

FINAL SYMPOSIUM

AI AND THE
SOCIETY OF THE
FUTURE

Xplanatorium
HERRENHAUSEN

APRIL 23-24, 2025

DEAR PARTICIPANTS,

On behalf of the Volkswagen Foundation, we warmly welcome you to the final symposium 'AI and the Society of the Future' at Herrenhausen Palace. This status symposium marks the end of the Foundation's funding initiative on artificial intelligence and society, which began in 2017. Looking back, there have been major technological advances in this field. For example, generative large language models, which were still in their infancy at the time, are now widely used by the public. However, one aspect is as important as ever: society is called upon to foster good framework conditions under which the opportunities offered by each new technology can be exploited and the dangers avoided. A great deal of research has been done in this area as part of the funding initiative, and we are very excited to learn more about how AI can work well for society today and in the future.

We encourage all participants to exchange perspectives about the contents of this conference on social media. When doing so, please tag us via @volkswagenstiftung (Linkedin), @volkswagenstiftunghannover (Instagram) and @volkswagenstiftung.de (Bluesky) and use the conference hashtag

#AlandtheSocietyoftheFuture

Finally, we would like to express our thanks to Professor Wolfgang Schulz and his team from Leibniz-Institut für Medienforschung | Hans-Bredow-Institut (HBI) for co-organizing this event.

Yours sincerely,

MIRIAM REINHART AND DR. ULRIKE BISCHLER
Team Societal Transformations

MELANIE HERZIG AND SIBYLLE RAHM
Organizing Team

PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY, APR 23, 2025

9:30 A.M. REGISTRATION & COFFEE

10:30 A.M. WELCOME

ULRIKE BISCHLER, VOLKSWAGENSTIFTUNG, HANNOVER

WOLFGANG SCHULZ, LEIBNIZ-INSTITUT FÜR
MEDIENFORSCHUNG,
HANS-BREDOW-INSTITUT (HBI), HAMBURG

11:00 A.M. SESSION 1 – HUMAN-MACHINE INTERACTION

CHAIR: SIGRID STERCKX, GHENT UNIVERSITY

HUMAN-AI-INTERACTION IN HEALTHCARE:
IDENTIFYING FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO
CLINICAL UTILITY

JULIA CECIL, UNIVERSITÄT MÜNCHEN

ANONYMPREVENT – AI-BASED IMPROVEMENT OF
ANONYMITY FOR REMOTE ASSESSMENT,
TREATMENT AND PREVENTION AGAINST CHILD
SEXUAL ABUSE

INGO SIEGERT, UNIVERSITÄT MAGDEBURG

FROM MACHINE LEARNING TO MACHINE
TEACHING (ML₂MT) – MAKING MACHINES AND
HUMANS SMARTER

OLIVER HINZ, UNIVERSITÄT FRANKFURT

THE ANSWERING MACHINE

GUNTER LÖSEL, ZÜRICHER HOCHSCHULE DER KÜNSTE

12:30 A.M. LUNCH

WALK & TALK IN THE GARDEN

2:30 P.M. KEYNOTE: “CARE IN AN ERA OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE: RELATIONSHIPS IN A CONNECTED WORLD”
VANESSA NUROCK, UNIVERSITÉ CÔTE D’AZUR, NICE

3:15 P.M. SESSION 2 – ACCOUNTABILITY AND FAIRNESS
CHAIR: JOHANNES SCHÖNING, UNIVERSITÄT ST. GALLEN

AI FORA - ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE FOR ASSESSMENT

PETRA AHRWEILER, UNIVERSITÄT MAINZ

CONSEQUENCES OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE FOR URBAN SOCIETIES (CAIUS). USING IMPACT-AWARE AI TO MAKE SMART CITIES SOCIALLY EQUITABLE

FREDERIC GERDON, FLORIAN RUPP,
UNIVERSITÄT MANNHEIM

EXPLAINABLE INTELLIGENT SYSTEMS (EIS)

LENA KÄSTNER, UNIVERSITÄT BAYREUTH

AI FORENSICS: ACCOUNTABILITY THROUGH INTERPRETABILITY IN VISUAL AI SYSTEMS

PATRICK RIECHERT, GIULIA GANDOLFI, STAATLICHE HOCHSCHULE FÜR GESTALTUNG KARLSRUHE

4:45 P.M. COFFEE BREAK & POSTER SESSION – PERSPECTIVES FOR FUTURE RESEARCH

- * Which overarching research question needs to be tackled next?
- * What are crucial unsolved methodological issues?
- * What obstacles did you encounter and how did you deal with it?
- * Which societal and academic impact could be achieved so far?

5:45 P.M. PITCHES INTRODUCING THE SPRINTS AND
WORKSHOPS

BY MODERATORS OF SPRINTS AND WORKSHOPS

6:00 P.M. SCIENCE SLAM

THERESA EIMER, UNIVERSITÄT HANNOVER

RICHARD VOGG, UNIVERSITÄT GÖTTINGEN

MAXIMILIAN EDER, UNIVERSITÄT MÜNCHEN

6:30 P.M. DINNER

THURSDAY, APR 24, 2025

09:00 A.M. PARALLEL WORKSHOPS / SPRINTS

SPRINT I: FUTURE TOPICS IN 'AI AND SOCIETY' RESEARCH

SR1, MODERATION: SARAH SPITZ, HUMBOLDT INSTITUT FÜR INTERNET UND GESELLSCHAFT, BERLIN

SPRINT II: METHODOLOGIC-CONCEPTUAL LEARNINGS AND CHALLENGES IN 'AI AND SOCIETY' RESEARCH

SR 2, MODERATION: KATHARINA MOSENE, HUMBOLDT INSTITUT FÜR INTERNET UND GESELLSCHAFT, BERLIN & HANS-BREDOW-INSTITUT, HAMBURG

WORKSHOP I: Is Sam Altman the Oppenheimer of our time?

Tomorrow's AI, Today's Concerns – Fear, Control, and the Future of Artificial Intelligence

SR 3, MODERATION: JOHANNES SCHÖNING, UNIVERSITÄT ST. GALLEN

JUNIOR RESEARCHER NETWORKING

LOBBY IN FRONT OF AUDITORIUM, SELF-ORGANIZED

11:15 A.M. COFFEE BREAK

11:45 A.M. KEYNOTE: "DOES WRITING HAVE A FUTURE?"
DAVID J. GUNKEL, UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

12:30 P.M. LUNCH

1:30 P.M. SESSION 3 – COMMUNICATION AND OPINION-
FORMATION

CHAIR: BURKHARD SCHAFFER, UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

TOWARDS RESPONSIBLE AI IN LOCAL JOURNALISM

MAXIMILIAN EDER, UNIVERSITÄT MÜNCHEN

RESHMI GOPALAKRISHNA PILLAI, VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT
AMSTERDAM

DELIBERATION LABORATORY (DELAB)

HENRIKE BEYER, UNIVERSITY OF DUNDEE

ZLATA KIKTEVA, UNIVERSITÄT PASSAU

BOTS BUILDING BRIDGES (3B): THEORETICAL,
EMPIRICAL, AND TECHNOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS
FOR SYSTEMS THAT MONITOR AND SUPPORT
POLITICAL DELIBERATION ONLINE

FLORIAN MUHLE, ZEPPELIN UNIVERSITÄT, FRIEDRICHSHAFEN

MATTHIAS ORLIKOWSKI, UNIVERSITÄT BIELEFELD

RECLAIMING INDIVIDUAL AUTONOMY AND
DEMOCRATIC DISCOURSE ONLINE: HOW TO
REBALANCE HUMAN AND ALGORITHMIC
DECISION MAKING

ANASTASIA KOZYREVA, MPI FÜR BILDUNGSFORSCHUNG,
BERLIN

INFORMING REGULATORY REASONING ON
ALGORITHMIC SYSTEMS IN SOCIETAL
COMMUNICATION WITH STEAM - THE SOCIO-
TECHNICAL ECOSYSTEM ARCHITECTURE METHOD

TOBIAS MAST, LEIBNIZ-INSTITUT FÜR MEDIENFORSCHUNG

HANS-BREDOW-INSTITUT, HAMBURG

CHRISTIAN KURTZ, UNIVERSITÄT HAMBURG

3:15 P.M. COFFEE BREAK

3:30 P.M.

SESSION 4 – EDUCATION AND SCIENCE

CHAIR: ULRIKE BISCHLER, VOLKSWAGENSTIFTUNG,
HANNOVER

HOW IS ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE CHANGING
SCIENCE?

JENS SCHRÖTER, UNIVERSITÄT BONN

TOWARDS A SCIENCE OF CURIOSITY

GEORG MARTIUS, UNIVERSITÄT TÜBINGEN

4:15 P.M.

FINAL PANEL DISCUSSION

MODERATION: WOLFGANG SCHULZ, HANS-BREDOW-
INSTITUT HAMBURG

VANESSA NUROCK, UNIVERSITÉ CÔTE D'AZUR, NICE

DAVID J. GUNKEL, UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

*PANELISTS (RAPPORTEURS OF SPRINTS/WORKSHOPS)

5:00 P.M.

CLOSING REMARKS & END OF CONFERENCE

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Name	First Name	Institution
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Schröter	Jens	Universität Bonn
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Zhang	Maximilian	Universität Tübingen

INFORMATION

CONFERENCE VENUE



Herrenhausen Palace
Herrenhäuser Straße 5
30419 Hannover

Tram lines 4 (Garbsen) and 5 (Stöcken)
stop: 'Herrenhäuser Gärten'

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VolkswagenStiftung
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Volkswagen**Stiftung**

POLICIES

The Volkswagen Foundation stands for respectful and fair cooperation. The conferences, symposia and other events organized by the Volkswagen Foundation provide scholars and scientists with a forum for an intensive exchange of ideas in a positive and constructive atmosphere. We value diversity and a respectful exchange of opinions. It goes without saying that no participant shall experience harassment or be discriminated against. Persons who violate this rule will be asked to leave the event. Be sure to contact a member of our staff directly if you witness or experience inappropriate behavior, harassment or discrimination.

USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

We encourage all participants to use social media to exchange information about the contents of events. When doing so, feel free to use @volkswagenstiftunghannover (Instagram), @volkswagenstiftung (Linkedin), @volkswagenstiftung.de (Bluesky) as well as our conference hashtag #AIandtheSocietyoftheFuture.

DOCUMENTATION

Within the framework of our events, we take photographs and produce videos – both analogue and digital – for the purpose of public relations and documentation. Should you not agree with the storage or use of photographs in which you as an individual participant (possibly with other persons) are the focus, please inform the photographers and/or camera teams and/or members of staff on site. You can find details on our conditions of participation and data information online at: <https://www.volkswagenstiftung.de/en/events/conditions-of-participation-and-data-information>



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