

Programme Research Day 26 June 2025

The Research Day is organised by and for researchers at all career stages at the WI as well as alumni/ae. It offers the opportunity for interdisciplinary exchange and a platform to present research projects, results and ideas, and to initiate new projects.

The Morning

08:45-09:00	Arrival & Coffee	
09:00-09:20	Opening Research Day by Martin Krzywdzinski <i>Welcome and introduction</i>	
09:20-10:05	Welcome to our newest PI's! <i>Jan Mendling (RG: Security and Transparency of Digital Processes)</i> <i>Sonja Schimmler (RG: Digitalization and Opening up of Science)</i> <i>Brent Mittelstadt (RG: Ethics and Governance of Innovation)</i> <i>are introducing themselves</i>	Kassenhalle
10:05-10:25	How can impact be measured at the WI? <i>Introduction of an impact strategy by Johanna Hampf</i>	
10:25-10:35	Pitches Research Workshops <i>Workshop leaders introduce their topics</i>	
10:35-10:50 Coffee Break		
Morning Session – Research Workshops		
10:50-12:20	Digital Tech Research in Democratic Crisis – current and future research agendas <i>Clara Iglesias Keller, Jakob Ohme, Lukas Seiling & Christoph Neuberger</i>	Flexroom
	Multiscale community detection with applications to computational social science <i>Juni Schindler (Imperial College London)</i> <i>!Workshop requires prior knowledge of Python!</i>	C1_02
	Balancing Trade-offs in the Design of AI Systems <i>Shlomi Hod (WI)</i>	A0_23
	How can we describe social media activities? A workshop on digital trace data ontologies <i>LK Seiling & Quentin Bukold</i>	A0_02
	Connecting the dots: GenAI research across the institute <i>Esther Görnemann</i>	A0_12
12:20-13:30 Lunch Break		

The Afternoon

13:30-14:00	Presenting the WI Short Projects: Results, Experiences, Perspectives <i>Till Büser, Jennifer Haase, Hannah Logemann, Lion Wedel, Tianling Yang & Nicolas Zehner</i>	Kassenhalle
14:00-14:10	Pitches Focus Workshops <i>Workshop leaders introduce their topics</i>	
Afternoon Session – Focus Workshops		
14:15-15:45	Responsible use of AI in advising and teaching for RGL & PIs – Input in German, Discussion in English <i>Karin Frisch, Jochen Knaus, Jennifer Haase</i>	Flexroom
	Lessons learned from the Data Workers' Inquiry <i>Laurenz Quiring Sachenbacher & Camilla Salim Wagner</i>	A0_23
	Social Science Communication: Communicating expertise in an understandable and appealing way <i>Clarissa Walter & Katharina Berr</i>	A0_02
	Politics, Plain and Simple – Making Research Heard <i>Sina Born</i>	A0_12
15:30-16:00 Coffee Break		
16:00-16:50	Recap on Research & Focus Workshops: Main topics, activities, outcomes & perspectives <i>All Workshop Leaders</i>	Kassenhalle
16:50-17:00	Closing Remarks on Research Day by Sascha Friesike	
17:00- Opening Summer Party by Christoph Neuberger		

The abstracts of the workshops can be found on the following pages.

Abstracts Morning Sessions

Digital Tech Research in Democratic Crisis – current and future research agendas

Clara Iglesias Keller (RG: Technology, Power and Domination) in collaboration with Jakob Ohme, Lukas Seiling and Christoph Neuberger

This workshop will explore the WI research agenda on the relationship between digital technology development and political transformation, focusing on current democratic crises. We invite researchers exploring this intersection from different perspectives to share insights on ongoing and future topics. Our aims are to map current work at the WI (to identify collaboration opportunities and mobilize colleagues when we need input) and brainstorm future research agendas.

Multiscale community detection with applications to computational social science

!Workshop requires prior knowledge of Python!

Juni Schindler (Fellow), Imperial College London

Many networks possess an intrinsic multiscale structure, with meaningful descriptions emerging at various levels of coarseness. Consider, e.g., communities of interest in social networks or commuter patterns in human mobility. In this hands-on workshop, we introduce multiscale community detection using PyGenStability and demonstrate how the method captures aspects of real-world network across different scales with examples from computational social science.

Balancing Trade-offs in the Design of AI Systems

Shlomi Hod (associate researcher at RG the Security and Transparency of Digital Processes)

To operationalize Responsible AI, we must translate abstract human values into technical specifications and navigate trade-offs between alternatives. Every design choice carries normative implications—and vice versa. In this hands-on session, we will explore core aspects of Responsible AI through a case study.

Please bring a laptop. No technical background is required. This workshop has been delivered worldwide, including at the US Congress and with the German Federal Foreign Office.

How can we describe social media activities? A workshop on digital trace data ontologies

LK Seiling & Quentin Bukold (RG: Digital News Dynamics)

Digitalization research increasingly relies on digital trace data—but are we all talking about the same things? Different platforms offer various activities (e.g., likes, shares), yet there's no standard for turning individual data points into broader concepts. This workshop presents insights into building an ontology—a map of concepts showing how elements of social media data relate to each other—to support more consistent, comparable research across platforms.

Connecting the dots: GenAI research across the institute

Esther Görnemann (Scientific Referee Research Syntheses)

Are you doing research with or on generative AI? Do you want to connect with WI researchers doing the same? Whether you are using it as research tool, studying its implications on elections, content moderation, job fields, or just curious: Let's connect. This session is for you. We'll map ongoing projects, exchange ideas, and identify opportunities for collaboration. As a bonus, I'll share a sneak peek into upcoming media features translating our research into engaging stories on for the public.

Titles of Short Projects

Digitale Dashboards als Plattformen behördlicher Risiko- und
Krisenkommunikation – *presented by Till Büser*

Unveiling the AI-Bias: Exploring Perceptions of Generative Artificial
Intelligence in Decision-making – *presented by Jennifer Haase*

Labeling of Tik Tok data for social science research: Comparing Large
Language Models to expert human annotators – *presented by Lion Wedel*

Ethics of Data Work: Developing equitable work systems for data workers
and ethical guidelines for researchers – *presented by Tianling Yang*

Towards Informational Sustainability: Grasping the Co-Productionist
Nature of Digitalisation and Sustainability – *presented by Nicolas Zehner*

A Delphi-Study with Psychotherapists – *presented by Hanna Logemann*

Abstracts Afternoon Sessions

Responsible use of AI in advising and teaching

Katrin Frisch (Ombudsgremium für die Wissenschaft), Jochen Knaus (KI-Beauftragter WI), Jennifer Haase (Ombudsperson am WI)

Künstliche Intelligenz in der Forschung: neue Herausforderungen für die gute wissenschaftliche Praxis

Der Einsatz von generativen KI-Anwendungen wirft Fragen in Bezug auf Publikationen, Antragstellung, Qualifikationsarbeiten und die Betreuung von Studierenden auf. Darüber, wie die Nutzung von KI aus Sicht der guten wissenschaftlichen Praxis (GWP) gehandhabt werden sollte, diskutieren Forschungsinstitutionen, Forschungsförderer und Verlage seit Anfang 2023. Während sich zu einigen Fragen schnell ein Konsens herausbildete, hält die Diskussion auch aufgrund der ständigen technischen Weiterentwicklung von KI-Anwendungen weiterhin an. Als Resultat entsteht eine zunehmend heterogene Policy-Landschaft, die immer noch einige blinde Flecken aufweist.

In einem ersten Teil des Workshops wird Katrin Frisch einen Überblick über bestehende Leitlinien sowie anhaltende Herausforderungen an der Schnittstelle von KI und GWP geben. Im Fokus stehen dabei Fragen, wie der Einsatz von KI in Publikationen transparent und angemessen offengelegt werden kann, was beim Einsatz von generativer KI beachtet werden sollte sowie was derzeit als gute Forschungspraxis im Hinblick auf KI gilt, insbesondere bei Peer-Reviews, der Beantragung von Fördermitteln oder der Nutzung von KI-generierten Abbildungen. Sie wirft außerdem einen Blick auf Zugangsfragen, ethische Aspekte und Auswirkungen einer Erweiterung der GWP auf die Anforderungen bezüglich Ausbildung und Betreuung.

In einem zweiten Teil soll ausreichend Zeit bestehen, auf praktische Nachfragen der Teilnehmenden einzugehen und sich über Erfahrungen und Bedarfe auszutauschen. Der Workshop dient dem Kompetenzerwerb auf Leitungsebene und richtet sich an PIs, FGL und Postdocs. Die Ergebnisse der Diskussion fließen in die weitere Befassung am Institut mit einer verantwortungsvollen Nutzung von KI ein.

Referentin: Dr. Katrin Frisch koordiniert seit 2020 im Ombudsgremium für die wissenschaftliche Integrität in Deutschland (OWID e.V.) die Bereiche Daten und KI. Sie ist dabei u.a. verantwortlich für die FAQ Künstliche Intelligenz und GWP sowie der Literaturliste [Gute wissenschaftliche Praxis und künstliche Intelligenz](#).

Lessons learned from the Data Workers' Inquiry

Laurenz Quirin Sachenbacher & Camilla Salim Wagner (RG: Data, Algorithmic Systems and Ethics)

As part of the academic project the Data Workers' Inquiry, we want to highlight recurring themes and strategic challenges Data Workers face all over the globe. In an attempt to synthesize workers' insights into their respective workplaces, we want to focus on global flows of capital, juxtapose them with the national boundedness of existing forms of resistance, highlight personal struggles caused by this asymmetry, and the ambivalent role of research in practicing actionable solidarity.

Social Science Communication: Communicating expertise in an understandable and appealing way

Clarissa Walter & Katharina Berr (RG: Reorganizing Knowledge Practices)

How can my scientific findings be communicated in a way that not only makes them understood but also remembered – and, ideally, applied? Participants will learn how to translate their expertise into compelling and relatable narratives. The workshop combines theoretical input from science (communication) research, practical storytelling insights (especially from the production of the social science YouTube series “Menschen und Muster”), and hands-on exercises.

Politics, Plain and Simple – Making Research Heard

Sina Born (Manager Political Dialogue and Public Affairs)

How does my research reach policymakers? This workshop with practical exercises helps you craft clear, relevant messages and engage with politics confidently. For anyone curious to try out political communication.

13.06.2025