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AI-HUB@LMU



Save the Date: KI-Symposium 2026 (09.11.)

The AI-HUB@LMU warmly invites everyone interested in artificial intelligence—from academia, industry, and the wider public—to its annual flagship event, the KI-Symposium. The scientific program will feature pitch talks and offer insights into the future and breadth of AI research at LMU. The evening will also include the presentation of the AI-HUB@LMU Prizes for the best master's thesis in AI and the most innovative AI-based research project, followed by a reception in the Lichthof. By connecting research, industry, policymakers, and civil society, this year's KI-Symposium will again facilitate exchange across disciplines and institutions.

Further program and registration details will be published soon.



AI-HUB@LMU prizes recognize research on generative AI at work and in conversation

The 2026 AI-HUB@LMU prizes honor two projects examining the societal effects of generative AI. **Evelina Griniute** (Faculty of Economics, LMU) uses experimental evidence from a Ugandan bank to study how generative AI changes productivity and workplace networks. **Ilia Frantzi** (Faculty of Mathematics, Informatics and Statistics, LMU) investigated how conversations with language models influence users' beliefs, including asymmetric effects associated with tendencies encoded in the models.

Learn more about the AI-HUB@LMU prizes [here](#).

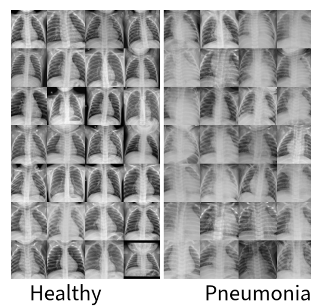
Research & Awards



Award-winning paper examines the other side of AI safety

An award-winning ICML 2026 position paper by **Sarah Ball** (Social Data Science and AI Lab, LMU) and **Dr. Phil Hackemann** highlights the dual-use risks of AI alignment research. Methods developed to make models safer can also be repurposed to suppress information or manipulate public opinion. The authors call for greater transparency, diverse AI ecosystems and evaluations that consider potential misuse.

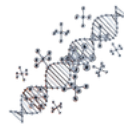
Read the full article [here](#).



Quantum AI tested for pneumonia detection

Researchers at LMU's Chair for Mobile and Distributed Systems have tested a quantum Boltzmann machine for detecting pneumonia in children's chest X-rays. The model achieved an accuracy of 84 to 86 percent using fewer than 9,000 parameters, compared with more than 11 million in the conventional ResNet-18 benchmark. [Tobias Rohe](#) (Chair for Mobile and Distributed Systems, LMU) emphasizes that the approach remains at an early stage, but could be useful where training data and computing resources are limited.

Explore the research [here](#).



New platform explores medical AI in 2036

The digital platform "2036 – Healthy with AI?" is now online. Developed by [M1 – Munich Medicine Alliance](#), the project uses fictional patient stories to explore how AI could influence prevention, diagnosis and treatment over the next decade. Researchers from LMU, TUM, their university hospitals and Helmholtz Munich contributed their expertise. The scenarios also examine limitations, non-AI alternatives and the wider societal implications of medical AI.

Explore the platform [here](#).



AI helps preserve Germany's Baroque ceiling paintings

A team led by [Prof. Dr. Stephan Hoppe](#) (Bavarian and Digital Art History, LMU) and [Dr. Matteo Burioni](#) (Corpus of Baroque Ceiling Painting in Germany, LMU) is using digital technologies to preserve and study Baroque ceiling paintings. The [project](#) encompasses around 13,500 digital records from 530 buildings. Three-dimensional models, simulations, knowledge graphs and AI-supported pattern recognition help researchers reconstruct lost architectural contexts and examine connections that are difficult to identify using conventional methods.

Discover the full feature [here](#).



Students prototype human-centered AI for public spaces

Students in the LMU master's course "Urban Machines: Designing AI Interfaces for Everyday Urban Life," taught by [Prof. Dr. Alexander Wiethoff](#) (Media Informatics Group, LMU) and [Philipp Thalhammer](#), developed speculative interfaces for public spaces. Their prototypes include a robotic goose for emergency assistance, a bottle-collection station, illuminated wayfinding stones, a mindfulness tile and a floor-integrated elevator interface for wheelchair users. The projects explore how human-centered AI could make urban environments safer, more accessible and more responsive.

See the student projects [here](#).



Data-driven archiving project wins Bavarian Best Practice Award

The General Directorate of the Bavarian State Archives has received the 2026 Bavarian Best Practice Award in the category “AI and Data-Driven Innovation.” Developed with methodological support from [Prof. Dr. Frauke Kreuter](#) (Chair of Statistics and Data Science in Social Sciences and the Humanities, LMU), the project uses an R-based application to analyze metadata, create stratified samples and support transparent archival selection. It offers archivists a reproducible method for handling large collections of similar administrative records.

Read more about the award [here](#).

In the News



Dr. Michael Hedderich on smaller, more sustainable language models

In an interview with Deutschlandfunk, [Dr. Michael Hedderich](#) (Center for Information and Language Processing, LMU) discusses the potential of small language models. Requiring fewer computing resources than their largest counterparts, these systems can make language technologies more energy-efficient and accessible while reducing dependence on a small number of technology companies. Their development could therefore contribute to both sustainable AI and greater European technological sovereignty.

Listen to the Deutschlandfunk feature [here](#).



Dr. Benjamin Lange on what AI can do—and what humans do better

Primary school pupils participating in Bayerischer Rundfunk's "MünchenHören 2026 – KI macht Schule" interviewed [Dr. Benjamin Lange](#) (Ethics of Artificial Intelligence, LMU). Their questions focused on what AI can already do, where its limitations lie and which abilities remain distinctly human. The resulting audio contribution introduces questions about AI ethics, opportunities and risks from the perspective of young people encountering the technology in everyday life.

Listen [here](#).

Teaching



Two LMU departments adopt guidelines for AI in teaching

The [Historical Seminar](#) and the [Department of Psychology](#) have adopted guidelines addressing the use of AI in teaching and assessment. The documents provide students and teaching staff with a shared framework for transparent and academically responsible use. Both initiatives respond to the growing need for clear, discipline-specific standards as generative AI becomes part of everyday university work.

Read the guidelines [here](#).



AI and robotics can support inclusive participation

Prof. Dr. Peter Zentel (Chair of Special Education – Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, LMU) investigates how AI and robotics can support people with complex disabilities. Potential applications include plain-language writing assistance and systems that interpret gestures, facial expressions or physiological signals, while questions of agency and risk remain central. A new project beginning in fall 2026 will develop pathways into university study and teaching for people with intellectual disabilities, with support from **Dr. Margit Weber** (Vice President for Equity, Talent Management and Diversity, LMU).

Read the full feature [here](#).

Cooperations & Transfer



ADA brings data-informed decision-making to Bavarian vocational schools

Applied Data Analysis for Public Administration, an initiative of LMU's Social Data Science and AI Lab, is working with **Stiftung Bildungspakt Bayern** on the project "Evidenzbasierte Schule." The team is collecting baseline competencies in German and mathematics, integrating different data sources and developing visualizations together with vocational-school teachers. The aim is to make competence development easier to understand and enable more targeted educational support while ensuring that the tools reflect the practical needs of schools.

Learn more about the cooperation [here](#).



€2.2 million in EXIST funding for two LMU pharmacy teams

Two teams from LMU's Department of Pharmacy have secured around €2.2 million through the **EXIST** Transfer of Research program. FormulAlte will receive approximately €1 million to develop ALINA, an AI- and simulation-based platform for designing nanocarriers for RNA medicines. A further €1.2 million will support evoVect's work on carrier molecules for gene and RNA therapies. Both teams will remain based at LMU during the funding period and receive support from the **LMU Spin-off Service** as they prepare possible spin-offs.

Read the full funding story [here](#).

Send us your news

This newsletter is a community-driven initiative by researchers affiliated with LMU Munich. It does not represent official communication or positions of LMU.

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