opened calls for WASP-HS projects. The calls for proposals especially ask for applications within the field of human and social consequences and challenges of AI and autonomous systems with focus on:

- Human wellbeing, healthcare, welfare, and environmental sustainability
- Equality, inequality, fairness, inclusion and diversity
- Democracy, social trust, governance, justice, data protection and privacy
- Economy, business, organization and work
- Human learning

WASP—HS

- Postdoc program incoming and outgoing

- Links to the graduate school through co-supervision and exchanges

- Visiting professors and fellowships, both ways

- Study trips and (long-term) visits, both ways

- Joint activities and events

- Joint projects

WASP—HS

2019   2020   2021   2022   2023   2024   2025   2026   2027   2028

16 Projects
20 PhDs

X Projects
X PhDs

10 Junior Faculty
20 PhDs

6 Visiting Professors
12 PhDs

6 Visiting Prof/Junior Faculty
12 PhDs

International
collaborations

18 outgoing Postdocs

Industry/society PhDs

A ten year program with a budget of 660 MSEK

• Additional projects, and co-funding by universities and industry is expected

WASP—HS

- The program has already attracted a lot of interest among scholars, universities, industry and other organizations

- Most of the early movers are young researchers, but increasingly the program has attracted the interest of more senior scholars across computer science and related areas, humanities and social sciences

- The generous funding, and the interest among scholars, has pushed universities to take matching initiatives.

- For the program, excellent research and competence building go hand in hand

- The program contributes to building and strengthening a research field

- True multi-disciplinarity demands both interaction across and a clear fundament in the disciplines.

- Interaction across projects is as important as research in individual projects and recruitments of individual scholars

- Similar initiatives across the globe: we have met a great interest in having joint workshops etc to build and reflect upon the emerging research field

- These mutidisciplinary programs have the potential of actually driving developments of the humanities and social sciences at large, to show the relevance of social sciences and humanities society and to attract new groups of scholars to research in the interface of humanities, social sciences and computer science

- These research program will contribute to development of AI and autonomous systems and to the impact of these in society and for humanity, but the program may also have great impact on research and researchers beyond this.

WASP—HS

- Contact
  - Professor Virginia Dignum (scientific director): virginia.dignum@umu.se
  - Professor Kerstin Sahlin (chair): kerstin.sahlin@fek.uu.se

- Webpage
  - www.wasp-hs.org

- Twitter
  - @wasp_hs

- LinkedIn
  - https://www.linkedin.com/company/wasp-hs/

WASP—HS

Thank you

WASP—HS

www.wasp-hs.org

Follow us at @wasp_hs!