Digital Identity: Towards Inclusion or Even Greater Divide?

Abstract

According to the World Bank, about one billion people globally lack any form of legally recognized identification. Without a legal identity, they are excluded from accessing banking, government benefits, healthcare, education and many other critical services. Women disproportionately lack identification, contributing to their higher level of exclusion.

The remaining 6.6 billion people have some form of legal identity but over half cannot use it effectively in today's digital ecosystem. Internet users are active though a multitude of online accounts which they create and access by providing some form of identification and password. With the fragmentation of online identities and lack of common norms, such internet users usually have no clear understanding of or control over how they represented online.

In this lecture, Professor Meynert will talk about what could be done to avoid future in which digital identity widens the divide between the digital haves and have-nots, and to create "a" future where digital identity enables billions to access new opportunities while enjoying digital safety, privacy and other human rights.