

# Ninell Oldenburg



## Education

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- 2024 - current    **PhD Philosophy of AI**, University of Copenhagen  
*Supervisor: Anders Søgaard*  
*AOS: Philosophy of Technology, Critical AI Studies*  
*AOC: Computer Science, Ethics, Feminist Epistemology, Philosophy of Intelligence*  
*Affiliations: Pioneer Center for AI, DK; MINT Lab, AU*
- 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

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- Research Visitor, Leverhulme Centre for the Future of Intelligence, University of Cambridge, UK**    Oct - Dec 2025  
*Mentor: Dr. Apolline Taillandier.*
- Research Visitor, AI & Humanity Lab, Hong Kong University, HK**    Jan - Feb 2025  
*Mentor: Prof. Rachel Sterken.*
- 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

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- Ninell Oldenburg**, Ruchira Dhar and Anders Søgaard. 2025. *Realist and Pluralist Conceptions of Intelligence*. (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).
- Ninell Oldenburg** & Gleb Papishev. 2025. *The Stories We Govern By: AI, Risk, and the Power of Imaginaries*. The 8th AAAI/ACM Conference on AI, Ethics, and Society. Madrid, Spain.
- Ruchira Dhar, Stephanie Brandl, **Ninell Oldenburg**, and Anders Søgaard. 2025. *Beyond Technocratic XAI: The Who, What & How in Explanation Design*. The 8th AAAI/ACM Conference on AI, Ethics, and Society. Madrid, Spain.
- 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).

## Talks

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- 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

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<b>Research Mentor at Lumiere Education</b> Mentoring high school students to get their first research experiences.	May - Oct 2025
<b>Lecturer “Datamining”, University of Copenhagen, DK</b> Master’s Level Language Processing and AI Ethics	Apr - May 2025
<b>Lecturer “Empirical Methods and Theory of Science”, University of Copenhagen, DK</b> Bachelor’s Level Statistics	Oct 2024 - Nov 2024
<b>TA “Introduction to Computer Science”, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, HK</b> Bachelor’s Level C++	Sep 2022 - Dec 2022

Honours, Awards, & Summer Schools

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

Media

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

Non-Academic Experience

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<b>Tour Guide, Copenhagen Food Tours, Copenhagen, DK</b> End-to-end ownership of the email marketing strategy and all email needs.	Jun - Aug 2025
<b>Email Marketing Student Assistant, SOUNDBOKS, Copenhagen, DK</b> Natural language generation & understanding for the Google Assistant.	Oct 2021 - Jun 2022
<b>Associate Linguist, Google Germany (via Adecco), Hamburg, DE</b> Mental health and integration mentor for a refugee teenager.	Aug 2020 - Aug 2021
<b>Integration Mentor, Huckepack e.V., Berlin, DE</b>	Sep 2016 - Sep 2018

Miscellaneous

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<b>Programming</b>	Python (incl. NLTK, SciPy), C++, Lua, JavaScript, Java	
<b>Languages</b>	German (native), English (fluent), Italian, French, Danish (intermediate)	
<b>Journalism</b>	Writer & Editor (2016 - 2020) Youth Journalist (2010 - 2014)	<a href="#">Kiez und Kneipe</a> , Berlin <a href="#">Märkische Oderzeitung</a> , Frankfurt (Oder)
<b>Blogging</b>	12 Months at 12 Places (2020 - 2021) Books (2015 - 2017)	<a href="#">Zwoelfmaldeutschland</a> , Germany <a href="#">Yet Another Bookreview</a>