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AI-HUB@LMU

Call for Applications



Apply now: 2026 AI-HUB@LMU Prizes

Applications remain open for the 2026 AI-HUB@LMU Prizes for AI research at LMU. The call features two awards: the Prize for the Most Innovative AI Research Project and the Prize for the Best Master's Thesis in AI. LMU scientific staff and LMU Master's graduates working on AI related topics are invited to apply, with early career researchers explicitly encouraged. The submission deadline for both prizes is June 1, 2026. The prizes are generously sponsored by the [Münchener Universitätsgesellschaft \(MUG\)](#).

Learn more and apply [here](#).

Research & Awards



How AI is transforming entry level jobs

In LMU's research magazine Rethink, [Prof. Dr. Anne-Sophie Mayer](#) (LMU Munich School of Management) discusses how generative AI is reshaping early career work. Drawing on observations from management consulting, she describes how junior professionals use tools such as ChatGPT, Copilot and Midjourney for routine tasks, improved presentations, and even self mentoring for topics like salary negotiations. She also highlights new risks: fewer learning moments with senior colleagues, more uniform outputs across teams, and rising pressure to show personal added value.

Read the full feature [here](#).



Emmy Noether Grant for AI and democracy research

AI-HUB@LMU Steering Committee member [Prof. Dr. Alexander Wuttke](#) (Geschwister Scholl Institute of Political Science) has received an Emmy Noether grant from the [German Research Foundation](#) (DFG) for his project Predictably Paradoxical: Leveraging AI to Map the Democratic Mind. The six year grant totals 1.17 million euros and supports research on why citizens who endorse democracy may still back politicians who weaken it. The project develops AI supported interview methods by training language models to run open or semi-structured conversations, and combines them with surveys and panel data. Data collection is planned across around 13 democracies and selected authoritarian states.

Learn more [here](#).

Two LMU projects receive the AI at Work Award

Two research projects with involvement of LMU's Department of Economics have received the AI at Work Award from the US American nonprofit [Schmidt Sciences](#), supporting work on how AI changes jobs and working conditions. LMU researcher [Dr. Silvia Fernandez Castro](#) and her team will study the use of AI tools in the East African banking sector, using a randomized controlled design to examine effects on employee productivity, customer outcomes, and financial inclusion. A second awarded project includes [Prof. Dr. Florian Englmaier](#) and analyzes an industrial AI copilot in real workplaces, focusing on productivity, autonomy, and job satisfaction.

Read more [here](#).



Prof. Dr. Gitta Kutyniok elected ELLIS Fellow

AI-HUB@LMU Spokesperson [Prof. Dr. Gitta Kutyniok](#) (Bavarian AI Chair for Mathematical Foundations of Artificial Intelligence) has been elected as an ELLIS Fellow in the [ELLIS Unit Munich](#). The European Laboratory for Learning and Intelligent Systems (ELLIS) distinguishes leading researchers in machine learning and AI who advance the field and act as ambassadors for data driven AI in Europe. At LMU, Prof. Dr. Kutyniok's work connects mathematics and AI, with a focus on theoretical foundations that support more reliable and energy efficient AI, as well as applications in areas such as robotics and medicine.

Learn more about ELLIS Munich [here](#).

In the News



Prof. Dr. Jochen Kuhn on AI as a new classmate

A new episode of the digdeep podcast, co-hosted by AI-HUB@LMU Spokesperson [Prof. Dr. Frauke Kreuter](#) (SODA Lab), discusses how schools may change as children grow up with chatbots and AI tools that can explain content on demand or complete assignments in seconds. AI-HUB@LMU Task Force “AI and Teaching” co-lead [Prof. Dr. Jochen Kuhn](#) (Chair of Physics Education) and [Prof. Florian Karsten](#) reflect on what this means for learning, assessment, and the line between independent work and machine output. The conversation also highlights that AI is already present in both classrooms and children’s homes, while many practical and pedagogical questions remain open.

Listen to the episode [here](#).



Prof. Dr. Sven Nyholm on what comes next for generative AI

A Communications of the ACM feature takes stock of current directions in generative AI, from more agent-like systems that can plan and act in workflows to the growing volume of low quality AI generated content online. AI-HUB@LMU Steering Committee member [Prof. Dr. Sven Nyholm](#) (Professorship of Ethics of Artificial Intelligence) contributes a perspective on how these developments affect attitudes of everyday users. The piece situates technical progress alongside questions of reliability, trust, and governance, highlighting why social and ethical considerations need to keep pace with rapid product rollouts.

Read the [full feature](#).



Prof. Dr. Uta Hauck-Thum on AI-enabled school transformation

In the lernen:digital magazine issue on Artificial Intelligence, AI-HUB@LMU Steering Committee member [Prof. Dr. Uta Hauck-Thum](#) (Chair of Primary School Pedagogy and Didactics) argues that AI can act as a catalyst for transforming schools into places of social and democratic learning where both teachers and children experience joy in learning. Her contribution links AI use to school development and co creative processes, shifting the focus from isolated tool use to shared pedagogical innovation.

Explore the issue [here](#).



Dr. Benjamin Lange on AI manipulation

[Dr. Benjamin Lange](#) (Faculty of Philosophy) appeared on Bayerischer Rundfunk's "IQ - Wissenschaft und Forschung" podcast to examine whether chatbots can lie. The discussion distinguishes intentional deception from technically driven falsehoods, explaining why large language models can produce convincing but incorrect statements and how hallucinations arise. It also considers when conversational systems become manipulative, for example through persuasion at scale or targeted misinformation, and what this implies for responsible design, transparency, and regulation.

Listen [here](#).



ERC Proof of Concept Grant for safer autonomous driving

Prof. Dr. Majid Zamani (University of Colorado Boulder and Visiting Professor at LMU) has received an ERC Proof of Concept Grant for CertiLane, a project developed with LMU as the European host institution. The work targets a persistent safety bottleneck in autonomous driving: complex maneuvers such as lane changes, where rare edge cases can remain unseen even after millions of test kilometers. CertiLane pursues a different route by synthesizing control software whose safety can be demonstrated with formal, certifiable proofs.

Learn more [here](#).



reAI welcomes Ecologic Computing as industry partner

The **Konrad Zuse School of Excellence in Reliable AI** (reAI) has welcomed **Ecologic Computing** as an industry partner. The company develops software to improve communication, storage, and computing efficiency, with current work on beyond-Shannon communication and alternative computing approaches such as analog, beyond-digital, and biologically inspired computation. Within reAI, Ecologic Computing will contribute to mathematical and algorithmic foundations, with a focus on robustness, efficiency, and responsible system design, and offer collaboration and guest teaching opportunities for students.

Learn more [here](#).



Deep Dive: AI. Innovation. Bavaria. (02.03.)

On March 2nd, 2026, the [appliedAI Institute for Europe](#) will host a full-day event focused on legal certainty, quality, and responsible AI. The program reflects on one year of the Bavarian AI Innovation Accelerator, a project funded by the Bavarian State Ministry for Digital Affairs to support SMEs, startups, and the public sector in Bavaria in complying with the European AI Act. A central component is a research project led by LMU in collaboration with TUM and UTN, developing legally robust and practically feasible guidelines for implementing the AI Act; the LMU PIs are [Prof. Dr. Gitta Kutyniok](#), [Prof. Dr. Mark Zöllner](#), and [Dr. Levin Hornischer](#). The project also translates legal requirements into formal, technology-compatible structures and develops an algorithmic framework for (semi-)automated compliance verification.

Learn more [here](#).



Demo Day: LMU Innovation Incubator (03.03.)

The LMU Innovation Incubator Demo Day brings Cohort 7 to the stage with final pitches from LMU spin off teams, co organized with the [Munich Center for Machine Learning](#) (MCML). The evening showcases science driven ventures across LMU disciplines. AI-HUB@LMU Task Force “AI and Transfer” co-lead [Prof. Dr. Jelena Spanjol](#) (LMU Innovation & Entrepreneurship Center) opens the program, followed by a welcome from [Dr. Philipp Baaske](#) (LMU Vice President for Entrepreneurship).

Register [here](#).



Hackathon: DataFest Germany 2026 (06.-08.03.)

DataFest Germany 2026 features a three day student data analysis competition at the University of Mannheim from March 6th-8th, 2026. Bachelor's and Master's students from all disciplines work in teams of two to five on a large real world dataset, aiming to produce the strongest insights and presentation. The event is jointly organized by the School of Social Sciences and the Mannheim Center for Data Science and has been run since 2015 in collaboration with the Chair for Statistics and Data Science in Social Sciences and the Humanities at LMU Munich.

See details [here](#).



Conference: German Data Science Days 2026 (26.03.)

The German Data Science Days return for their ninth edition on March 26th, 2026 at LMU. The meeting brings together data scientists, AI experts, machine learning and generative AI specialists, decision makers, and researchers from companies, public authorities, and universities for exchange and networking. The program spans sessions on generative AI, data science for sustainable energy, medicine and pharmacy, and data science in research. LMU perspectives feature in the research track, including from AI-HUB@LMU Spokesperson [Prof. Dr. Frauke Kreuter](#) (SODA Lab).

Learn more and register [here](#).

[Send us your news](#)

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