EBERHARD KARLS
UNIVERSITÄT
TÜBINGEN

Call for Applications:
International PhD Workshop on Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning research and Democracy – an interdisciplinary perspective
29.1 – 31.1.2022 at the University of Tübingen

We invite PhD students from various disciplines (Politics, Law, Philosophy, Sociology, Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning) to participate in our interdisciplinary workshop at the University of Tübingen in January 2022.

About the workshop:
As the use of Machine Learning algorithms and Artificial Intelligence pervades all areas of our lives and societies, it also affects fundamental pillars of democracy, such as public debate, political decision making and (dis)information through media.
In our PhD workshop entitled *"Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning research and democracy – an interdisciplinary perspective"* we will provide a platform for young researchers from all relevant disciplines – from dedicated machine learning research to political science and every nuance in between – to engage in exchange of methods and current state of the art research. Our guiding question will be:
How can we shape the co-development of AI/ ML research and democracy?

Workshop structure:
Being aware of the challenges of bringing different disciplines together, we will put a focus on creative and interactive formats such as Bar Camps and simulation games to facilitate profound discussions during the workshop. Besides keynote lectures by invited guest speakers, all participants will have the opportunity to present their ideas on how to shape this co-development.
In a three-step procedure, we will first take an account of the status quo by identifying the perils and potentials of AI/ML for democracy. Next, we will broaden the scope of the discussion to address questions of responsibility in research and different stances on technological determinism. In a last third step, we will get inspired by and develop own visions of the future co-development of AI/ML and democracy, discuss the (un)desirability of these visions and identify the actions that we as PhD students in AI/ML, philosophy, politics, and other related disciplines can undertake to realize (or prevent) them.
The workshop will end with a public panel on the last day which will present the main thoughts and discuss further steps regarding responsibilities of AI/ML research and democracy. By this we want to invite you to become part of a new network of young researchers who take responsibility for the future of AI and democracy.

How to apply:
Interested PhD students are welcome to apply with a short abstract (approx. 200 words) presenting their research and its connection to the workshop's subjects. Furthermore, we ask for a short personal motivational letter (app. 100 words) to participate in the workshop.

Please send your application to ilja.mirsky@uni-tuebingen.de until November 19th 2021.

What we offer:
The workshop's aim is to create an inspiring atmosphere for young researchers to network and discuss the intersection and intervention points of democratic principles and AI/ML research.
We will cover travel and accommodation costs for participants who are not based in Tübingen.
By conducting this first PhD workshop on AI/ML research and democracy we want to launch and establish the scientific debate on young researchers' responsibilities in this interdisciplinary area.

You will find more detailed information about the workshop and the lecturers on our website:
www.future-of-ai-and-democracy.de

Organizers:

Larissa Höfling holds a Bachelor's degree in Cognitive Science (University Osnabrück) and a Master's degree in Neural Information Processing (University of Tübingen) and is currently pursuing a PhD in Computational Neuroscience. She has a strong interest in the societal and political dimensions of research; she is a member of the PhD initiative sustainAbility and of KI macht Schule, as well as a scholar of the German Academic Scholarship Foundation. By initiating and organizing this workshop, she wants to create a platform for interdisciplinary networking and exchange between young scientists training in the fields of machine learning, political sciences and other relevant disciplines.

Ilja Mirsky (B.Sc. Cognitive Science, M.S. Performance Studies) is a PhD student in the department of Media Studies at the University of Tübingen and at the Zurich University of the Arts. In his interdisciplinary research he combines the fields of AI research and Human-Computer Interaction on theatre stages. He is dramaturg at the "Institut für theatrale Zukunftsforschung" in the Zimmertheater Tübingen and lecturer on subjects such as Virtual Reality, Augmented Reality and Digital Dramaturgy at the University of Tübingen and the Academy of Performing Arts Baden-Württemberg.

Katharina Anderer (B.Sc. Psychology) is a master student in cognitive science at the university of Tübingen. In her studies, she is mostly interested in combining machine learning and neurosciences. Besides, ethical considerations and the question how machine learning can have a positive impact on society are very important in her perspective. She is excited to support the workshop as a student assistant.

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