



Are we Frankenstein's heirs? Artificial intelligence and its consequences.

Under the auspices of **HIRH Karl von Habsburg**

Organised by **Commandery Slovenia of the Order of St. George – a European Order of the House of Habsburg-Lothringen**

Supported by **Order Academy and its Dean Honorary Consul Dr. Peter Harold**
International Symposium, **Graz, Villa Hartenau, 24 May 2024**

Welcome to the Symposium on AI and Its Impact on Today's Society!

In an age where technology continues to redefine the boundaries of human innovation, the Symposium on AI (Artificial Intelligence) and Its Impact on Today's Society serves as a pivotal platform for exploring the transformative influence of AI. This gathering of forward-thinkers, scholars, industry leaders, and enthusiasts converges to examine the profound implications AI has on our contemporary world. As we navigate the intricate interplay between machine intelligence and humanity, we embark on a journey to dissect the challenges, opportunities, and ethical dimensions that shape our AI-infused society.

It's clear that as AI's footprint grows, the need for thoughtful engagement, inclusive policy-making, and robust research will be paramount in shaping a future where AI benefits all of humanity. There are several important implications for IA, including among others: economic transformation, ethical concerns, regulation and governance, research and development, education and reskilling, security concerns and global inequalities.

Join us in unraveling the threads of this intricate tapestry, as we seek to understand, adapt, and harness the potential of AI for the betterment of our global community. Welcome to a symposium that delves into the heart of AI's impact on today's society, paving the way for a future defined by innovation, responsibility, and inclusivity.

The event with prominent speakers and panellists will start on 13 October at 15:00. A dinner will be organised on the same evening. For those who decide to extend their visit, Ljubljana offers excellent opportunities for a relaxed stroll and getting to know the local cuisine and culture at this time of year.

Agenda

24. May	Graz, Villa Hartenau / Dress Code: Business-Infomal
14:30-15:00	Registration
15:00-15:10	Opening welcome by the Special ambassador for southeast Europe Honorarkonsul Senator h.c. Prof. OMR Prim. Dr. Günter Nebel
15:10-15:20	Content-related introduction by the Procurator Baron Vinzenz von Stimpfl-Abele
15:20-15:55	Keynote speach Dalith Steiger - 45 min
.....	
15:55-16:10	Coffee Break
.....	
16:10-16:30	HR Dr. Paul Ertl – 10 min introduction Mitja Jermol – 10 min introduction
16:35-18:00	Pannel discussion – lead by journalist Igor E. Bergant Panellists: Dalith Steiger-Gablinger, HR Dr. Paul Ertl, Mitja Jermol, Andy Fitze, Honorary Consul Dr. Peter Harold, Chat GPT
18:00-18:15	Q&A
18:15-18:25	Conclusion by the Dean of the Academy of the Order Honorary Consul Dr. Peter Harold
.....	
18:25-20:00	End of the symposium with a get-together
.....	



Organisation

The second international symposium is organised by the **Commandery Slovenia** with the support of the **Academy of the Order**.

This year's symposium guests are specifically selected to use their expertise and knowledge to inspire critical thinking about AI and its impact on our society, family, business, hobbies, etc.

All participating speakers of the symposium prepare a short essay beforehand on the area they cover. The prepared essays serve two purposes:

- presentation of content on the specific topic from their point of view in the introductory part of the symposium, and
- to create a bulletin that will be published together with the summary and discussion points in printed form after the symposium.

The Symposium as such is divided into two parts:

Key-note speech of the main speaker

- **Dalith Steiger-Gablinger** – SwissCognitive, Switzerland (key-note speaker)

Introductory speeches of the participating speakers with panel discussion

- **Dalith Steiger-Gablinger** – SwissCognitive, Switzerland; key-note speaker and panel discussion member
- **HR Dr. Paul Ertl** – Austrian Armed Forces, Expert/Evaluator for defense research projects
- **Mitja Jermol** – Jožef Stegan Institute Ljubljana, UNESCO Chair for Open Education Resources, IRCAL leader for AI; speaker and panel discussion member
- **Andy Fitze** – SwissCognitive, Switzerland; panel discussion member
- **Honorary Consul Dr. Peter Harold** – Dean of the Academy of the Order; panel discussion member
- **Chat GPT** – as live avatar; panel discussion member

The symposium will be led by the **award-winning journalist Mr. Igor E. Bergant**.

For the final panel discussion it is foreseen to conclude the discussion in a short-written summary that shall be added to the event's booklet.

Speakers



Dalith Steiger-Gablinger

“When people think about cognitive technologies they mostly think about computer, robots, devices and algorithms. When I think about cognitive technologies I think about the people. How the cognitive technologies can support humankind.”

Bio

Dalith Steiger-Gablinger is the co-founder of the award-winning AI start-up SwissCognitive. She was born in Israel, grew up in Switzerland, and studied mathematics and business informatics at the University of Zurich. Today she belongs to the top leading voices in the global AI ecosystem, is a serial entrepreneur, a global AI Thought-Leader and keynote speaker, with vast experience as an AI expert, TV and life stage moderator. With her extensive international experience in AI strategy consulting in various sectors and industries, Dalith can contribute her knowledge of technology developments and focus topics specifically in the AI environment. She helps to identify technology trends at an early stage and assess their relevance. With her in-depth knowledge, Dalith strengthens innovation leadership in supporting companies in their digital transformation. Dalith sits on several boards and juries, is leading the Swiss IT Leadership Forum since 2009, advises various companies on their AI-journey, mentors young women in tech, teaches at the Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and the SWISS UMEF University of Applied Sciences Institute in Geneva and is an Associate for the AI stream at the CDLab at the HEC Paris. Besides her drive for cognitive technologies, she is also a loving mother of two young women, a passionate mountain biker and a big fan of high-heel shoes.

“Opportunities don’t happen, you create them”

Abstract

AI is making faster and better decisions from our data lakes and making them meaningful.

This is a great opportunity to make our lives easier, more productive, and more creative. What does AI mean and what great daily use cases can we learn from?



Andy Fitze

“The question is not ‘whether AI will change our world’ but rather ‘How are we dealing with these changes?’”

Bio

Andy Fitze is the co-founder of the award-winning AI start-up SwissCognitive. He is a serial entrepreneur and globally recognized strategy consultant for digital transformation and AI, both for large enterprises and startups. Prior to his entrepreneurial career, Andy gained extensive experience as a CIO in various companies. He holds a degree in Electrical Engineering, an Executive MBA and is one of the awarded Swiss CIOs as the best IT Manager in Switzerland.

Today, Andy is one of the most important digital shapers. He sits on various boards and is an author, columnist and adventurer. Andy is one of the few sailing instructors and skippers on the world's oceans, with a penchant for high latitudes that always push him to his limits.

Sailing is his great passion, providing him with a great balance for head and soul.

Speakers



HR Dr. Paul Ertl

Bio

Head of Department (Conduct & Cohesion) at the National Defence Academy, Austria. He received his PhD from Faculty of Philosophy, Alpe-Adria University Klagenfurt and is currently in the habilitation process at ELTE-University, Budapest. His area of expertise includes research and teaching in the humanities and social sciences, such as professional & military ethics, gender equality, military anthropology, and cultural property protection.

He is currently conducting a research project for the Austrian Ministry of Defense that deals with ethics and AI. His latest publications are "Internationale Perspektiven im 21. Jahrhundert – Recht.Politik.Gesellschaft" (ed.), "Sicherheit neu Denken. Der Status Europas nach der Ukraine Krise" (ed.), and "Progressus as an Explanatory Model: An Anthropological Principle Illustrated by the Russia-Ukraine War".

In addition to his work, he is also active on a voluntary basis in many organizations, for example as Chairman of the Dobruja-German Landsmannschaft in Austria, Secretary General of the Austrian Society for Cultural Property Protection, and Secretary of the Order of St. George. He is currently Assessor for Defence Research Projects at the National Defence Agency (European Commission) and Tutor/Reviewer/Editorial Board Member in several Peer Review Journals.

Ethics in AI – AI in ethics

Abstract

Recently, more and more attention has been paid to the topic of artificial intelligence. Increasingly, we are witnessing the possibilities and impossibilities offered by this technological development. In the public debate, fears and hopes balance each other out, with three areas becoming immediately apparent: State, economy and society. The use of artificial intelligence in our democratic states poses serious problems, for example in establishing and ensuring legitimacy and transparency. Assuming its use in the economy, massive inequalities in the distribution of resources, personal opportunities and power can emerge in the business world. Therefore, for society as a whole, there must be AI-compatible concepts of global governance, the social responsibility of companies, state actors and NGOs. These are, for example, the questions of responsibility, power and (global) justice raised by risk and possible political and/or market failure through AI.



Mitja Jermol

Bio

Mitja Jermol, M. Sc. is the holder of UNESCO Chair on Open Technologies for Open Educational Resources and Open Education on a board member of the International Research Center on Artificial Intelligence under auspices of UNESCO and the head of the Centre for knowledge Transfer, all at Jozef Stefan Institute, Ljubljana, Slovenia. He has been doing research and development on artificial intelligence, cybernetics, cognitive systems and e-learning. His research includes Artificial Intelligence in the context of Business Intelligence, Personalized Learning, Smart Cities and Factories of the Future. He is particularly interested in artificial intelligence, contemporary models and theories of knowledge, complex systems and global systems dynamics. Together with the University of Nova Gorica he initiated a global mentoring programme Open Education for a Better World. Mitja has long-term experience with more than 30 large scale Horizon, H2020, FP7 and FP6 RTD projects.

AI-tomic energy or bomb?

Abstract

Like every human innovation, Artificial Intelligence (AI) presents both immense opportunities and challenges. Although AI might seem like a recent phenomenon, its roots extend back to the 1950s. Over the decades, its journey has been marked by peaks and troughs, often resulting from inflated expectations and ambitious promises. Early AI endeavours showcased well-conceived concepts and adept algorithms, yet they often lacked real-world data to demonstrate its full power.



Speakers

Several experiments have seen AI produce unexpected results, prompting many to believe that AI represents a novel class of technology, transcending mere data processing. As machine learning and big data analytics advanced, it became evident that these machines could outpace human performance, especially in large and intricate systems bursting with data. This led to the rise of "digital twins" —virtual replicas of physical systems—where humans remained in command, interpreting outcomes and making the final calls. Thus, a symbiotic relationship between humans and machines emerged.

However, the advent of Generative AI and Large Language Models marked a turning point. Suddenly, AI was not just a tool but a formidable contender. The once-established symbiotic relationship began to evolve, prompting humanity to reflect deeply on its very existence. These introspections aren't solely about the potential dominance of AI, but more broadly about our societal systems, our relationship with nature, and our virtues and flaws. It's all too easy to deflect our discomfort onto AI, accusing it of being the problem, when in fact, it holds up a mirror to our own actions.

In this discussion, we'll delve into these pressing questions, showcasing instances where AI has been harnessed for positive change, but acknowledging its potential misuse. Now that AI is within arm's reach for many, it's crucial to understand its implications.

Moderator



Bio

Igor Evgen Bergant is an award-winning Slovenian journalist. He started his career as a sports commentator at the national broadcaster TV Slovenia before moving to the news department. He is the presenter of the main late night news programme. In 2020, he won the Reader's Digest Slovenia Trusted Brand Award for the most trusted TV personality, based on a nationwide representative survey.

Igor E. Bergant