

FINAL SYMPOSIUM

AI AND THE  
SOCIETY OF THE  
FUTURE

**X**planatorium  
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

[#AIandtheSocietyoftheFuture](#)

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

JAN MARQUENIE, UNIVERSITÄT MAGDEBURG

FROM MACHINE LEARNING TO MACHINE  
TEACHING (ML<sub>2</sub>MT) – 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: MARIJA SLAVKOVIC, UNIVERSITY OF BERGEN

### 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

BARTOSZ WILCZEK, 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

WOLFGANG SCHULZ, HANS-BREDOW-INSTITUT, 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

**5:00 P.M.** CLOSING REMARKS & END OF CONFERENCE



# LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

<b>Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Institution</b>
Ahrweiler	Petra	Universität Mainz
Binz	Marcel	Helmholtz-Zentrum München
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Török	Georgina	TU München
Zhang	Maximilian	Universität Tübingen

# INFORMATION

## CONFERENCE VENUE



Herrenhausen Palace  
Herrenhäuser Straße 5  
30419 Hannover

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

## PUBLISHER

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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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