

Advisory board meeting IT and Cognition, 4.12.2019, 16-18

Participants:

Advisory board

Esben Alfort, Ankiro

Jørg Asmussen, Det danske Sprog- og Litteraturselskab

Claire Joyce, Nordea

Brian Rasmussen, IBM Nordics

Sacha Mendes Da Silva, Alexandra Instituttet

NorS

Manex Aguirrezabal Zabaleta, Costanza Navarretta, Bolette Sandford Pedersen, Alice Ping Ping Tse, John Tøndering, Jürgen Wedekind

Agenda

- (i) Presentation (all)
- (ii) The IT and Cognition program (admission, content and structure, master thesis, employment, curriculum), JW (see slides)
- (iii) Discussion

The following topics have been discussed.

- (a) Is the program up to date with respect to the labor market? (Would you employ people with the It and Cognition profile?)

It was discussed in which ways the IT and Cognition program differs from programs such as Computer Science and Data Science. Adaptivity and interdisciplinarity are some of the particular skills that the IT and Cognition students acquire. The panel particularly emphasized that prospective employers are looking for candidates with analytical skills, problem solving skills, social skills, and collaborative skills. While these skills are already being regularly trained through problem-oriented work in heterogeneous groups, it was also suggested that the university should advertise for these more clearly. It was also proposed that the IT and Cognition program, similarly to the Cognitive Science BA program in Århus, should stress creativity when developing and writing the master's thesis.

The importance of taking an internship and collaborating with companies was emphasized. Moreover, it is important for students to work with messy data.

It was also noted that the program should be aware of the upcoming challenges for the increasing number of elderly people in the Nordic countries that because of their limited computer skills (and foreign language knowledge) are in parts excluded from public life. This digital gap is expected to be addressed by conversational avatars that meet the particular requirements of elderly people, and reflect their skills and the way they communicate

(different dialects and gestures). These aspects are already addressed in the program but the focus on them will be intensified.

(b) Are there subjects/aspects which are missing from the curriculum?

Ethics in AI (or robotics) should be addressed in the program.