

# Dr. Denisa Reshef Kera

DESIGN & POLICY LAB

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, BAR ILAN UNIVERSITY

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## Research Profile

Dr. Denisa Kera is a **philosopher and designer whose award-winning work bridges AI governance, public engagement, and experimental policy design**. She received the 2020 Columbia University Digital Dozen prize for a Horizon 2020 project combining blockchain and satellite prototypes with speculative sandboxes for civic deliberation, and the 2024 AI Governance Prize for Best Technical Governance Project for her “AI Purgatory” sandbox on red teaming and influence operations. As Associate Professor at Bar Ilan University, she founded the Design & Policy Lab to develop **participatory sandbox models that link agent-to-agent simulations with stakeholder engagement**. She also serves as the **Czech Republic’s honorary AI expert at GPAI appointed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs**. Her international academic and policy experience reflects a **distinctive ability to integrate ethical foresight with hands-on technical experimentation**. Over the past decade, she has held positions at the University of Malta, Tel Aviv University, University of Salamanca, National University of Singapore, Arizona State University, and Charles University in Prague, with a focus on the political, cultural, and economic dynamics shaping emerging technologies.

- Oct 2022 established **Design & Policy lab STS@BIU** with a focus on experimental governance, regulation & ethics of AIs
- Since April 2023, **Czech Republic honorary AI national expert**.
- Published **17 refereed journal articles, 19 book chapters, 30 refereed proceedings papers** (majority as a single author)
- Monograph “**Algorithms and Automation: Governance over Rituals, Machines, and Prototypes, from Sundial to Blockchain**” [Routledge 2023](#)
- Influential speaker with **63 invited talks** since 2008 and 9 keynotes

**2024 AI Governance prize, Best Technical Governance Project**  
<https://aisafetyfundamentals.com/projects/ai-purgatory-exploratory-sandbox-for-red-teaming-with-llms-in-influence-operations/>

**2020 Special Jury Prize, Digital Dozen: Breakthroughs in Storytelling Awards**  
Columbia University School of the Arts  
Lithopy <http://digitaldozen.io/projects/lithopy/>

## Selected Publications

- Kera Reshef, Navon, E., Wellner, G., & Kalvas, F. (2024). **Governance in Silico: Experimental Sandbox for Policymaking over AI Agents**. DRS Biennial Conference Series. <https://dl.designresearchsociety.org/drs-conference-papers/drs2024/researchpapers/11>
- Cavallon, L., & Reshef Kera, D. (2024). **AI Purgatory: Exploratory Sandbox for Red Teaming with LLMs in Influence Operations**. AI Safety Fundamentals. <https://aisafetyfundamentals.com/projects/ai-purgatory-exploratory-sandbox-for-red-teaming-with-llms-in-influence-operations/>
- Kera Reshef, D.(2023). **Sandboxes as “trading zones” for engaging with AI regulation, ethics, and the EU AI Act: How to Reclaim Agency over the Future?** SocArXiv. <https://doi.org/10.31235/osf.io/59qna> (pre-print of a JRC report)
- Kera Reshef, D. **Algorithms and Automation: Governance over Rituals, Machines, and Prototypes, from Sundial to Blockchain**, Routledge 2023  
<https://www.routledge.com/Algorithms-and-Automation-Governance-over-Rituals-Machines-and-Proto/Kera/p/book/9781032038636>
- Kera Reshef, D., Ellul, J., & Francia, D. F. B. (2023) **Blockchain Civitas Dei and Civitas Terrena: Governance Experiments as a Problem of ‘Frontier Epistemology’ and ‘Heuristic Appraisal.’** Global Philosophy, 33(4), 39  
<https://link.springer.com/content/pdf/10.1007/s10516-023-09694-y.pdf>
- Kera Reshef, D., Kalvas, F. (2022). **No Algorithmization Without Representation: Pilot Study on Regulatory Experiments in an Exploratory Sandbox**. Digital Society, 1, 8 <https://doi.org/10.1007/s44206-022-00002-6>
- Kera Reshef, D. (2021). **Exploratory RegTech: Sandboxes Supporting Trust by Balancing Regulation of Algorithms with Automation of Regulations**. In: Rehman, M.H.u., Svetinovic, D., Salah, K., Damiani, E. (eds) Trust Models for Next-Generation Blockchain Ecosystems. EAI/Springer Innovations in Communication and Computing. Springer, Cham. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-75107-4\\_3](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-75107-4_3)
- Kera Reshef, D. (2020). **Sandboxes and Testnets as “Trading Zones” for Blockchain Governance**. In: Prieto, J., Pinto, A., Das, A., Ferretti, S. (eds) Blockchain and Applications. BLOCKCHAIN 2020. vol 1238. Springer, Cham. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-52535-4\\_1](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-52535-4_1)
- Hee-jeong Choi, J., Forlano, L., & Kera Reshef, D. (2020). **Situated Automation: Algorithmic Creatures in Participatory Design**. Proceedings of the 16th Participatory Design Conference 2020 - Participation(s) Otherwise - Volume 2, 5–9. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3384772.3385153>
- Kera Reshef, D. (2019). **Anticipatory Policy as a Design Challenge: Experiments with Stakeholders Engagement in Blockchain and Distributed Ledger Technologies**. In: Prieto, J., Das, A., Ferretti, S., Pinto, A., Corchado, J. (eds) Blockchain and Applications. BLOCKCHAIN 2019. vol 1010 . Springer, Cham. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-23813-1\\_11](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-23813-1_11)

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## Selected Service & Boards

Regular grant Assessor: U.S. (NSF), Singapore (NRF), Canada (MITACS), Czech Republic (GACR), Cyprus, Switzerland National Grant Foundations

Referee of over 15 international journals and publishers.

2022 Fellow at the Center for Cyber-Social Dynamics<sup>1</sup>

2022 Member of the expert deliberation team (Foresight method), FutuRIS Praha, City council Prague

2021 Member of the expert deliberation team (Delphi method) Future-pro for Czech Ministry of Industry and Trade

2018 – 2020 Advisory Committee of PlastiTwist, Horizont 2020 project

2017 – 2020 Board member of Maker Faire Prague (executive director in 2018)

2019 Mentor, BlockchAI n 1 Accelerator

2019 Mentor, Innovative Blockchain Hackathon, IBM

2018 Mentor Space Application Hackathon, Czech Space week, ESA BIC

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## Languages & Skills

English – fluent

Czech, Bulgarian, Serbo(Croatian) – native speaker

Russian – passive advanced (read and understand spoken language)

French – passive intermediate (read, limited understanding of spoken language)

Hebrew (Ivrit)– beginner (unstructured learning over 2 years)

Dead (classic) languages: Latin (10 years), Old Greek (2 years), Hebrew (3 years), Aramaic and Coptic (1 year) – whole studying philosophy of language

**Programming:** Java Script and Python (I “program” with Cline and Cursor)

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<sup>1</sup> <https://i2s-research.ku.edu/center-cyber-social-dynamics-ccsd>

