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Research & Awards

DemocraGPT: AI-supported dialogue for democratic debate

Political dialogue is central to democratic participation, but sensitive discussions often escalate or break down. In the project DemocraGPT, researchers from LMU and TUM are developing an AI-supported app based on large language models to help people navigate challenging conversations more constructively. The project is funded by the Bavarian Research Institute for Digital Transformation (bidt) and led by Prof. Dr. Carsten Reinemann (Institute for Communication Studies and Media Research, LMU), Prof. Dr. Alexander Wuttke (Professorship of Digitalization and Political Behavior, LMU) and Prof. Dr. Jürgen Pfeffer (TUM).

Read more here.

How groups (of AI agents) make good decisions

A new study by Prof. Dr. Christian List (Chair of Philosophy and Decision Theory, LMU) and Prof. Dr. Franz Dietrich (Paris School of Economics) examines when collective judgments are more reliable than individual ones. Their findings show that good collective decisions require clear rules and awareness of their limitations. These results are relevant for AI systems in which multiple agents aggregate information.

Read the article here.

How AI can improve monitoring of Bavarian lakes

The new collaborative project ecoBay is investigating how robotics, genetic monitoring, and AI can improve the monitoring of Bavarian lakes. The project combines autonomous surface robots, environmental DNA and RNA analyses, and AI based predictive models to assess biodiversity and ecological health at high resolution. Prof. Dr. Gert Wörheide (Chair of Palaeontology & Geobiology, LMU) is coordinating the investigations at Lake Ammer together with his team.

Learn more here.

AI in medicine: DAAD program supports recruiting of young talents

Through the LMU-based PULSE project, based at the Faculty of Medicine, the university is one of 20 selected for the DAAD funding program "Academic Horizons: Attracting Global Minds", which will fund training for international students in the use of AI in medicine and the health sciences. The program links public health, epidemiology, AI and data science, combining targeted recruitment with mentoring, welcome programs, bootcamps, refresher courses and data-thons.

Read more here.

Prof. Dr. Barbara Plank and Prof. Dr. Carsten Marr join relAI as Fellows

The Konrad Zuse School of Excellence in Reliable AI (relAI) has welcomed two new LMU researchers as Fellows. Prof. Dr. Barbara Plank (Chair for AI and Computational Linguistics, LMU) contributes expertise in robustness, domain shift, human label variation, interpretability and trustworthy evaluation, with links to relAI's research area Algorithmic Decision Making. Prof. Dr. Carsten Marr (AI in Cell Therapy and Hematology, LMU) brings research on interpretable AI models for biomedical prediction, including hematological cytology, multiple instance learning and image language approaches for digital scans. Both will support relAI through teaching, mentoring, seminars, workshops and events.

Learn more here and here.

Prof. Dr. Valentin Hofmann joins MCML as PI

Prof. Dr. Valentin Hofmann (Information and Language Processing Using AI Methods, LMU) has joined the Munich Center for Machine Learning (MCML) as a Principal Investigator. His research combines machine learning with insights from linguistics and the social sciences to better understand and address limitations in natural language processing systems. His current work focuses on large language models, particularly tokenization, sociolinguistic grounding and bias.

Learn more here.

Prof. Dr. Falk Schwendicke receives IADR Distinguished Scientist Award

Prof. Dr. Falk Schwendicke (Director of the Poliklinik for Conservative Dentistry and Periodontology, LMU Klinikum) has received the 2026 IADR Distinguished Scientist William H. Bowen Research in Dental Caries Award. The distinction recognizes exceptional and innovative contributions to understanding caries etiology and the prevention of dental caries. His recent research has focused on emerging technologies in caries detection and management, including advanced AI applications for radiographic analysis, diagnostic support and predictive modeling.

See the full press release here.

Teaching

New Masters degree in Computational Social Science

Applications are now open for the second cohort of LMU's new interdisciplinary Master Computational Social Science, which combines perspectives from communication science, political science and sociology with data and computational methods. Applications are open until 15 May 2026.

Learn more and apply here.

AI Academy supports students starting their careers

LMU's Career Service is supporting students in understanding and actively shaping the role of AI in their future careers. In an interview, Dirk Erfurth (Head of the Career Service) emphasizes that students should not use AI passively, but develop a reflective understanding of how it works, where its limits lie and how results can be critically assessed. Through the AI Academy, students from all disciplines can learn what AI agents are, how they can be developed and how AI is used in professional contexts. The program combines practical workshops, business cases and networking with corporate partners.

Read more here.

In the News

Prof. Dr. Björn Ommer on how responsible AI can transform society

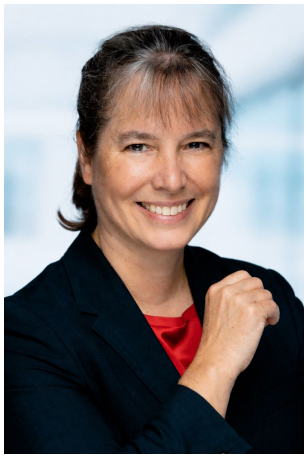
In a new MCML research film, LMU Chief AI Officer Prof. Dr. Björn Ommer (Computer Vision & Learning Group, LMU) explains how AI can transform society if it is used responsibly. The film focuses on the philosophy behind Stable Diffusion and his team’s emphasis on efficiency. By condensing complex AI processes, powerful tools can run on standard consumer hardware instead of requiring massive computing centers. The film also discusses approaches aimed at reducing computational requirements and enabling more local deployment of AI systems.

Watch the film here.

Prof. Dr. James Kirby on synthetic AI speech

In a recent interview on the BBC Crowdscience podcast, Prof. Dr. James Kirby (Spoken Language Processing, LMU) talks about how synthetic AI voices have become so convincing, as well as about the features that make human speech sound natural and why they still pose challenges for AI models.

Listen to the episode here.



Prof. Dr. Gitta Kutyniok on new mathematics for AI

In a new Zoomposium interview, Prof. Dr. Gitta Kutyniok (Chair for Mathematical Foundations of AI, LMU) discusses the mathematics of AI. She addresses how neural networks can be understood as structured function classes, what remains unclear inside the so-called black box of deep learning, and how mathematics can contribute to more reliable, efficient and explainable AI systems.

Watch the interview here or read the article.

Cooperations

New Bavarian AI Foundation Model Initiative

The newly established Bavarian AI Foundation Model Initiative aims to strengthen Bavaria’s AI ecosystem through open, responsible and innovative multimodal AI foundation models. The initiative focuses on models that can process and integrate different forms of information, including text, images, audio, sensor data and robotics data, with key application areas in health, robotics and perception. The steering committee consists of LMU Chief AI Officer Prof. Dr. Björn Ommer (Computer Vision & Learning Group, LMU), Prof. Dr. Wolfram Burgard (UTN) and Dr. Michael Klimke (CEO BAIOSPHERE).

Learn more about the initiative here.

Munich Medicine Alliance

2036: Healthy with AI? M1 explores future of medicine

The M1 Munich Medicine Alliance is contributing the project “2036: Healthy with AI?” to the Science Year 2026 on the “Medicine of the Future”. The project examines how AI could shape healthcare over the next decade, from prevention and diagnosis to therapy. Researchers from both LMU and TUM are involved, alongside the universities' hospitals and Helmholtz Munich. The project explores possible future AI applications in medicine, including genetic analyses, image based diagnostics, robotic surgery, wearables and assistive systems for older adults, as well as limitations, alternatives to AI based approaches, and societal implications.

Learn more here.

Incubator for startups connects AI research, transfer and entrepreneurship

The workshop “LMU AI: Incubator for Startups” brought together researchers, founders and transfer experts at LMU’s Center for Advanced Studies to discuss how AI research can develop into startup activity and societal impact. Organized as part of the CAS Research Focus "Next Generation AI" and in cooperation with the AI-HUB@LMU, the workshop included perspectives from experienced founders, research based startups and legal expertise on the EU AI Act.

Learn more about "Next Generation AI" here.

Events

Coffee Lectures: AI-History in Theory and Practice (13.04.-13.07.)

The Historical Seminar at LMU offers the Coffee Lecture Series “AI History in Theory and Practice” from 13 April to 13 July 2026. The series introduces practical uses of AI in historical research and teaching, including AI-supported literature and source research, presentations, image and video generation, speech to text tools and semantic infrastructures for sensitive historical corpora. Further sessions address AI generated historical imagery, fictional biographical audio content and AI supported analysis of Holocaust testimonies. The series is organized by Dr. Sebastian Kubon ("KI-Referent" at the Historical Seminar).

See the full schedule here.

Lecture Series: AI in the Book Industry, Literature and Literary Studies (20.04.-06.07.)

The lecture series “AI in the Book Industry, Literature and Literary Studies” brings together perspectives from publishing, literary studies and computational humanities. Organized by Prof. Dr. Julian Schröter (Digital Literary Studies, LMU) and Prof. Dr. Erika Thomalla (Book Science, LMU), the series examines how AI is changing editorial work, metadata optimization, literary analysis, translation, self-publishing, content production, and the legal framework of generative AI.

See the full program here.

PROFiL Seminar: Rethinking term papers in the age of AI (18.06.)

PROFiL offers a full day workshop for lecturers on how term papers can remain a meaningful exam format in the context of rapidly developing AI systems such as ChatGPT. Participants will receive guidance on adapting supervision and assessment processes to AI supported academic writing. The workshop addresses rules for the use of AI in term papers, how expectations can be defined and communicated, and how AI use can be documented, evaluated and graded.

Learn more and register here.

Conference: ACM EAAMO 2026 (05.11.-07.11.)

The sixth ACM Conference on Equity and Access in Algorithms, Mechanisms, and Optimization will take place from 5 to 7 November 2026 at LMU. The conference highlights work across the research-to-practice pipeline that helps ensure algorithmic and decision systems play a broadly beneficial role in society, advance equity and expand access to opportunity for underserved communities. Submissions may draw on AI and ML, mechanism design, optimization, operations and economics, as well as human computer interaction and the social sciences.

Learn more here.

Send us your news

Chair for Mathematical Foundations of Artificial Intelligence
Akademiestraße 7
80799 München
Deutschland
ai-hub@lmu.de