

Ninell Oldenburg



Education

- 2024 - current **PhD Philosophy of AI**, University of Copenhagen
Supervisor: Anders Søgaard
- 2021 - 2023 **MSc IT & Cognition**, University of Copenhagen & Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
Focus: Machine Learning, AI Ethics
- 2017 - 2020 **BSc Computational Linguistics**, University of Potsdam & University of Trento
Focus: Theory of Computer Science, Formal Semantics

Academic Experience

- Research Fellow, PIBBSS Summer Research Fellowship, Oxford, UK/Prague, CZ** Jun 2023 - Sep 2023
Modeled an environment for learning and sustaining normative systems in multi-agent Markov games via Bayesian rule induction. *Mentor: Tan Zhi-Xuan (MIT).*
- Visiting Graduate Research Assistant, MIT, Cambridge, US / Remote** Feb 2023 - Jun 2023
Bayesian multi-agent modelling for symbolic norm learning.
Supervisors: Tan Zhi-Xuan (MIT), Dr. Nora Hollenstein (University of Copenhagen).
- Graduate Research Assistant, IT University Copenhagen, DK** Oct 2021 - Dec 2022
Meta-study on the state of the art of bias research in NLP.
Supervisor: Prof. Barbara Plank (LMU Munich/IT University Copenhagen).
- Undergraduate Research Assistant, University of Dramatic Art, Berlin, DE** Sep 2019 - Feb 2020
End-to-end system for computer-aided pronunciation training.
Supervisors: Prof. Andree Gubisch (University of Dramatic Art), Prof. David Schlangen (University of Potsdam).
- Software Engineering Intern, German Research Center for AI, Berlin, DE** May - Aug 2017
Multi-modal scheduling app. *Supervisor: Dr. Kinga Schumacher (DFKI).*

Publications

- Ninell Oldenburg** and Gleb Papishev. 2026. *The Stories We Govern By: AI, Risk, and the Power of Imaginaries.* (Under review.)
- Ninell Oldenburg**, Ruchira Dhar and Anders Søgaard. 2025. *Two Conceptions of Intelligence: Why AI Researchers Disagree About Scaling Laws and Future Risk.* (Under review.)
- Iwan Williams, **Ninell Oldenburg**, Ruchira Dhar, Joshua Hatherley, Constanza Fierro, Nina Rajcic, Sandrine R. Schiller, Filippos Stamatiou, and Anders Søgaard. 2025. *Mechanistic Interpretability Needs Philosophy.* (Under review.)
- Ruchira Dhar, **Ninell Oldenburg**, and Anders Søgaard. 2025. Measure Generality, Not Intelligence. (Under review.)
- Ruchira Dhar, **Ninell Oldenburg**, and Stephanie Brandl. 2025. *Beyond Technocratic XAI: The Who, What & How in Explanation Design.* (Under review.)
- Ninell Oldenburg** and Anders Søgaard. 2025. *Navigating the Informativeness-Compression Trade-Off in XAI.* AI & Ethics.
- Ninell Oldenburg** and Tan Zhi-Xuan. 2024. *Learning and Sustaining Shared Normative Systems via Bayesian Rule Induction in Markov Games.* In Proceedings of the 23rd International Conference on Autonomous Agents and Multiagent Systems (AAMAS).

Honours, Awards, Fellowships, & Summer Schools

- 2025 **German Academic Scholarship Foundation Scholar** (Stipendiatin der Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes)
- 2025 **Machine Intelligence and Normative Theory Lab Affiliate**, Australian National University
- 2025 **AI & Humanity Lab Research Visit**, Hong Kong University
- 2024 **Philosophy of AI Summer School**, University of London, Paris
- 2024 **ABC Summer School “Neuro-AI: Understanding computation in mind and brain”**, University of Amsterdam
- 2023 **Training for Good EU Tech Policy Fellowship**: \$9,000 (declined)
- 2022 **FTX Future Fund Grant for an AI Reading Group Berkeley, CA & AI Self-Study**: \$17,500
- 2019 **31st European Summer School for Language, Logic, and Information (ESSLLI)**: Travel Grant
- 2018 **Erasmus+ Study Grant University of Trento**: \$3,600

Talks

Do Scaling Laws Suggest Universal Intelligence? Examining Philosophical Assumptions of AI Evaluations.. Artificial Intelligence and New Human-Technology Relations as a Challenge for the Philosophy of Science Workshop. University of Münster. 2025.

Philosophical Commitments to LLM Evaluations: The Problem of Moving Goalposts and Observational Relativity. AI & Humanity Lab Hong Kong, Seminar Series 2025.

The Completeness Problem: Beyond Human Metrics in Assessing Cognitive Systems. 4th Advanced Course on Artificial Intelligence & Neuroscience 2024.

Navigating the Informativeness-Compression Trade-Off in Explainability. International Association for Computing and Philosophy (IACAP) 2024 Conference.

Teaching/Mentoring

Research Mentor at Lumiere Education May 2025 - ongoing

Mentoring high school students to get their first research experiences.

Lecturer “Datamining”, University of Copenhagen, DK Apr - May 2025

Master’s Level Language Processing and AI Ethics

Lecturer “Empirical Methods and Theory of Science”, University of Copenhagen, DK Oct 2024 - Nov 2024

Bachelor’s Level Statistics

TA “Introduction to Computer Science”, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, HK Sep 2022 - Dec 2022

Bachelor’s Level C++

Media

Is there someone behind the screen? Researchers are divided on AI consciousness. ScienceNordic ([Danish Version](#) on Videnskabs.dk). 2025.

Non-Academic Experience

Tour Guide, Copenhagen Food Tours, Copenhagen, DK Jun 2025 - ongoing

Email Marketing Student Assistant, SOUNDBOKS, Copenhagen, DK Oct 2021 - Jun 2022

Hold the end-to-end ownership of the email marketing strategy and all email needs (planning, creation, tracking, and data analysis); guided the English and German copywriting and localization.

Associate Linguist, Google Germany (via Adecco), Hamburg, DE Aug 2020 - Aug 2021

Natural language generation & understanding for the Google Assistant.

Integration Mentor, Huckepack e.V., Berlin, DE Sep 2016 - Sep 2018

Mental health and integration mentor for a refugee teenager.

Miscellaneous

Programming Python (incl. NLTK, SciPy), C++, Lua, JavaScript, Java

Languages German (native), English (fluent), Italian, French, Danish (intermediate)

Journalism Writer & Editor (2016 - 2020)

Youth Journalist (2010 - 2014)

Blogging 12 Months at 12 Places (2020 - 2021)

Books (2015 - 2017)

[Kiez und Kneipe](#), Berlin
[Märkische Oderzeitung](#), Frankfurt (Oder)
[Zwoelfmaldeutschland](#), Germany
[Yet Another Bookreview](#)