

DANAE TAPIA

CHILEAN, PERMANENT RESIDENT OF THE NETHERLANDS


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SUMMARY

Multimedia artist specializing in autonomous digital technologies and their intersection with religious studies, comparative literature, and post-structuralist philosophy. She is a core lecturer at the Willem de Kooning Academy, University of the Arts. As the founder of Digital Witchcraft Studio, an arts organization investigating innovative and non-conforming uses of computational technology, she leads artistic research projects supported by international foundations, government agencies and private donors. With extensive experience in the global public interest technology sector and a strong public speaking record, Tapia has presented her work internationally and contributed to numerous academic and creative publications.

HIGHER EDUCATION STUDIES

PhD in Philosophy, Art and Critical Thought. European Graduate School

June 2025 - Present

Relevant seminars: Towards a Liberal Fascism (Slavoj Žižek), The Pastoral Power of High Tech Media (Francesco Casetti), New Authoritarianisms and Beyond (Judith Butler), Biology and the Unconscious (Joan Copjec)

This is a low-residency program for established professionals

Research Master in Comparative Literary Studies. Utrecht University

September 2018 - December 2020

Thesis: *Masochist Tremors, a Comparative Study on Literary Fiction and Artificial Intelligence*

Relevant coursework: Media Materialities, Hermetic Philosophy, Digital Humanities

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, Ethics, Innovation and Entrepreneurship

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

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Lecturer and researcher

Willem de Kooning Academy, Rotterdam

July 2020 - Present

- Designed and delivered the course for the Hacking minor, a specialization open to third-year students of fine arts, graphic design, audiovisual design, fashion and advertising
- Selected as researcher to develop a special program on computational bots and autopoiesis
- Supervised students in research projects and throughout internship processes
- Development of interdisciplinary curricula

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Coordinator

NLnet Foundation

Amsterdam

October 2025 - Present

Management of Commons Caretakers, an NLnet subsidiary program that provides technical and mentorship support to the projects funded by the organization through the EU's Next Generation Internet initiative.

Director of Strategy

Article 19

Amsterdam

May 2021 - September 2025

Curator of the programming of the Digital Rights Global Gathering, a conference on public interest technology that takes place every year in Lisbon, Portugal. 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 and the right to disconnect.

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 for grants and awards.

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.

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 organization 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 organization 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. Representation at several international instances to present key values of the organization 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 seasoned artists such as Metahaven, Bert Derkx and Mike Nelson.

Servus.at Kultur-Datenzentrum

Vienna

January 2022 - June 2022

Design and coding of *The Grave*, an oracle bot. Group show supported by NextCloud.

Akademie Schloß Solitude

Stuttgart

January 2021 - June 2021

Design of *Digital Witchcraft: Automated Oracular Poetry*, online exhibition of automated bots. Group presentation at the Fragile Connections event held in Stuttgart.

COMMISSIONS AND GRANTS

CBK Fonds

Rotterdam

November 2025

Impulse & Deepening subsidy for Rotterdam artists

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

Esoteric Algorithms and Re-Enchanted Technologies

Panke Gallery
Berlin
November 2025
Group show and publication

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 summarizing 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 Schloß Solitude

Stuttgart

March 2021

Live panel at the Magical Cohabitations event where I presented the oracular bot *The Grave*

Digital Witchcraft: Magical Thinking for Digital Design

JSConf

Honolulu

February 2020

Public talk on Javascript artisanship in creative contexts

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 Santería, a popular syncretic religion in the island

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

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 ethnographies 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