

Report on the 6th IPILM-Conference on 12.12.2024

Cirak, E., Tran, C., Thiele, L., Debbah, G.L., Schlegel, C.; Hoffmann C., Truong, Q.A.

Within the framework of the transnational project course “Intercultural Perspectives on Information Literacy and Metaliteracy” (IPILM), an online conference took place on December 12, 2024. The IPILM project engages students from various countries in a collaborative effort to promote intercultural information literacy and metaliteracy. The conference was organized and led by Prof. Dr. Joachim Griesbaum (Institute for Information Science and Language Technology, University of Hildesheim), Dr. Stefan Dreisiebner (Institute for Business Management and Entrepreneurship, Carinthia University of Applied Sciences, Austria), Emina Adilović (Institute for Social Science Research at University of Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina), Dr. Tessy Thadathil and Dr. Jini Jacob (Symbiosis College of Arts and Commerce, Pune, India), Dr. Thomas P. Mackey (SUNY Empire State College New York, United States), Dr. Subarna Bhattacharya (Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology, India) and Dr. Justyna Berniak-Woźny (Tischner European University, Kraków, Poland). More than 100 participants, including attendees from Germany, Austria, Poland, India, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and the USA, took part.

Following a welcome address by Prof. Dr. Griesbaum, the organizers introduced the IPILM project. The keynote by Emina Adilović (University of Sarajevo) titled “How Academic Libraries Bridge the Gap to AI-driven Knowledge?” was followed by student presentations delivered in groups. The conference concluded with a summary and closing remarks. The following topics were developed by the participants during the course:

- AI Impact on Local Culture: Language
- AI Impact on Local Culture: Cultural Perception of AI Regulation
- AI Impact on Democracy: Politics
- AI Impact on Democracy: Mis- and Disinformation
- AI Literacy for Teacher Education
- AI Literacy for Students and Students Learning Process
- Ethics of Producing Digital Media Art with GenAI

The respective student groups presented their findings in the form of lectures, which were then discussed in plenary.

1. AI Impact on Local Culture: Language

The presentation examined the influence of artificial intelligence on local culture, with a focus on language. Presenters introduced the topic of Natural Language Processing (NLP) and its applications in language technology, including machine translation and speech recognition. Particular emphasis was placed on the underrepresentation of minority languages and the reliance on English-language texts. In addition to technological advancements, challenges such as ethical issues and limited data sets were addressed. The presentation focused on the role of AI in preserving and documenting endangered languages. A case study on the Cherokee language illustrated how NLP tools can contribute to the revitalization of endangered languages, emphasizing practical approaches to language revival and balancing technological innovation with cultural authenticity. The discussion addressed the language of the Cherokee community in developing AI tools, the necessity of user-friendly tools in different languages for underrepresented communities, and the significance of AI in preserving endangered languages while considering regional dialects.

2. AI Impact on Local Culture: Cultural Perception of AI Regulation

The presentation explored the impact of AI on local culture and how AI influences cultural values and ethics, focusing on regulatory challenges. The challenges of AI regulation and the adaptation of frameworks to local cultural perceptions were debated. An overview of the challenges posed by the rapid development of AI and their ethical and regulatory implications was presented. The group highlighted the need to develop and implement AI systems with principles such as transparency, accountability, and fairness to effectively address these challenges. Current AI regulations from various regions around the world, such as the EU AI Act from the European Union, as well as drafts from America and China, were discussed. Insights from a self-conducted survey by the group illustrated the complex relationship between global AI development and its local cultural impacts, underscoring the need to integrate cultural values into regulatory frameworks.

3. AI Impact on Democracy: Politics

The emergence of AI presents numerous risks and opportunities, which were discussed in this presentation. Democratic systems face new demands to both minimize risks and capitalize on potential benefits. The presenters addressed risks such as disinformation, voter manipulation, and data privacy while highlighting opportunities such as enhanced participation, political education, and the efficiency of deriving political measures. A small study on this topic surveyed Indian and German students on their attitudes towards AI and democracy, revealing intercultural differences on topics like transparency, although these could be attributed to the small sample size, as discussed in the presentation. It was also found that the vast majority of respondents, regardless of culture, supported strict AI regulation. The presentation concluded with a call for supranational agreements to minimize risks and leverage AI's potential for democratic societies, increasing trust in political actors.

4. AI Impact on Democracy: Mis- and Disinformation

The presentation investigated AI's ambivalent role in democracies. While AI offers potential for innovation and efficiency, it poses substantial risks, notably in the form of disinformation spread through deepfakes, undermining trust in public institutions and political opinions. A survey of 40 students indicated that AI's impact on political attitudes is limited, but trust in democratic systems is compromised. The low awareness of AI-generated disinformation highlighted the urgent need for education and regulation. Possible solutions to improve media literacy and awareness about disinformation were discussed, with an emphasis on tailored educational strategies and ethical standards to mitigate the impact of AI-generated disinformation and ensure democratic integrity. Furthermore, the discussion examined how interdisciplinary collaboration could restore trust in democratic processes over time.

5. AI Literacy for Teacher Education

The role of artificial intelligence (AI) in education is becoming increasingly important, presenting teachers with new challenges and opportunities. The presentation focused on the need to equip teachers with the necessary knowledge and tools to use AI responsibly in the classroom. The speakers explained how AI competence helps teachers navigate ethical challenges and integrate AI tools such as ChatGPT and Kahoot into their teaching methods.

It was particularly emphasized that AI should not be seen as a replacement for teachers but as a supportive tool. The discussion highlighted the importance of continuous reflection and ethical evaluation of AI usage. Additionally, the significance of training programs and resources, such as online courses, was stressed to enhance teachers' AI competence. Finally, it was concluded that a solid understanding of AI is essential in teacher education to ensure its responsible and effective use in the classroom.

6. AI Literacy for Students and Student Learning Process

The presentation analyzed the growing importance of artificial intelligence in education, focusing on its usage by students and the associated challenges for educators. A case study showed that students increasingly use AI tools like ChatGPT for research, text production, and corrections, which raises ethical concerns like data privacy and plagiarism risks. It was emphasized that while AI supports the learning process, it might also impair critical thinking skills. Clear guidelines, ethical standards, and teacher training are necessary for sustainable AI integration in education. The presentation highlighted the necessity for in-depth knowledge of how AI functions to critically assess its use and foster responsible handling. Students should adhere to ethical principles, minimize risks like plagiarism and dependency, and continue to think independently. The importance of information literacy and evaluating AI-generated content was emphasized to secure learning quality, outlining the opportunities and challenges of AI use in education.

7. Ethics of Producing Digital Art with GenAI

The topic "Ethics of Producing Digital Art with GenAI" addressed the ethical challenges associated with using AI tools to create digital art. The group discussed GenAI's impact on copyright, responsibilities in usage, and the definition of art. A preliminary survey of 13 individuals from diverse cultural and academic contexts indicated concerns among design industry professionals about replacement by AI, though the innovation potential of AI was acknowledged, seen as a complement rather than a replacement for artistic creativity. The discussion emphasized the importance of information and media literacy for the responsible use of AI, highlighting the ethical responsibility of developers and users and the critical reflection of consumption habits when engaging with digital art.

The videos of the presentations are accessible on the project's YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/@interculturalperspectiveso2656/videos>. Further information and reports on the sessions are available on the project website IPILM (<https://ipil.blog.uni-hildesheim.de/>).