

Slide 1:

Informatics 1

Critical Skills & Practices

INF1-CRISP (INFR07003)

Week 1, Lecture 1

Slide 2: **Today**

James Garforth and **Alex Taylor: CriSP Course Introduction** (brief)

Fiona McNeil: Programme-level Overview

Rebecca Clacy-Jones (Student Development Manager): Skills for Success

Slide 3:

What is Critical thinking?

Slide 4:

Critical thinking is not just negative opinions or doom mongering.

theguardian.com

AI (artificial intelligence)
'Godfather of AI' says tech regulation is nearing Covid-style pivot moment

Safety crisis makes it more likely that governments will be spurred into action, says Yoshua Bengio



📷 Bengio is a prominent voice in the campaign to rein in breakneck AI development. Photograph: Atlantic Studios

Dan Milmo *Global technology editor*

Wed 16 Sep 2026 16:00 BST

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[Prefer the Guardian on Google](#)

Concerns over AI safety are reaching a point where governments realise they must act to protect the public, similarly to in the Covid pandemic, according to one of the “godfathers” of the technology.

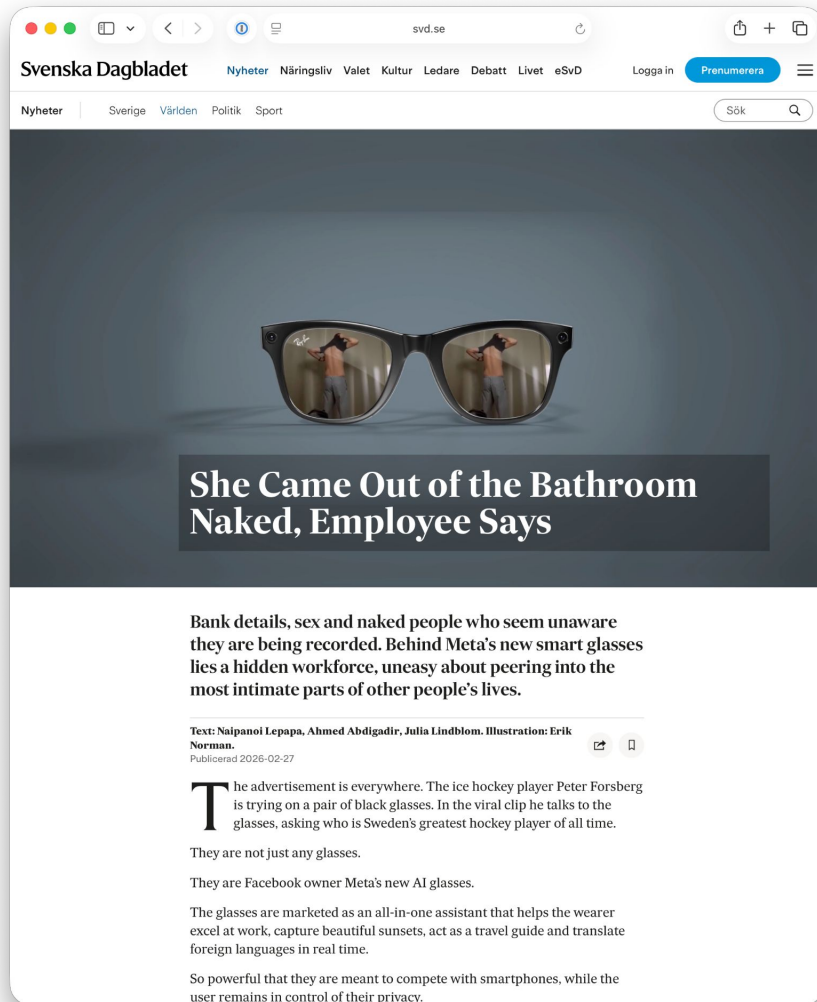
Yoshua Bengio said recent events, including a “swarm” of OpenAI agents **hacking a startup** and **tech insider warnings of an existential threat**, were cutting through - making government action more likely.

Slide 5:

Critical thinking is asking:

What kind of the world I want to live in?

And what other kinds of worlds there might be?



Slide 6: **This week**



Monday: Programme overview

Tuesday: CriSP course overview

Thursday: [Making the Most of IT \(Digital Skills Team\)](#)

Slide 7: **This semester**

Lectures: 2 per week (Monday and Tuesday at 14:10-15:00)

Guest lectures: 1 per week (wk1, wks 7-10)

Tutorials: 1 per week with cohort leads (wk2, wks 4-10)

Labs: 1 per week with demonstrators (wks 3, 5, 7 and 9)

Slide 8: This semester

Wk	Monday (topic area)	Tuesday (skills)	Thursday
1	Introduction 1	Introduction 2	Guest Lecture
2	Reflection & Critical Practice 1	Informatics as a Profession	
3	Reflection & Critical Practice 2	Learning to Learn	
4	Human Computer Interaction 1	Working with Data	
5	Human Computer Interaction 2	Writing & Communication	
6	Design & Requirements 1	Argue with Evidence	
7	Design & Requirements 2	Bias & Cognitive Bias	Guest Lecture
8	Technology & Society 1	Methodology	Guest Lecture
9	Technology & Society 2	Sustainability	Guest Lecture
10	Futures Thinking	Feedback, Failure & Learning	Guest Lecture
11			

Slide 9: Teaching Staff

Lecturers



James Garforth



Persie Rolley-Parnell



Alex Taylor

Teaching Assistants (TAs)



Alex Gillespie



Sarah Immel



Kimberly Paradis

Slide 10: **Important Links**

Open Course: <https://opencourse.inf.ed.ac.uk/inf1-crisp>

EdStem: <https://edstem.org/eu/courses/3351/discussion>

Course Catalogue: <http://www.drps.ed.ac.uk/26-27/dpt/cxinfr07003.htm>

InfPALS: <https://infpals.github.io/index.html>

Slide 11: **Contact us?**

- If you have course specific concerns, use EdStem. Ask a question anonymously if you're more comfortable with that (though not anonymous to the teaching staff).
 - [EdStem CriSP Link](#)
- If you have personal concerns, use the CriSP email address (don't forget to introduce yourself in the email).
- It's very unlikely we will reply to you outside of our working hours. We will do our best to reply within 48 hours (usually sooner) not counting weekends.
- If there is an emergency, the phone numbers and email addresses for University security are on the back of student cards.
- If someone is in danger of harm, call the emergency services on 999.