# Digital technologies for health must prioritize gender equality and human rights: towards an end-to-end Intersectional Feminist Approach

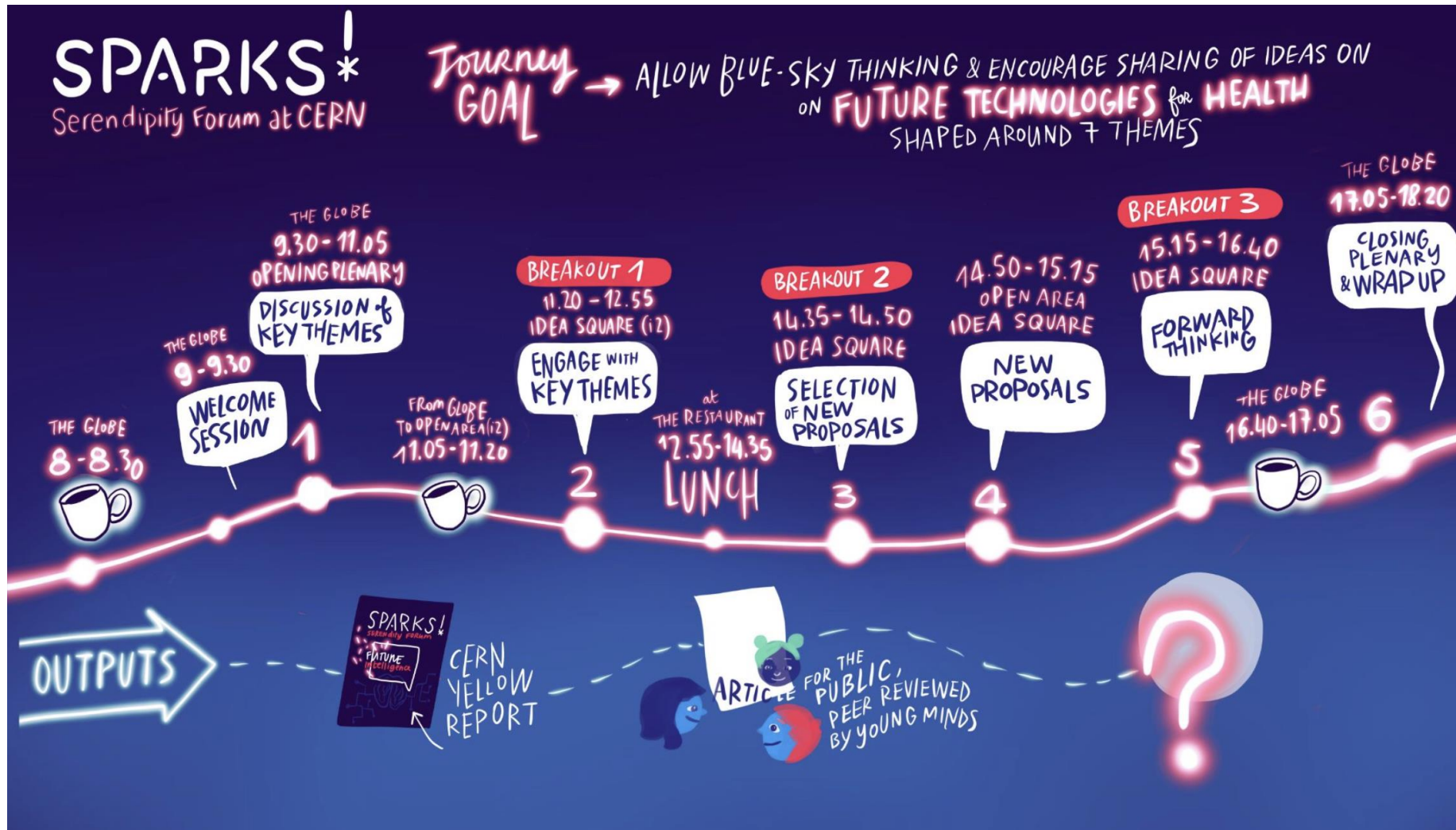## An analog meeting to discuss digital problems!

SPARKS!
Serendipity Forum at CERN

Feminist SPARKS! (in Alphabetical order)
Meg Davis, Shirin Heidari, Flávia Schlegel, Els Torreele, Sonia Trigueros

# Sparks! Serendipity Forum | 18 November 2022 | CERN

To spark new questions about the links between medical technologies and fundamental science, globalisation, accessibility, trust, ethics and more.

## Artificial Intelligent is here to stay

Rapid increase in development and use of AI and digital technologies in reshaping healthcare.

Transformative potential, in light of overstretched health systems and health workforce shortage:

- ✓ Improve diagnostics
- ✓ Rapid development of drugs and vaccines
- ✓ Enhance treatment efficacy
- ✓ Enable development of tailored interventions and precision medicine
- ✓ Result in cost reduction

Potential for better patient outcomes...

only if gender equality, diversity human rights are integral in the innovations, design, development and delivery of AI and digital technologies for health.
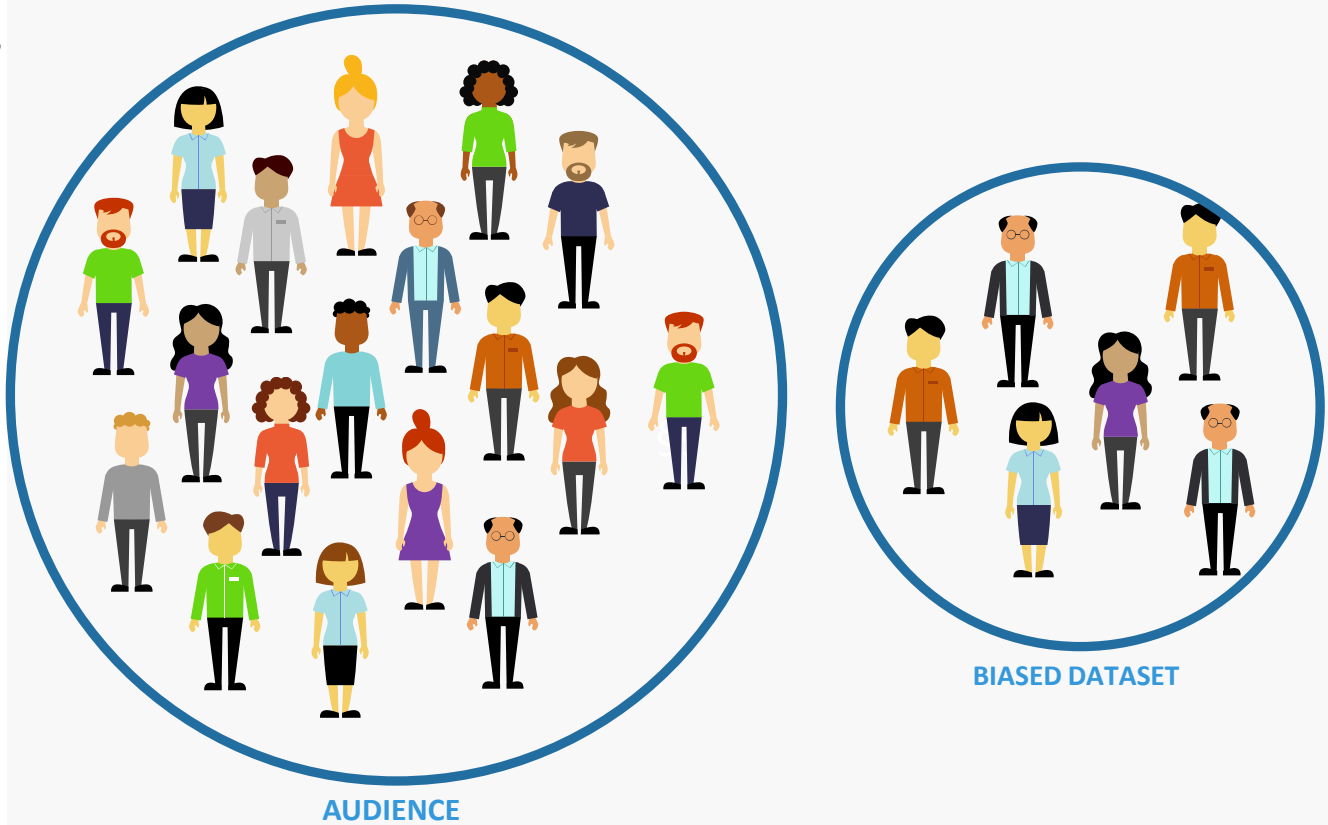
# AI
## BIAS.



Ageism, sexism, classism and more: 7 examples of bias in AI-generated images

Published: July 10, 2023 5:44am CEST

THE CONVERSATION
Academic rigour, journalistic flair

Performance of AI systems is indeed influenced by both the quality of their algorithms and the data they are trained on.

# Data Bias.



**AUDIENCE**

**BIASED DATASET**

Gender, Race, and other biases in data and input can perpetuate inequalities.

# Gender bias revealed in AI tools screening for liver disease

Artificial intelligence models built to predict liver disease from blood tests are twice as likely to miss disease in women as in men, a new study by UCL researchers has found.

**Oprah Winfrey**

appears to be male    76.5 %

amazon

" F*** you "

I'd blush if I could.

Source: https://www.ucl.ac.uk/news/2022/jul/gender-bias-revealed-ai-tools-screening-liver-disease

GENDRO

Beyond data bias.

ethical concerns

data governance    data sharing

digital divide    ai solutions    data ownership

ai development teams
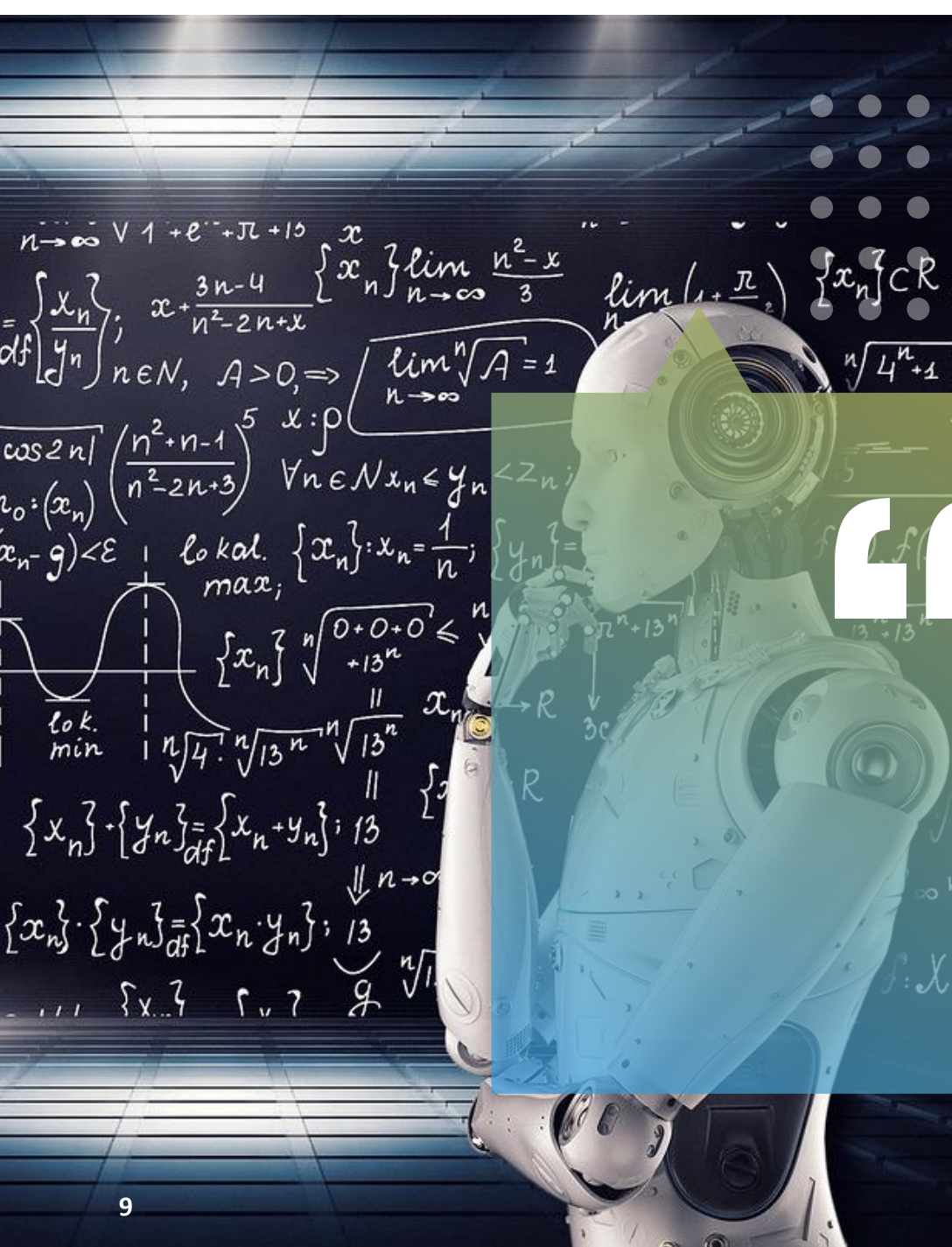
lack of diversity

data regulations    data control

# Why intersectional feminism?

**Transforming patriarchal and other unequal power structures to improve lives of women and girls and other marginalized groups to achieve gender equality, equity and social justice.**

- Recognizing the power dynamic

- Accounts for intersectionality and Rooted in human rights

- Valuing the knowledge of participants as expert knowledge

- Participatory: ensuring women's diverse concerns, voices and experiences are represented and reflected in the process

- Encourages Reflexivity: influences in the process

- Creating social change

# Proposed areas of exploration:

- How do intersectional gender (and economic) inequalities shape each stage of design, research and data collection, funding, priority-setting, development, and scale-up of digital technologies for health? Which are the questions that must be asked at each step to ensure appropriate attention

- What are intersectional feminist principles for an end-to-end approach to digital health innovation to ensure gender equality, diversity, inclusion, and equitable access to health?

- What are the key challenges, opportunities, and best practices for promoting gender quality, equity and human rights in digital health innovation?

RESEARCH PLAN

**Possible outcomes**:
- Outline and content for a commentary/opinion article in an open access academic journal.
- A draft roadmap for advancing collaboration and securing funding to develop the intersectional feminist framework for AI/digital technologies for health.

# Feminist SPARKS!

Exploration of the gender and diversity concerns in perpetuating inequalities and health inequities

# SPARKS! 2022

Future technologies for health