

Bristol Digital Futures Institute Impact Report

2020



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Welcome from our Directors

We're delighted to share our first-ever Impact Report with you, detailing the progress we've made at the Bristol Digital Futures Institute (BDFI) over the last 12 months to February 2021.

As you're well aware, 2020 was a uniquely challenging year for everyone. One of the effects of the pandemic has been to accelerate sociotechnical change. It has also reinforced the importance of BDFI's mission: to create digital futures that are fair, sustainable and prosperous for all.

The abrupt and pervasive changes to our lives caused by COVID-19 have increased the urgency of understanding and intervening in ongoing processes of sociotechnical change. For example, the gap that was once referred to with concern as the 'digital divide' has widened to a digital chasm. The UK Government has committed to an agenda of 'levelling up', pressing for an urgent economic recovery that provides opportunities to address some of the nation's most glaring inequalities. Unsurprisingly, this future-facing agenda places digital advancement at its core. It's essential that the upturn it generates is just, green and inclusive.

To play our part in that ambition, we are pioneering collaborative technology creation, integrating social and technological expertise from across the University of Bristol and our partners in industry, government and communities. We believe that to understand the role of technology, it is vital to study its place in concert with people and society. Similarly, if we want to comprehend the future of society, we need also to investigate the development of technology.

BDFI was founded on this multidisciplinary, sociotechnical approach. Launched in September 2019 thanks to £29 million of capital investment from Research England and £71 million of commitments

from 27 other research partners, the University of Bristol and philanthropic sources. We are currently pressing ahead with a major infrastructure programme to establish our globally unique facilities and provide the Institute with its physical home. Despite the past year's difficulties, we're on track to open the doors to the first phase of this development in January 2022.

In addition to the rapid building programme, during 2020 we welcomed the first wave of our new researchers and appointed both a new Director of Programmes and Operations and an Institute and Partnerships Manager. We've held workshops with stakeholders from a range of sectors on potential uses for the world's first Reality Emulator, our research community have secured c.£36 million new research projects, and co-developed £70 million new research proposals. We're trailblazing innovative new technologies and contributing in practical ways to address digital inequality in Bristol's communities. We hope that this summary of our first full year in action inspires you to get in touch to explore the many ways we might co-create our digital futures together.



Prof. Dimitra Simeonidou
Academic Co-Director



Prof. Susan Halford
Academic Co-Director



Dr Jenny Knapp
Director of Programmes & Operations

About BDFI

Our mission

To transform the way digital technologies are created so that they promote inclusive, prosperous and sustainable futures.

Digital technologies are deeply woven into the fabric of today's societies. As the digital and social aspects of our lives evolve together, they are rapidly changing our world – with unpredictable and diverse outcomes. In recognition of the interplay between digital and social change, we're driving sociotechnical research methodologies that combine technical and social expertise. By establishing this interdisciplinary approach from the start of the innovation process, we can help drive sociotechnical change towards more positive digital futures for all.

“The West of England Combined Authority is investing in this great project which recognises the importance of digital technologies in driving innovation and growth across our region's industry sectors. I believe that technology has a vital part to play in addressing social, economic and environmental challenges and creating opportunities for all.”

Tim Bowles, Mayor of the West of England 2017-2021

“Digital technologies are now inextricably woven into the fabric of contemporary societies: the digital and the social are coevolving in a sociotechnical world. We know already that this has profound social, economic, political and environmental consequences. Our question is what sociotechnical futures are in-the-making? And how can we tip the balance towards inclusive, prosperous and sustainable futures?”

Professor Susan Halford, Academic Co-Director



“Digital innovation should be informed from the very early stages by purpose and context. BDFI, in partnership, will drive methodological breakthroughs towards the creation of new digital technologies fit for the future society.”

Professor Dimitra Simeonidou, Academic Co-Director



Year in a snapshot

£100m

Initial investment by Research
England and partners

£70m

Grants submitted or
in development

£36m

Grants secured

39

People delivering
BDFI programmes

27

Partners on board

10

Projects initiated

5k

Bristol residents surveyed on
how they have been impacted
by digital inequality in the
context of COVID

The people behind BDFI

BDFI is a diverse community of University of Bristol researchers and external partners who are all passionate about our mission. Meet just some of them on the following pages – our Directors, advisors and new researchers.



Our Directors



Professor Susan Halford
Co-Director

Susan is Professor of Sociology and President of the British Sociological Association. She is a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences and the Royal Society of Arts. Susan has a long track record of collaborative research across the social and engineering sciences. This research spans organisational sociology and digital sociology, most recently focussing on the politics and practices of digital data, methods and infrastructures, with particular attention to questions of knowledge, power and inequality. Susan is currently working on interdisciplinary approaches to sociodigital 'futures in-the-making'.



Professor Dimitra Simeonidou
Co-Director

Dimitra is a Professor of High-Performance Networks and the Director of Smart Internet Lab. She is a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering, of IEEE, and a Royal Society Wolfson Scholar. Her research focuses on programmable networks, human-centric networks, wireless-optical convergence, 5G/6G and smart city infrastructures. Dimitra leads the Bristol City/Region 5G urban pilots working in partnership with local government, industry and communities. She has co-founded two spin-out companies, including Zeetta Networks.



Dr Jenny Knapp
Director of Programmes and Operations

Jenny has extensive experience of securing and delivering multidisciplinary, multisector global research and strategic collaborations. She is responsible for delivering BDFI-awarded programmes, the first of which is a £100 million investment in buildings and facilities made by Research England, 27 partners and the University of Bristol. This includes helping to secure future programmes and projects and the running of BDFI's specialist facilities and spaces.

Leading on Digital Futures in 2020

- **Dimitra named a '5G Trailblazer' by Ericsson**
- **Dimitra joins new Task Force on Telecom Supply Chain Diversification to advise on bold interventions to open up and grow the British telecoms market**
- **Susan appointed Chair of the ESRC New and Emerging Forms of Data Leadership Team**
- **Susan continued membership of the UKRI Digital Economy Programme Advisory Board and UK Biobank Ethics Committee**
- **Dimitra continued membership of the UKRI ICT Strategic Advisory Team, UK5G Advisory Board, International Steering Committee i2CAT/Barcelona, Advisory Board CONNECT/Ireland**

Academic Advisory Group

BDFI's Academic Advisory Group provides world-leading advice and insight that steers us towards our mission. The Group plays a vital role in linking diverse communities of researchers and facilities, championing BDFI's mission within and outside the University and helping to guide strategy for the Institute's research.



Professor David Bull
Faculty of Engineering

David is Director of Bristol Vision Institute, a cross-disciplinary organisation dedicated to vision science and engineering. He is also Creative Technologies Lead for the University of Bristol and Director of the University's £46 million creative media hub, MyWorld, funded by UKRI's Strength in Places Fund. As such, David provides important links for BDFI into regional and global creative research and development.



Professor Ian Craddock
Faculty of Engineering

Ian's background is in Engineering, but he also has a cross-faculty role for the University, nurturing research and teaching as Institutional Lead for Digital Health. He is Director of the £16M EPSRC-funded SPHERE project, Director of the £8M Digital Health Centre for Doctoral Training, and Programme Director of the MSc in Digital Health. He has active research interests in IoT technology, time series data analysis, decision support, ethics and regulation and will be leading Digital Health activity and facilities within BDFI.



Professor Esther Dermott
School for Policy Studies

Esther is a Professor of Sociology and Head of School for Policy Studies. Esther's research expertise is in the sociological study of families, parenting (especially fathers), intimacy, gendered experiences of poverty, and associated

implications for policy. She is Co-Editor of the Bristol University Press book series *Sociology of Children and Families* and Editor-in-Chief of *Families, Relationships and Societies*. Esther is interested in how digital technologies and innovation are transforming the nature and practice of everyday intimacies, and how 'the digital' can be used to gain better understanding of co-presence and proximity in the private sphere.



Professor Richard Owen
School of Management

Richard is a specialist in responsible innovation and researches the politics, risks and ethics of science, innovation and new technologies in society. He is excited by the potential of BDFI's soon-to-be-unveiled Reality Emulator to explore society's relationship with data and AI and how that relationship might shape our shared future.



Professor Awais Rashid
Faculty of Engineering

Awais' expertise is the cybersecurity of connected critical infrastructure systems. His work involves large-scale analysis of the resilience of cyber-physical systems, such as the Internet of Things (IoT), and the software that underpins them. Awais heads the Cyber Security Group at the University of Bristol and leads multiple projects as part of the Research Institute in Trustworthy, Interconnected, Cyber-Physical Systems (RITICS) and the Research Institute in Science of Cyber Security (RISCS). His broader research interests include adversarial and non-adversarial behaviours related to cybersecurity.

New BDFI researchers

We're delighted to have confirmed the appointment of five new BDFI associate academics and researchers during 2020.



Dr Xin Fei
Lecturer in Business Analytics,
School of Management

With a PhD in Operational Research and Computer Science, Xin Fei researches transportation management, smart manufacturing, digital health and pharmaceutical supply chain management. Xin will help us address the challenges of digital transformation by combining knowledge of computational modelling, data science and business intelligence with expertise in manufacturing, healthcare and other public services.



Dr Marisela Gutierrez Lopez
Senior Research Associate,
School of Sociology, Politics and
International Studies

As well as studying the adoption of emerging technologies in the workplace, Marisela is investigating how the decision-making process of AI can be meaningfully explained to the public. Applying her interdisciplinary and design-led participatory research experience, Marisela aims to help create more diverse, equitable and inclusive data-driven futures.



Dr Sophie Lythreatis
Lecturer in Business Analytics,
School of Management

Sophie is working to ensure that the ethics of digital technology is properly considered in our digital futures. By addressing emerging ethical challenges, Sophie will help ensure digital technologies are designed to be inclusive and trustworthy.



Dr Jessica Ogden
Senior Research Associate,
School of Sociology, Politics and
International Studies

Jessica studies the politics of data and archives with a particular focus on how digital culture, media and knowledge are constructed and represented online. Jessica is also interested in examining the broad implications these constructions have for digital scholarship.



Dr Xenofon Vasilakos
Lecturer in Artificial Intelligence for Digital
Infrastructures, Faculty of Engineering

Xenofon investigates intelligent digital infrastructures with an emphasis on ideas that combine AI with traditional parallel and distributed computer systems. At BDFI, Xenofon will research aspects of 5G and beyond.

Catalysing research with impact

Our Directors, researchers and academics have launched exciting research initiatives over the past year – all geared to catalyse new research and impact for more positive digital futures. Whether it's driving efficiency through improved infrastructure connectivity, spearheading innovation in the creative sector, or tackling social mobility – our research community are coming together across disciplines to forge new approaches and solutions.

In 2020, BDFI and its core researchers have helped secure over £36 million of funding and played a key role in progressing over £70 million of major proposals*

*In submission/development

1.0 Case Study

Driving the UK's Digital Nation

Working with Digital Catapult, UK5G, West Midlands 5G, Newcastle University and Arup, BDFI is the technical lead in an initiative to support the UK Government's 'levelling up' agenda – ramping up the economy at speed with technology at its core. Alongside our partners, we aim to co-create a shared digital future that's enhanced by advanced networks and data-driven innovation.

To date, our organisations have collectively received investments in excess of £4.3 billion to create turnkey digital facilities. With Digital Nation, we are offering these facilities in a joined-up way that shares capabilities, knowledge and expertise and generates even more successful outcomes. We want to connect technology, data science, social science and businesses at the earliest stages of digital innovation. By working towards a shared mission, we can help ensure that society and businesses don't get left behind as the UK's digital transformation picks up pace.

We believe there's an opportunity to bring together these existing digital investments – which total around £4.3 billion – in a joined-up way that shares knowledge and expertise and generates even more successful outcomes.



2.0 Case Study

Spearheading a globally unique 'creative campus' for Bristol

After securing £46 million in funding, the MyWorld creative hub led by Professor Dave Bull is set to generate more than 700 jobs and make the South West an international trailblazer in screen-based media.

The visionary five-year initiative, led by the University of Bristol, will develop major new research and development facilities leveraged with BDFI, and connect its partners, including Aardman Animations, the BBC, BT, Digital Catapult, Bristol Old Vic and Theatre Royal Trust with global tech giants such as Netflix, Google and Microsoft. By forging collaborations between world-leading academic institutions and creative industries, MyWorld aims to be an inclusive incubator of technological innovation, knowledge sharing and creative excellence that's predicted to boost the economy by £223 million.

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3.0 Case Study

Encouraging social mobility in the gaming industry

Thanks to a generous donation from a leading independent video game developer, Supermassive Games, we're embarking on a new project investigating the opportunities for social mobility in gaming industry careers.

Gaming is a prevalent activity within disadvantaged communities, but these gamers are often positioned as passive consumers of tech products created for them, not by them. Our collaborative project aims to understand skills development needs so that more groups can envision futures, not only as consumers but also as producers. Working with partners, we will also conduct 'action research' – proactively trialling interventions to promote greater access and inclusion in the gaming and IT industry.

“Beyond communication and access to knowledge, we can also begin to imagine the role of technology in really addressing some of the big social issues. There is huge potential, but the question is as technology exists separately from communities, how do we bring those two together? Especially for marginalised communities, who over consume technology but don't participate, in terms of producing that technology or benefiting from that technology.”

Sado Jirde,
Director, Black South West Network

4.0 Case Study

Connecting the world's leading digital research centres

The pace and scale of change in digital technology demands major intercontinental collaboration if we're to realise the benefits. Thanks to the University's existing Smart Internet Lab and BDFI's sociotechnical expertise, we're delighted to become part of the Fabric Across Borders (FAB) partnership.

FAB is a \$3 million initiative that extends the National Science Foundation's cyberinfrastructure testbed – already the largest in the US – across Europe and Asia. It creates a configurable global network connecting digital scientific resources at each site, enabling large-scale cyber-infrastructure research, and testing emerging innovations in a secure environment.

Working in partnership

We're proud to be working alongside a collection of 27 outstanding partners – from world-leading technology businesses and top creative businesses to local government and community organisations. By thinking, working and dreaming together, we can build better digital futures for all. The following projects highlight just some of the research being delivered in partnership – from tackling digital inequality, to cyber crime, to the explainability of AI.

"Bristol and the West of England is an incredibly important area for us. Our long-standing research partnership with the University of Bristol underpins the very foundation of modern and future communications technologies. We are very excited about the Bristol Digital Futures Institute and are already in discussions about how we grow our partnership further."

Carol Fletcher, Head of Academic and Research Partnerships, BT Group

"Digital technology plays a crucial role in our goal of achieving social mobility for young people in disadvantaged and ethnically diverse communities, and we welcome the knowledge and understanding that the institute will bring to us."

Poku Osei, Chief Executive, Babbasa



5.0 Case Study

Translating 5G research into economic impact

Post-Brexit, the UK Government has stated its intention to establish a shortlist of viable locations for free ports – tax-free zones that encourage greater economic activity. Could 5G tech support the acceleration of free port environments?

We're part of a WECA-led consortium undertaking a £5.5 million project that responds to the Government's 5G Create competition. Aimed at innovators exploring new uses for 5G that improve lives and boost business, we have a unique opportunity to lead the transformation of freight logistics operations in and around Bristol Port and demonstrate improvement on security, productivity, traffic congestion and pollution. Via the University's Smart Internet Lab, we're leading the technical development of the 5G Logistics project and transferring experience and knowhow into free ports around the UK.

We're part of a WECA-led consortium undertaking a £5.5 million project that responds to the Government's 5G Create competition.

A woman with dark hair is looking down at a laptop keyboard. The background is blurred, showing an office or library setting with other people and desks.

6.0 Case Study

Has COVID-19 widened the digital divide?

The nationwide closure of offices, libraries, schools and more has heightened reliance on digital technology and with it the challenges of digital inequality. For those without devices, connectivity or skills, there are huge barriers to participation in education and employment and restricted access to goods, services and social life. At the same time, concerns about privacy, security and the biases of digital data and analytics are a very real cause of concern, particularly amongst minoritised groups.

Working in partnership with the School of Education and Knowle West Media Centre, we're surveying local residents to understand how and why digital exclusion is affected by COVID-19. Once we have the results, we'll work with the local community and Bristol City Council to help tackle the issues our survey reveals.

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7.0 Case Study

Nomadic networks – enabling digital opportunity

Through our research, it has become clear that for many, digital inequality is deepened by a lack of adequate digital infrastructure.

BDFI is working with local and industry partners to explore ways of mitigating that risk.

Having secured a grant to implement a nomadic network prototype, we plan to co-design state-of-the-art digital networking facilities that could support Internet of Things environments, local AI-driven services, digital learning environments and more. The network aims to empower multiple communities by offering a platform for digital experimentation and innovation and by developing a shared approach to operating and benefitting from its creation.



9.0 Case Study

Making sense of machine learning in practice

Increasingly, computers are being used to run algorithms that can learn from vast stores of digital data to make important decisions across all spheres of life, such as who to hire, how to set insurance premiums or award examination results. It is now clear that these processes are shaped, amongst others, by race, gender and social class that can contribute to social inequalities. There are now calls for better understanding and wider democratisation of these processes.

In conjunction with LV=GI, a major personal lines insurance provider, we're investigating how machine learning is brought into use, alongside a range of other decision-making processes to explain the effects on business, staff and customers. We're also collaborating with local partners Knowle West Media Centre and Black South West Network to explore what machine learning means for particular 'data publics' and co-designing methods for wider engagement in creating and monitoring machine learning decision-making.

There are now calls for better understanding and wider democratisation of machine learning processes.



6.0 Case Study

Exploring a de-colonial cultural heritage space

Today's museums, whilst vital institutions, carry many deep and uncomfortable echoes of a colonialist world. Cultural assets are often presented and framed with Western voice, and collections lack wider narratives from other standpoints. Addressing this by changing the organisation and content of museums is a significant and expensive challenge.

We are privileged to be supporting a Black South West Network-led project, alongside Graeme Were of University of Bristol Archaeology, to help develop a virtual decolonial cultural heritage space. The project seeks to radically reimagine the presentation of histories. We hope to draw on the Reality Emulator and nomadic network to deliver a fully immersive decolonised 'museum-like' experience for Bristol. Digitisation makes possible the creation of a critical historical and cultural asset, rich in content from community archives, performance storytelling and modern historical narratives - all framed by diverse local voices - that would not otherwise be achievable.

The project seeks to radically reimagine the presentation of histories in a fully immersive decolonial heritage space.

Developing new facilities

“Our research facilities are vitally important in understanding our digital futures. They will allow a step change in sociotechnical research and help us to gain new insights on the challenges and opportunities brought by disruptive digital technologies. These insights will enable us to create new technologies and deliver our vision for a future digital society based on opportunity, trust, human control, resilience, openness, diversity and inclusion.”

Professor Dimitra Simeonidou, BDFI Co-Director

BDFI is excited to be the first residents of the University of Bristol's new Temple Quarter Enterprise Campus (TQEC). Located in the heart of the city alongside Brunel's iconic Temple Meads train station, TQEC is set to deliver more than £600m of employment and financial benefit to the region's economy over the next 10 years.

The University's investments in the Temple Quarter Innovation District will act as a catalyst that's expected to unlock a further £2 billion of private sector investment. The Innovation District is projected to support around 22,000 permanent jobs, 10,000 homes, and residences for 3,000 students. As part of this leading-edge regional hub, alongside MyWorld and other significant, complementary initiatives, our new BDFI home will introduce globally unique facilities.



Developing new facilities

Reality Emulator

A first-of-its-kind physical-virtual environment that will enable the study of complex sociotechnical systems at scale, addressing fundamental research questions while also considering commerciality, security, ethics, policy and legislation. The Reality Emulator will enable immersive, real time and interactive experiences of digital futures. Innovations will be wide ranging, from new forms of healthcare, to citizen co-creation of cities and test driving the future of manufacturing.

“Imagine walking into a room with a small group of people. The Reality Emulator is turned on, and suddenly you are transported into a city where each of you can see, smell, touch and hear the hustle and bustle of the streets. The image of the city you see around you is being created using real time data from a combination of IoT sensors and testbed data and supported by an advanced ‘emulation core’ (including high performance computing, cloud and open, programmable data and hardware platforms). In this environment you can collaboratively experiment in real time and understand the possible implications of your changes to the future city. Perhaps you want to see what impact taking 20% of the cars off the road would do to air quality? Or trial a new digital technology in the simulated city to understand how it might be experienced by citizens and used in practice? However you would like to experiment, you can invite others to ‘connect in’ to the experience using VR or AR headsets.”



Developing new facilities

The Neutral Lab

A creative space at the heart of BDFI to broker and facilitate projects between commercial, civic, social and academic partners. Projects in this space will be curated by BDFI to create a shared space for collaboration, with no hierarchy or predefined agenda. Participants will come together as equals in a reconfigurable and open space to work on bold new projects. Even the space itself will be a site of research – learning in real time what supports and accelerates cross-disciplinary and cross-sector collaboration and innovation.

Instrumented Auditorium

A facility for deep and sustained public and stakeholder engagement in research, with the ability to evaluate individual and group/social responses to visual and other stimuli. The Auditorium will allow the monitoring of physiological and emotional responses to, for example, a film or image, and facilitate the in-depth discussion between participants and researchers that will yield deeper insights about the impacts of new technologies.

Cyber Suite

An experimental security operations centre to enable modelling of cyber attacks and the evaluation of human operators' responses to real-scale incidents in crisis. The Cyber Suite will interface with the existing testbed facilities of the Bristol Cyber Security Group for cyber security of critical national infrastructure and IoT environments.

Digital Health Node

A globally-unique fully instrumented and secure space where companies, the public and academia can work with patients to co-design and evaluate new health technologies. The facility supports the research, design and evaluation of technologies including wearable sensors, low power communication networks and computer vision systems for characterising health behaviours, symptoms of disease and quality of movement. A particular emphasis will be to provide a facility where measurements can take place in naturalistic environments over extended time periods, including overnight, thereby yielding data which is representative of real-world data and unbiased by observer effects.

Collaboration and partnership space

If you're interested in working alongside world-class researchers and facilities, join us in our vibrant partnership and collaboration spaces.

Email BDFI-enquiries@bristol.ac.uk



Shaping debate

Alongside leadership roles in Government Taskforces and UKRI, our Directors are proactively shaping societal debate on digital futures in both academic and public spheres.

Invited talks

Professor Susan Halford

- Plenary panellist - British Sociological Association Annual Conference on “Sociologies of COVID-19”
- Plenary talk - British Sociological Association Conference 2020: Re-making Digital Futures
- Plenary panellist - Cyber Security Futures at UNESCO Futures Literacy Summit

Professor Dimitra Simeonidou

- Plenary talk - Joint Asia Communications and Photonics Conference and International Conference on Information Photonics and Optical Communications: “5G and beyond: Enabling the Future Networked Society”
- Keynote talk - International Council of Academies of Engineering and Technological Sciences: “Engineering a Better World – Hyperconnected Life”
- Plenary keynote, IEEE International Conference on Communications, “5G and Beyond: Enabling the Future Networked Society”

Listen In

- The Making of Digital Futures, with Susan Halford via [Worldpodcasts](#)
- Entangling the Web, with Susan Halford via [Northwestern University](#)

Our ambitions for 2021

As our Institute has grown over the past year, so too have our ambitions for the year ahead. In 2021, we will:

- Drive forward an ambitious research agenda that influences local and national governments, placing sociotechnical approaches at the heart of the 'levelling up' agenda and helping to position the UK as a global leader in digital innovation.
- Work to redress the digital divide. COVID-19 has highlighted the significant implications of what is now a digital chasm. We're committed to working in partnerships that help provide the evidence base and solutions to tackle this major social, economic and environmental challenge.
- Work with our partners and collaborators to explore new initiatives and opportunities emerging from the changes brought about by COVID-19. Through these collaborations, source funding to pursue joint projects that deliver real-world benefits.
- Unveil the first phase of our new Institute buildings on the Temple Quarter Enterprise Campus. In early 2022, we'll invite researchers and partners into our rich, collaborative ecosystem to explore our pioneering Neutral Lab, co-working spaces and other BDFI hub facilities.
- Invite our community and the public to participate in and design the development of the world's first Reality Emulator. We encourage everyone to take part in shaping this unique facility that will push the frontiers of emulation and offer exciting new shared immersive experiences.
- Connect partners, collaborators and communities with each other, our researchers, key decision-makers and outside organisations, both in Bristol and around the world.
- Continue to build our community through a series of Challenge Forums, networking, and other events, connecting inspiring minds to consider pressing digital challenges and the approaches that can help resolve them.
- Launch our inaugural 'Innovate and Collaborate' seed-corn funding opportunity to help catalyse new interdisciplinary research into the creation of digital technologies for inclusive, prosperous and sustainable societies.
- Support the development of early-career researchers (ECRs) and ensure a strong talent pipeline. We'll present a series of development opportunities for ECRs from any discipline engaged in work on digital futures. We also expect to open a fellowship call to help ECRs engage in challenge-led research alongside our partners, with posts starting in 2022.

Get involved with BDFI

We're looking for researchers, external partners and collaborators from diverse sectors and fields to get involved with our work. If you have an idea you think we should be working on, or are interested in collaborating with BDFI, we'd love to hear from you.

There are many ways to keep in touch:

- [Email us at BDFI-enquiries@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:BDFI-enquiries@bristol.ac.uk)
- [Follow the Bristol Digital Futures Institute blog](#)
- [Engage with us on Twitter](#)
- [Sign up to our newsletter](#)
- [Visit the website](#)

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