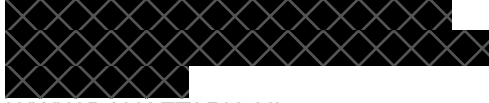# DANAE TAPIA

CHILEAN, PERMANENT RESIDENT OF THE NETHERLANDS

WWW.DANAETAPIA.NL

SUMMARY

Researcher and creative practitioner specialised in autonomous digital technologies and their intersection with theories of religious studies, comparative literature and post-structuralist philosophy. Founder of *Digital Witchcraft Studio*, an arts organization that conducts artistic research about innovative, non-conforming uses of computational tech, supported by international foundations. With extensive experience in multimedia arts and a strong public speaking presence, Danae Tapia has presented her work globally and contributed to academic and creative publications.

HIGHER EDUCATION STUDIES

Research Master in Comparative Literary Studies. Utrecht Universiteit
September 2018 - December 2020
Thesis: *Masochist Tremors, a Comparative Study on Literary Fiction and Artificial Intelligence*
Relevant coursework: computational literary studies, aesthetics of the posthuman
Full scholarship awarded from the Government of Chile (Becas Chile Crea program)

Master of Science in Management. University of Bristol
September 2012– June 2013
Thesis: Trajectories in Public Management and their Gendered Narratives
Relevant coursework: managerial economics, business ethics, organisational creativity
Full scholarship awarded from the Government of Chile (Becas Chile program)

Bachelor in Social Communication. Universidad de Chile
March 2004 - December 2008
Thesis: Corazón Pirata, a documentary on copyleft communities

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Lecturer and researcher in Hacking
Willem de Kooning Academy, Rotterdam
July 2020 - August 2024

- Designed and delivered the course for the Hacking minor, a specialisation open to third-year students of fine arts
- Selected as researcher to develop a special program on computational bots and autopoiesis
- Supervised students in research projects and throughout internship processes
- Gave lectures and workshops for first- year students to introduce the Hacking minor
- Collaborated with colleagues to develop interdisciplinary curricula

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Director of Strategy
Article 19
Amsterdam
May 2021 - Present

- Curator of the programming of the Digital Rights Global Gathering, a conference on digital culture that takes place every year in Lisbon, Portugal, around 1500 experts attend. Developing of the tracks of the event and selection of session proposals
- Supervision of four regional community leads who write monthly reports on the state of tech and social issues in Latin America, Asia, Africa and the Middle East
- Writing and publishing of *Digital Justice Every Day*, a pamphlet that promotes labour rights from a digital tech perspective in order to advance policies such as the 4-day work week, the right to disconnect and the implementation of unlimited vacations

Founder
Digital Witchcraft Studio
Rotterdam
June 2019 - Present

- Led artistic research projects that fall at the intersection of technology and the arts
- Production of public exhibitions
- Collaboration with artists from all over the globe
- Operations management of grants and awards
- Supervision of two interns, a graduate from the bachelor of Audiovisual Design at the Willem the Kooning Academy and one from the Master in Dramaturgy at the University of Utrecht

Fellow
Mozilla Foundation
San Francisco
September 2018 - June 2019

- Production of the short film *Digital Witchcraft*, a piece that depicts non-conforming approaches to tech. It portrays hackers in Cuba, IoT designers in Shanghai and Buddhist androids in Kyoto
- Collaboration with other fellows working in topics such as net-art, community networks and open source design tools. These efforts were presented in events such as the Mozlando gathering in Orlando, Mozfest in London and internal presentations of the fellowships both at the Mozilla headquarters in San Francisco and at the offices of the Ford Foundation in New York City

Project Manager and Fundraiser
Riseup Networks
Seattle
November 2016 - September 2018

- Project manager of *New Code and Infrastructure Security Features for the riseup.net Email Service*, the team implemented cutting edge security protocols and authentication hardening, these tasks were conducted by two system developers, two programmers and a QA officer
- Obtained the first institutional donations in the history of the organisation from funders such as DuckDuckGo, the Mozilla Corporation and NLNet

Director of Projects
Derechos Digitales
Santiago
October 2013 - October 2016

- Led the transformation of the organisation from a national (Chile) to a regional (Latin America) entity with the mentoring of the Open Society Foundation
- Supervision of several researchers on digital rights who worked as contractors, an operations officer and an accountant
- Represented the organisation at several international instances to present key values of the organisation such as the defense of net neutrality, the importance of open source software and the inclusion of assets in the public domain

RESIDENCIES

Rijksakademie
Amsterdam
September 2022 - August 2024
- Produced *TEMPLUM*, installation for Open Studios 2023 and *Father Forgive Them*, installation for Open Studios 2024
- Received mentorship from key seasoned artists appointed as advisors such as Metahaven, Bert Derkx, Mike Nelson, and others

Servus.at Kultur-Datenzentrum
Vienna
January 2022 - June 2022
- Design and coding of *The Grave*, an oracle bot Collaboration to produce a group show with the other six residents of the NextCloud program

Akademie Schlöss Solitude
Stuttgart
January 2021 - June 2021
- Design of *Digital Witchcraft: Automated Oracular Poetry*, online exhibition of automated bots
- Public presentation with the other residents at the Fragile Connections event held in Stuttgart

COMMISIONS AND GRANTS

Stimulerings Fonds
Rotterdam
January 2022
Awarded the Digital Cultural Grant for the Digital Witchcraft Lab project

European Union - Climate-KIC
Amsterdam
January 2021
Commission to do fieldwork at the COP26 summit in Glasgow in order to produce *22 Mirrors*, a work on automated digital art that reflects on the current climate emergency

Hivos
Amsterdam
December 2020
Commission to co-write *Gato.Earth*, a monthly newsletter in an epistolary format that explores the intersection of technology and the climate emergency

European Cultural Foundation
Amsterdam
September 2020
Grant awarded to produce *The Spell Book*, artistic research project on different European spiritual cosmologies and their relation to digital technologies

Fondos de Cultura, Government of Chile
Santiago
December 2019
Grant awarded by the Chilean Government to do research work on literary bots and the concept of autopoiesis in order to propose a theory of automated art

Stimulerings Fonds
Rotterdam
April 2019
Digital Culture grant awarded to research and build a platform to showcase a series of advanced tech prototypes using speculative methodologies and religious studies

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS AND PUBLIC LECTURES

AI to Access the Unconscious
RightsCon
Taipei
February 2025
Exhibition and lecture on overfitting in AI art in a context of public interest technology

Digital Witchcraft: Religious Studies in Cybernetic Contexts
Studium Generale Rietveld
Amsterdam
January 2024
Lecture on the outputs of the Digital Witchcraft project, endeavor founded in 2018

The Kingdom Is with me, Notes from a Trip to Nevada
V2_ Lab for the Unstable Media
Rotterdam
October 2023
Video and performance with filmmaker Harry Pot, a hybrid ritual juxtaposing reading and video footage from the DEF CON hacker conference in Las Vegas

22 MIRRORS at the Interface
Soapbox
Amsterdam
May 2023
Essay published in the Soapbox Journal and public talk with writer Javier Bertossi

Divination Is an Intimate Affair
Control Shift Festival
Bristol
April 2023
Public performance in the form of one-on-one hybrid tarot readings using both the Marseille tarot and oracle bots programmed by me

The Season of the Witch
IMPAKT - Centre for Media Culture
Utrecht
January 2022
Presentation and panel with fellow artists and researchers working with tech and magic

Network Imaginaries
Hackers and Designers
Amsterdam
December 2021
Book chapter summarising the Oracle Bots performances produced with Annika Kappner

Autopoiesis Today: Juxtaposing the Scientist, the Artist, and the Philosopher
Garage Museum of Contemporary Art
Moscow
September 2021
Public talk and paper presented at the 8th Garage International Conference. Utopias of (Non)Knowledge: The Museum as a Research Hub. I covered my oracular devices and the philosophical rationale behind the programming process

AI4Future
V2_ Lab for the Unstable Media
Rotterdam
May 2021
Public talk with professor Alicia Juarrero on AI, complexity science and autopoiesis

Intentionality, Prophecy and Ancestry
Akademie Schlöss Solitude
Stuttgart
March 2021
Live panel at the Magical Cohabitations event where I presented the oracular bot *The Grave*

Oracle Bots
Hackers and Designers Summer Academy and Control Shift Festival
Amsterdam and Bristol
July 2020 and October 2020
Programming of an oracular bot that randomises texts and graphics using digital artisanship in Javascript, involved live rituals of collective meditation guided by artist Annika Kappner

Digital Witchcraft: Magical Thinking for Digital Design
JSConf
Honolulu
February 2020
Public talk
Speaker on Javascript artisanship in creative contexts

Digital Witchcraft
Worm
Rotterdam
July 2019
Screening of a short film that documents non-conforming approaches to technology from a perspective of the otherworldly

Cuba and the Internet: Digital Santería
The Mozilla Blog: Dispatches from the Internet Frontier
Mountain View
May 2019
Report of a field trip in Cuba researching Cuban hackers and their relation to the practice of Santeria, a popular syncretic religion in the island

Digital Witchcraft
Public talk
First presentation in The Netherlands of the Digital Witchcraft project
The Hmm at A Lab
Amsterdam, April 2019

There Is no Suffering: The Heart Sutra and Artificial Intelligence
Kodaiji Buddhist Temple
Kyoto
April 2019
Interactive presentation with Mindar, Buddhist android that recites the Heart Sutra

Digital Witchcraft: Assembling Multidirectional Futures
Internet Freedom Festival
Valencia
March 2019
Design workshop of digital witchcraft devices with programmers dedicated to cryptography and public interest technology

Hackers and Shamans: Travelers of the Black Box
Hackers on Planet Earth
New York City
April 2018
Public lecture and video exhibition of a comparative analysis of etnographies of hacker and shaman communities

OTHER ACADEMIC STUDIES

Netherlands Research School for Literary Studies
Deleuze Seminar: Matters of Life and Death (w/ professor Rosi Braidotti)
Utrecht
September 2018 - June 2019

Netherlands Research School for Literary Studies
Deleuze Summer School (w/ professor Rosi Braidotti)
Utrecht
September 2017 - June 2018

Central European University
Summer School: Advocacy and the Internet, Communication Policy for Social Change
Budapest
June 2014 - July 2014

Universidad de Chile, Faculty of Economics
Management postgraduate diploma
Santiago
March 2010 - December 2010

SKILLS

- **Teaching:** curriculum development, student mentoring, interdisciplinary teaching, public speaking for heterogeneous and international audiences
- **Research:** qualitative and quantitative research methods in the humanities, critical analysis, academic writing, peer reviewing processes, artistic research, communication of science, stylometry as a digital humanities method
- **Languages:** Spanish (native), English (fluent), Dutch (A2), French (B1)
- **Technical:** web programming and design using languages as HTML, CSS and Javascript; advanced prompting for AI large language models (LLMs); website creation and administration using content management systems (CMS) as Wordpress, Squarespace, Cargo, Joomla and others; digital security management using privacy-centered tools and protocols; SPSS statistics software; OSIRIS; advanced use of the Adobe Suite and of the Microsoft Office suite