Ninell Oldenburg

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Education

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

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

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, Ruchira Dhar and Anders Søgaard. 2026. *Realist and Pluralist Conceptions of Intelligence and Their Implications on AI Research.* In Proceedings of the 40th AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence. Singapore. (Forthcoming).

Ninell Oldenburg & Gleb Papyshev. 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

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 - Oct 2025
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++

Honours, Awards, & Summer Schools

2025	**German Academic Scholarship Foundation Scholar** (Stipendiatin der Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes)
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

Media

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

Non-Academic Experience

Tour Guide, Copenhagen Food Tours, Copenhagen, DK — Jun - Aug 2025

Email Marketing Student Assistant, SOUNDBOKS, Copenhagen, DK — Oct 2021 - Jun 2022
End-to-end ownership of the email marketing strategy and all email needs.

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)	Kiez und Kneipe, Berlin
	Youth Journalist (2010 - 2014)	Märkische Oderzeitung, Frankfurt (Oder)
Blogging	12 Months at 12 Places (2020 - 2021)	Zwoelfmaldeutschland, Germany
	Books (2015 - 2017)	Yet Another Bookreview