4. MIT New "Ethical Artificial Intelligence and ICT" 1 billion dollar College is the object of Public Hearing in Portugal's Parliament with e-Planning Consortium

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology recently announced it is creating a new College, backed by a planned investment of $1 billion (1) to better prepare students to develop, and consider the implications of, artificial intelligence. Its ambitious transdisciplinary approach- with a vision of "educating students in every discipline to responsibly use and develop AI and computing technologies to help make a better world" will be the focus of an exceptional hearing in the Portuguese Parliament, promoted by the e-Planning Consortium (2).

"ICT and AI are too important to be left solely to the hands of (IT) engineers" said Pedro Ferraz de Abreu, an IT engineer himself, MIT alumni with a PhD from MIT-DUSP and a Master from MIT Media Lab.*" MIT has chosen to integrate the social and technological, creating new courses that draw on a rich variety of knowhow, including social sciences. This integrative approach is also the basis of the e-Planning Consortium's approach and the joint doctoral programme*." Pedro Ferraz de Abreu was the first coordinator of the e-Planning doctoral programme in Portugal, and kept his ties with his *Alma Mater.*

The e-Planning Consortium, a collaborative platform, aims to research, test and transfer knowledge of the social needs for and impacts on society of ICTs (including AI), drawing on engineering, social sciences and humanities. The 3-University joint transdiscliplinary e-Planning doctoral programme is celebrating is 10th anniversary this year.(3)

"*The fact that this hearing is hosted by the Parliamentary Committee that deals with, among other matters, Culture, Communication and Youth is very significant " said Vasco Costa (CITIDEP) "this is an issue that is as much about citizenship, culture and ethics as it is about surveillance, robotics and jobs. We are hoping to bring this thinking both into academia and the political debate.*"

A delegation of the the e-Planning team and CITIDEP (Research centre for ICT and participatory democracy, (4)), will be at the hearing on tuesday 26th February 2019 at 15:30 in the Commitee of Culture, Communication, Youth and Sport at the Portuguese Parliament, Lisbon**, to present some strategic proposals for "Culture and Communication" that are urgently needed to tackle the opportunities and threats of AI today .**

Sources:

(1) http://news.mit.edu/2018/mit-reshapes-itself-stephen-schwarzman-college-of-computing-1015

(2) http://www.e-planning.org/

(3) http://www.e-planning.org/jointphd_e.html

(4) http://www.citidep.net/

ISBN: 978-989-98661-3-3

Agradeço o trabalho de transcrição, com grande rigor, da jovem colega do CITIDEP, Mariana Lupi Costa, e ainda à minha colega, Prof. Doutora Glória Ramalho, pelo cuidado de contactar os Srs Deputados que intervieram, dando-lhes a oportunidade de rever o texto e sugerir as alterações que entendessem. De qualquer forma, o trabalho de revisão final e o actual texto aqui apresentado, é da responsabilidade do autor, Pedro Ferraz de Abreu.

ANEXO: MIT News

MIT News

ON CAMPUS AND AROUND THE WORLD

MIT will reshape itself to shape the future, investing $1 billion to address the rapid evolution of computing and AI — and its global effects. At the heart of this effort: a $350 million gift to found the MIT Stephen A. Schwarzman College of Computing.

Photo: Christopher Harting

MIT reshapes itself to shape the future

Gift of $350 million establishes the MIT Stephen A. Schwarzman College of Computing, an unprecedented, $1 billion commitment to world-changing breakthroughs and their ethical application.

Watch Video

MIT News Office
October 15, 2018

MIT today announced a new $1 billion commitment to address the global opportunities and challenges presented by the prevalence of computing and the rise of artificial intelligence (AI). The initiative marks the single largest investment in computing and AI by an American academic institution, and will help position the United States to lead the world in preparing for the rapid evolution of computing and AI.

PRESS MENTIONS

President Reif speaks with Gerry Baker of *WSJ at Large* about the impact of AI on the future of education and work. "Part of the goal of the [MIT Schwarzman] college is, as we educate people to use these [AI] tools, to educate them in a way that empowers human beings, not replaces human beings," says Reif.

A **Keynote** at the ***e-Planning & Ubiquity International Workshop*****,** by **Prof. Joseph Ferreira Jr.,** presented for the first time in Portugal the new **MIT Schwarzman College,** which in fact corresponds to validating the e-Planning approach**.**

> "*the most significant structural change to MIT since the early 1950s, when the schools for management and for the humanities and social sciences were launched (...) single largest investment in computing and AI by an American academic institution*". (MIT Tech Review, 2019)

Here we present brief quotes and references, relating MIT Schwarzman College 2018/19 with e-Planning 1992-2008

MIT Schwarzman College 2018 - 2019	**MIT e-Planning 1992 - 2008**
"The new MIT Schwarzman College of Computing will be an interdisciplinary hub for work in computer science, AI, data science, and related fields." *(MIT News 2018)*	"The fast progress on information and communication technologies (ICT) enabled significant advances (...) But new conditions bring also new problems and raise many new questions (...) e-Planning is a new scientific area of inquiry that is emerging to address a substantive part of these issues.(...) A strategic "push" on technology requires the integrated engagement of many different key disciplines." *(Ferraz de Abreu, P. et al, "Towards e-Planning as part of MIT-Portugal", 2006)*
" The College will: - reorient MIT to bring the power of computing and AI to all fields of study at MIT, allowing the future of computing and AI to be shaped by insights from all other disciplines (…)" *(MIT News 2018)*	The seminars are intended to facilitate dialogue across a broad cross-section of the department about some of the shared issues, methods, and implications of "e-planning". we also hope to stimulate debate about an e-planning research agenda among an international community of our peers, not only in Planning but also in closely-associated fields. *(e-Planning Seminar, MIT, 2003)*
"- educate students in every discipline to responsibly use and develop AI and computing technologies to help make a better world" *(MIT News 2018)*	"Technological advances enabled more informed actions by planners (...) At the same time, planners functions are faced with the challenge of private agents well equipped and familiarized with the most sophisticated information technologies, a challenge that computer engineers and information management experts are not equipped to answer (...) This is why technologically oriented sciences became a mandatory component of informational planning, which in turn is extending and changing these sciences to respond to the planning problematic." *(Ferraz de Abreu, P. 1993, "Towards a Definition of Information Systems in Planning", MIT, DUSP)*
"the College will equip students and researchers in any discipline to use computing and AI to advance their disciplines and vice-versa, as well as to think critically about the human impact of their work.", *(Reif 2018)*	"Informational Planning (...) is a discipline whose cognitive object or domain is the study of the information technologies (IT) with relevance to the institutional and planning processes, and the relationships between those IT and these institutions and planning processes." *(Ferraz de Abreu, P. 1993, ibidem)*

"The MIT Schwarzman College of Computing will seek to be not only a center of advances in computing, but also a place for teaching and research on relevant policy and ethics to better ensure that the groundbreaking technologies of the future are responsibly implemented in support of the greater good." *(MIT News 2018)*	"Information technology is far from being simply a tool, that planners can master and use; it is also a powerful driving force transforming our society, that planners must understand and find the means to influence, where and when is possible and convenient. Information was always a source of power; now it is also an increasingly important source of wealth, a commodity with unique attributes, a form of capital with different laws of consumption and reproduction." *(Ferraz de Abreu, P. 1993, MIT, ibidem)*
"To advance these priorities, the College will: - develop new curricula that will connect computer science and AI with other disciplines(…)" *(MIT News 2018)*	"What new technology and analytical skills and competencies are required for the new generation of planners? How can we improve our current school curricula to correspond to these new requirements?" *(e-Planning Seminar - goals, MIT, 2003)*
"- encourage scientists, engineers, and social scientists to collaborate on analysis of emerging technology, and on research that will serve industry, policymakers, and the broader research community; (…)" *(MIT News 2018)*	Since 2006, several Universities, Research Centers and other Institutes created an informal "Consortium on e-Planning" in Portugal, in collaboration with the Dept. of Urban Studies and Planning (DUSP) at MIT (...). The main goal is to articulate research and academic curricula from both engineering and social sciences, towards an e-Planning agenda. It is important to research and develop Technology with, and for, Social Sciences. *(Colloquium on e-Planning for MIT-Portugal 2008)*
"(The College will (...) · transform education and research in public policy and ethical considerations relevant to computing and AI." (MIT News 2018) "Computing is no longer the domain of the experts alone. It's everywhere, and it needs to be understood and mastered by almost everyone. In that context, for a host of reasons, society is uneasy about technology — and at MIT, that's a signal we must take very seriously," *(Reif, 2018)* https://computing.mit.edu/news/mit-reshapes-itself-to-shape-the-future/ https://news.mit.edu/2018/mit-reshapes-itself-stephen-schwarzman-college-of-computing-1015	"Technology is also the focus of attention in a world troubled with increased levels of insecurity and conflict / competition. How can Planning and IT contribute to a better grasp of the trade-offs among issues of security, human rights and freedoms? What are the new threats to privacy posed by the level of detail and accuracy of data collected in planning procedures and policy implementation? (e-Planning Seminar, MIT, 2003) "The Information Revolution is introducing...dramatic changes, from the mode and organization of production to the form and function of government, changes whose nature became the object of intense research and debate. This is a complex research domain, given that the effects of the impact of IT in society, and therefore in cities and regions, vary according to their interaction with the economic, social, political and cultural processes that shape the way IT is produced and used." *(Ferraz de Abreu, P. 1993, "Towards a definition...", MIT)*