LMU LUDWIG-MAXIMILIANS-UNIVERSITÄT MÜNCHEN

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LATEST UPDATES

AI-HUB@LMU Grand Opening Recording Available Now

On 29 January 2025, we welcomed over 700 guests to the Große Aula of LMU, to celebrate the launch of the AI-HUB@LMU, the cross-faculty platform to support AI research, teaching, and transfer across all 18 LMU faculties.

Now you can revisit the highlights of that evening on the official LMU Youtube channel:

- Welcome remarks by Prof. Dr. Francesca Biagini, Bavarian State Minister for Digital Affairs, Dr. Fabian Mehring, Prof. Dr. Dr. Fabian Theis and Prof. Dr. Armin Nassehi
- Presentations from all 18 faculties showcasing their AI research through a keynote lecture, pitch talks, a panel discussion, and fireside chat
- The awarding of the inaugural AI-HUB@LMU Prizes, sponsored by the Münchener Universitätsgesellschaft (MUG)

Thank you again to everyone who made this milestone possible and continues to drive the AI-HUB@LMU forward.

Read more here

2025 AI-HUB@LMU Prize Winners

We are proud to announce the 2025 AI-HUB@LMU Prize Winners!

The prize committee, consisting of members of the AI-HUB@LMU steering committee from all subjects, has awarded the prizes, which are generously sponsored by the Münchener Universitätsgesellschaft (MUG), to the following submissions:

- The prize for the best master's thesis in the field of AI goes to Frederic Kuhwald, Faculty of Economics, for his contribution on "Predicting technology trends: Measuring conceptional relatedness across text-domain".

There is a shared prize for the most innovative research project:

- One first shared prize is awarded to Judith Zellner, Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences, for her project "AI-generated simulation for Case-Based Diagnostic Training in Special Education: Structured Click Game vs. Expert Discussion with an AI-Generated Teacher Avatar".
- Another shared first prize goes to Dr. Alexandra Fetsch, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, for "OASIS: One Health Artificial Intelligence for Systematic Intervention Strategies against Antimicrobal Resistance".

The prizes will be awarded during the AI-HUB@LMU's KI-Symposium on 10 November 2025, and presented by Prof. Dr. Dr. Peter Höppe (MUG) and Prof. Dr. Alexander Wuttke (Professorship of Digitalization and Political Behavior, LMU), head of the Prize Committee.

Congratulations to all winners!

Read more here

New AI-HUB@LMU Task Force “Early Career Researchers in AI”

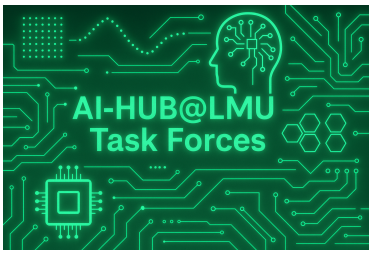
On 30 July, the AI-HUB@LMU spokespersons Prof. Dr. Eyke Hüllermeier, Prof. Dr. Frauke Kreuter, and Prof. Dr. Gitta Kutyniok chaired a kick-off meeting for the new AI-HUB@LMU Task Force “Early Career Researchers in AI”. LMU doctoral students and post docs were invited to join the task force, with the aim of shaping the future of AI at LMU, increasing the visibility of early career researchers in the field, and seeing their interests represented within the AI-HUB@LMU.

During the well-attended meeting, the new leadership team for the Task Force was elected: Anna-Maria Brandtner (Faculty of Philosophy, Philosophy of Science and Religious Studies), PD Dr. Christoph Heilig (Faculty of Protestant Theology), and Dr. Yannick Terhorst (Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences) were appointed leaders of the Task Force.

Furthermore, the participants elected Dr. Maurice Fürstenberg (Faculty of Languages and Literature) and Dr. Tanja Niedernhuber (Faculty of Law) as representatives to the AI-HUB@LMU steering committee, which they will join as permanent guests.

The AI-HUB@LMU welcomes its new members and looks forward to the future collaboration, with the elected representatives, but also with all early career researchers in AI at LMU!

Read more here



Invitation to Join the AI-HUB@LMU Task Forces

The AI-HUB@LMU recently established its first task forces, as agile, task-oriented units, grouping around the most important topics of AI research at LMU. Each task force is intended to bring together experts from several faculties and administrative units to jointly develop and drive forward strategic measures in these areas. So far, task forces were initiated in the areas of “AI and Teaching” (Leaders: Prof. Dr. Eyke Hüllermeier / Prof. Dr. Jochen Kuhn), “AI and Administration” (Prof. Dr. Frauke Kreuter / Prof. Dr. Albrecht Schmidt), and “AI and Transfer / Innovation” (Prof. Dr. Susanna Hofmann / Prof. Dr. Jelena Spanjol). The task forces are to be expanded and extended to include further strategically relevant AI topics and to give more LMU members the opportunity to actively participate in shaping the future of AI at LMU.

If you are interested in joining one of the task forces, we cordially invite you to join us at the respective virtual kick-off meeting.

Task Force "AI and Teaching": 18.09.25, 10:00 am; via Zoom

Task Force "AI and Transfer": 15.09.25, 5-6 pm; via Zoom

Task Force "AI and Administration": 28.10.25, 2-3 pm; via Zoom

Leo Kestel reports about ADA, an initiative of the SODA chair that works together with the public sector in order to help enable state employees to solve data problems. The core of an ADA project is a highly customized workshop setting, in which experts from practice and data science are brought together to find a suitable solution for one certain problem. One main goal is for state employees to attend these sessions and understand how data scientists approach their kind of data issue. Meanwhile together with them as an interdisciplinary team an efficient pragmatic solution is being developed.

Participation is open to LMU members only.

Reinhart Koselleck Grant for Prof. Dr. Anne-Laure Boulesteix

Prof. Dr. Anne-Laure Boulesteix's Reinhart Koselleck grant application was accepted by the DFG (German Research Foundation). The 5-year project deals with "Design, interpretation and reporting of empirical evaluations of statistical methods" at the interface between statistics/biometrics and metascience. The overarching aim of the proposed project is to strengthen the validity and utility of methodological research and literature by improving the methodology of comparisons of statistical methods. The focus will be on the design, interpretation, and reporting of experiments investigating methods, including both statistical simulations and real-data-based benchmark studies. The improvement of methodological research methodology should in the long run also lead to an increase in research quality in fields of empirical research that apply these methods, such as medicine.

Prof. Dr. Boulesteix is a Professor of Biometry with a focus on molecular medicine at LMU, PI in the Munich Center for Machine Learning, member of the LMU Open Science Center and Open Science Initiative in Medicine, and member of the AI-HUB@LMU's steering committee.

We would also like to point to the latest video of the MCML video series, where Prof. Dr. Boulesteix and her PhD student Milena Wünsch answer the question "How Reliable Are Machine Learning Methods?"

Watch more here
Read more here

LMU Researchers at ICML 2025

LMU AI researchers were prominently featured at this year's International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML)—one of the largest and most prestigious conferences in the field, with over 9,000 participants. In total, LMU researchers co-authored 11 papers in the main track and contributed to 3 workshops. The paper “The Value of Prediction in Identifying the Worst-Off” by Unai Fischer Abaigar (PhD Student in Statistics, SODA Lab), Prof. Dr. Christoph Kern (SODA Lab), and Juan Carlos Perdomo (Harvard, NYU) received one of only six Outstanding Paper Awards. Prof. Dr. Frauke Kreuter (SODA Lab and Spokesperson of the AI-HUB@LMU) delivered a keynote on "Adaptive Alignment", showing how insights from survey research and value studies can help AI systems respond to evolving societal norms. She emphasized the need for closer collaboration between machine learning, survey statistics, and the social sciences.

Read more here

EU Project ELLIOT for New AI Basis Models Starts

The European Commission funds the development of a new generation of general-purpose AI models that are built for real-life, data-rich applications, through the ELLIOT (European Large Open Multi-Modal Foundation Models For Robust Generalization On Arbitrary Data Streams) project.

The Information Technologies Institute of the Centre for Research and Technology Hellas (CERTH-ITI) coordinates more than 30 research institutions and companies from a dozen European countries. Prof. Dr. Björn Ommer, head of the Computer Vision & Learning Group at LMU and AI-HUB@LMU steering committee member, and his team are also part of the consortium. They cooperate with international and national partners, amongst them researchers from Tübingen, Jülich and Saarbrücken.

Read more here

White Paper “Comprehensible AI”

In the context of the Plattform Lernende Systeme - Germany's AI Platform, c/o acatech, AI-HUB@LMU’s spokesperson Prof. Dr. Gitta Kutyniok and her fellow researchers Wojciech Samek and Ute Schmid, as well as Johannes Hoffart, Daniel Keim and Philipp Schlunder have authored a white paper on „Nachvollziehbare KI – Erklären, für wen, was und wofür“ (“Comprehensible AI - explaining for whom, what and why).

Highly complex AI systems are often considered black boxes - it is difficult to understand exactly how they arrive at their decisions. However, in many fields of application such as medical diagnostics, lending or quality control, traceability is essential in order to be able to classify and scrutinize results. This enables developers to improve systems in a targeted manner and users can understand which factors played a role in an application decision, for example, which creates trust. In addition, the EU AI Act requires AI systems to provide explanations for their decisions. Explainability is therefore not a “nice-to-have”, but a central component of trustworthy AI.

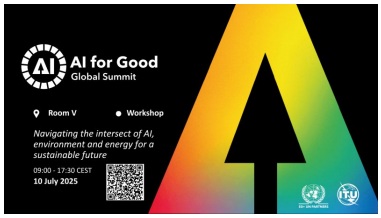
The white paper provides a solid foundation as well as practical recommendations in the field of trustworthy AI, regulation or human-centered design.

Read more here

2025 Hermann-Paul-Center Lecture by Prof. Dr. Barbara Plank

On 3 July 2025, Prof. Dr. Barbara Plank, Chair for AI and Computational Linguistics at LMU and member of the AI-HUB@LMU steering committee, presented "Human-Centered LLMs for Inclusive Language Technology" at the Hermann-Paul-Center Lecture in the Freiburg Center for Advanced Studies. The talk outlined pressing trust issues in current large language models, including sensitivity to prompt phrasing and overconfidence in uncertain contexts. Emphasizing the importance of linguistic and human label variation, she advocated moving beyond treating language as a monolith—highlighting dialectal diversity and human label variation as essential features, not noise. In the talk, examples such as Bavarian dialect benchmarks and new evaluation protocols illustrated methods to better align NLP systems with real-world variation. Finally, Barbara Plank's lecture called for a multidisciplinary “Trust LLM Ecosystem” that embraces diversity, transparency, and human-centered design.

Read more here



Navigating the Intersect of AI, Environment, and Energy for a Sustainable Future"

This was the title of a workshop chaired by Prof. Dr. Gitta Kutyniok, Chair for Mathematical Foundations of AI at LMU and spokesperson of the AI-HUB@LMU, at the AI For Good Global Summit. The session dealt with the enormous energy consumption of the rapidly growing AI technology, contributing to PM2.5 pollution.

Possible Solutions to this Problem :

Research is currently providing very exciting software improvements (compression of LLMs, repurposing of large-scale models), and tackles the problems by combining hard-software perspectives. Novel ideas on innovative AI systems (e. g. embracing analog hardware such as neuromorphic computing) are currently being developed with the promise to be optimally energy efficient. This is also part of the project gAIn - Next Generation AI Computing, also led by Prof. Dr. Kutyniok.

Read more here

New relAI Blog Post “From Unlucky Strikers to Statistical Learning Theory”

In this entertaining post, relAI PhD Student Maximilian Fleissner uses the analogy of a football striker to explain how statistical learning theory helps us understand when we can trust model predictions and empirical averages, highlighting the challenges of generalization in modern machine learning, especially with complex models like deep neural networks.

Read more here

Dr. Anna-Carolina Haensch Appointed to APSA Task Force on Artificial Intelligence and Political Science

The American Political Science Association (APSA) has announced the formation of a Task Force on Artificial Intelligence and Political Science, chaired by Prof. Nate Persily (Stanford University) and Prof. Josh Tucker (New York University). Dr. Anna-Carolina Haensch (Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich / MCML / University of Maryland) has been invited to serve on the Subcommittee on AI, Public Opinion, and Polling, chaired by Prof. Joshua David Clinton (Vanderbilt University). The Task Force will systematically examine the impact of artificial intelligence on core areas of political science research.

Read more here

Do we Have Chatbots Under Control?

In her interview with Deutsche Welle, Prof. Dr. Sahana Udupa, Professor of Media Anthropology at LMU and member of the AI-HUB@LMU steering committee, discussed this important question. She also shared profound insights about Grok, LLMs and political bias.

Read more here

What Does It Really Mean When AI Becomes Part of Our Everyday Lives?

Sarah Ball, PhD-student in AI-safety at LMU (SODA lab), discussed this important question in her interview on the latest TV episode of “Neuland” by BR - Bayerischer Rundfunk. She talked about when AI can be helpful – and when it can reinforce discrimination, what it takes to build robust, reliable models, and how we can technically ensure that AI aligns with human values.

Watch more here

BR’s Faktenfuchs with Prof. Dr. Gitta Kutyniok on “Fact checks with AI? Verify the answer!”

AI-HUB@LMU’s spokesperson Prof. Dr. Gitta Kutyniok has contributed to an article and a radio feature on Bayerischer Rundfunk (BR), belonging to the series “Fakentenfuchs”. She and other experts in the field explained the opportunities and risks that are linked to the use of chatbots. Their answers are based on plausibility, not correctness - which is why it is necessary to question them critically. Furthermore, LLMs have problems with defining the difference between correlation and causality. Another source of errors: “Sometimes, fairness guardrails cause LLMs to overcorrect and make mistakes as a result - for example because they are required to give gender-appropriate answers,” says Gitta Kutyniok.

Read more here

Munich Center for Machine Learning

Prof. Dr. Stefan Feuerriegel on “How Causal AI Enables Better Decision-Making”

There is another new contribution to the MCML video series available: Prof. Dr. Stefan Feuerriegel, head of the Institute of Artificial Intelligence in Management at LMU and AI-HUB@LMU steering committee member, explains how causal AI goes beyond forecasting — helping decision-makers choose the best course of action. Whether in business or healthcare, understanding what works under which decision is key. Causal machine learning enables smarter, real-world decisions by asking not just what might happen, but what happens if we act.

Watch more here

“What Companies Can Learn from AI Research” - Salesforce Podcast Features Dr. Ann-Katrin Eicke

Dr. Ann-Katrin Eicke, Institute for Leadership and Organization - LMU Munich at LMU Munich School of Management, talked about this topic in the "Prompt zum Erfolg" podcast of the technology group Salesforce. She discussed why many companies fail due to data silos despite AI strategies and how successful companies overcome these hurdles. Furthermore, she explains why AI business translators are becoming increasingly important and when AI does not help despite all the euphoria.

Read more here

The newsletter will take a summer break - the next issue will sent out by the end of September. We wish all our readers a pleasant summer!

Send us your news

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