ADM+S Centre Policy

Media and Public Comment

OVERVIEW

The ARC Centre of Excellence for Automated Decision-Making and Society (ADM+S) is a cross-disciplinary, national research centre, which aims to create the knowledge and strategies necessary for responsible, ethical, and inclusive automated decision-making. Funded by the Australian Research Council from 2020 to 2026, ADM+S is hosted at RMIT in Melbourne, Australia, with nodes located at eight other Australian universities, and partners around the world.

Centre Objectives

- Generate an integrated understanding of the evolution, distribution, dynamics and potential of ADM
- Formulate world-leading policy and practice in responsible, ethical and inclusive ADM, for governments, industry and the non-profit sectors;
- Enhance public understanding, and inform public debate on ADM; and
- Educate and train researchers and practitioners in this challenging new field.

SCOPE

This Policy applies to all interactions with the media undertaken by ADM+S Centre members, including staff, students and affiliates.

POLICY

1. In accordance with the Centre's engagement objectives, which aim to enhance public understanding and inform public debate on automated decision-making. ADM+S members are encouraged to acknowledge the Centre when providing media or public commentary related to their research in the Centre.
2. Public comment and opinion can be expressed in many ways, such as but not limited to, public speaking, engagements, comments made to the media by press release, telephone interview or briefing, comments or information in any form which may be posted on social media or any views expressed in letters to the press including electronic communications, on talkback radio, in books, journals or notices that might reach the community at large or a relevant portion of it.
3. The Centre values the tenets of academic freedom and is committed to its promotion and protection within the Centre. It supports the right of its scholars to engage in critical inquiry and robust and unfettered critical debate which extends to engagement with the media. Members are encouraged to engage freely with the media in their areas of expertise.
4. While the Centre considers it important for members to participate in the exchange of information, opinion and ideas, members are expected to adhere at all times to the ADM+S Code of Conduct and all applicable policy and governing documents of their institution. Members are also strongly encouraged to ensure that commentary is research-driven and evidenced with links to research outputs such as Centre publications.
5. The Centre Director is generally responsible for the conduct of the Centre's affairs in all matters and is therefore responsible for communications with the public about the Centre, including academic, administrative and operational affairs.
6. Tracking of all outreach and external engagement activities is a crucial component of the Centre's reporting to the Australian Research Council. All ADM+S outreach and external engagement activities including appearances in the media can be reported via the Centre's reporting tool, CLE(v)ER (site link).

This policy is effective from April 2021.