

Joint Doctoral Forum AI in Academia
Doctoral Academy Day 2024 &
8th International PhD Conference Graz – Rijeka – Ljubljana

Date: 28/29 November 2024 (Thursday/Friday)

Day 1: Public Event (Doctoral Academy Day): AI in Academia

Day 2: Poster & Discussion Session: AI and/in Doctoral Research

The first day of the Joint Doctoral Forum will be a public event and focus on the influence of AI on research practices and academic culture in general. The event will address the possibilities of working with AI, introduce specific AI tools to use and identify practical areas of application, but also reflect on ethical implications and concerns in the usage of AI in research.

Doctoral candidates are invited to contribute to day 1 by sharing their research on (or done with the assistance of) AI in the poster presentations. Three doctoral researchers will also participate as panelists in the discussion “AI in Action: Real-world Examples Across Disciplines”.

On the second day, which will be a closed session, the first input by an expert on doctoral education will provide participants with insights into research careers and chances to reflect on their position in academia. After this short intro into the “secrets of academia”, the doctoral researchers will have 5 minutes each to explain their posters to their peers and attending experts.

Programme

28 Nov 2024: Day 1 – Artificial Academia? How AI Changes Research Practices and Academic Culture

1.30 pm - Welcome International PhD Conference

2.15 pm - Public Poster Presentations

The doctoral researchers participating in the International PhD Conference present their research on/with AI

Doctoral Academy Day

3.00 pm - Opening Statements

3.15 pm - Keynote Address: AI as a Research Partner. Expanding Possibilities and Ethical Considerations (preliminary title)

by Dr. Isabell Piantschitsch, University of Graz

This talk will explore the potential of AI to assist in data analysis, literature review, and experiment design while acknowledging ethical concerns surrounding its use.

3.45 pm - Panel Discussion "AI in Action: Real-world Examples Across Disciplines"

expert host: Dr. Andreas Windisch, Johanneum Research, panel of 3 PhD researchers (one from each partner university)

This interactive discussion will delve into practical applications of AI tools within specific research areas, with each panelist sharing a case study and best practices.

4.15 pm - Q&A Session and Audience Discussion

4.30 pm - Networking Break and Poster Presentations by Doctoral Researchers

5.00 pm - Input Session I "Choosing the Right AI Tool for You"

Input by Dr. Ajdna Pretnar Žagar, University of Ljubljana

This hands-on session will introduce participants to several key AI tools relevant to doctoral research, focusing on selection criteria and practical application

5.30 pm - Input Session II “The Ethical Landscape of AI-powered Research”

Input by prof. dr. Saša Zelenika, University of Rijeka

This session will address key ethical concerns regarding data privacy, bias in AI algorithms, and responsible research practices with AI.

8.00 pm - Conference Dinner

29 Nov 2024: Day 2 – AI and/in Doctoral Research – Poster Presentations**9.00–9.45 Academic Careers – Success Factors Beyond Research Excellence**

Gerald Lind (Doctoral Academy Graz)

The capacity to produce quality research is the basis for an academic career. Many early-stage researchers, however, have this capacity and still only a few will have successful careers in academia. So, there are other factors at play which will be discussed during this session: social relations, access to networks, and institutional power. Successful researchers are aware of these factors and behave accordingly.

9:45–11:00 Poster Presentations I

7 doctoral candidates present their research on/with AI

11:00–11:30 Coffee Break**11:30–13:15 Poster Presentations II**

7 doctoral candidates present their research on/with AI

13:30-14.30 Lunch**14:30–16:15 Poster Presentations III**

7 doctoral candidates present their research on/with AI

16.15 Farewell: Coffee & Snack Packs

Selection Procedure

In total, eight doctoral researchers per participating university will be selected based on their proposals.

Additionally, one doctoral candidate per university will be asked to participate in the panel discussion on day 1.

Doctoral researchers will be informed whether they are invited to present their posters by **September 23**. Those three doctoral researchers also selected for the panel discussion will receive this information **by Monday, 23 September 2024 at the latest**.

Dates and Deadlines

Call opens on **Friday, 7 June 2024**

Call closes on **Tuesday, 3 September 2024**