

Conference Report

Intercultural Perspectives on Information

Literacy and Metaliterary (IPILM)

Online-Conference on Jan 18th 2024

Aylin Shahabi, Jan Schoolmann, Lisa Lindemaier, Luca Littmann, Sarah Latifi

As part of the transnational project course "Intercultural Perspectives on information literacy and metaliteracy", an online conference was held on 18 January 2024. The IPILM project creates an international learning space for students from different countries to promote intercultural information literacy and collaboration.

The conference was organized by Prof. Dr Joachim Griesbaum (Department for information science and natural Language processing at Hildesheim University, Germany), Dr Tessy Thadathil (Symbiosis College of Arts and Commerce Pune, India), Dr Thomas P. Mackey (SUNY Empire State College New York, United States), Dr Stefan Dreisiebner (School of Management at Carinthia University of Applied Science, Austria), Emina Adilović (Institute for social science research at University of Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina) and Dr Justyna Berniak-Woźny (Tischner European University, Kraków, Poland). More than 90 international participants mainly from Germany, Austria, Poland and India, accepted the invitation. The aim of the conference was to present the results of the project course by the students and to create a space for discourse on the topics of the individual presentations.

Prof. Dr. Griesbaum started the event with a short welcoming message, followed by a keynote speech by Mr Pavel Stefanovič (Vilnius Gediminas Technical University) on the topic of "AI learning without programming". This was followed by contributions from the student groups. The conference concluded with a short summary and closing remarks. The participants of the project course developed presentations on the following topics:

- The Influence of AI on climate change (Solutions)
- The influence of AI in ongoing conflicts
- AI and digital rights
- AI and data surveillance / AI and online privacy
- AI and cross language communication
- AI and finance
- AI and digital media arts

The respective student groups presented the contributions which were then discussed in the plenary session.

The Keynote-Presentation on AI learning without programming

Mr. Pavel Stefanovič opened the conference with his keynote speech, which dealt with the use of AI for data analysis, classification, and clustering for people who are not proficient in programming. He gave a brief explanation of data analysis before introducing some interesting tools. The main part of his presentation dealt with the practical demonstration of the machine learning and data mining tool "Orange", for which the plenum completed a small questionnaire to generate a data pool. The resulting data was briefly processed in Excel, then visualized and categorized in the tool. In summary, the keynote highlighted the efficiency and versatility of classification and clustering tools and presented them in a practical way.

The Influence of AI on climate change (Solutions)

The talk examined the relation between AI and climate change. Potentials of AI include the simulation of climate scenarios, the prediction of crop yields, energy demands and natural disasters, and efficient traffic planning. However, AI generates high carbon emissions due to neural networks' energy consumption. These affect the climate negatively during training and the entire lifecycle. Ethical considerations are therefore necessary. The group conducted a survey which reveals that students' awareness of the relevance of AI for climate change and especially the negative effects is rather low. The conference session was concluded by a discussion about false catastrophe alerts, AI for ecological purposes and the integration of AI into education systems.

The influence of AI in ongoing conflicts

The presentation highlighted roles and challenges as well as ethical and legal aspects. This included the use of AI as a military instrument, for example for the development of autonomous weapon systems, for making data-based decisions and for use in cyber warfare. The use of AI in political, informational, economic and civilian aspects of hybrid warfare was also discussed. The presentation concluded with the remark that AI models are susceptible to cyberattacks. In addition, ethical considerations were also delineated. The presentation was followed by a discussion on regulation, potential risks and responsibilities of using AI in warfare.

AI and digital rights

The presentation emphasized the importance of the acknowledgement of digital rights to be considered human rights and treated as such as well as the complexity of protecting those rights on the internet, a place that knows no borders across the globe. Additionally, the group presented a case study to underline the danger AI can pose to those rights by sneakily collecting and processing information on citizens without their knowledge, thus putting them at risk by leaving the responsibility and decision to an algorithm. A solution to safely implement AI in government spaces and protect the rights of the citizens still needs to be developed and researched.

AI and data surveillance / AI and online privacy

Data surveillance is the practice of collecting and monitoring online data and metadata. It comes with risks such as data breaches, privacy breaches, surveillance concerns, lack of transparency and regulatory gaps. The group presented two solutions to help minimize the risks of these problems occurring and this includes regulatory frameworks that need to be introduced by governments. More importantly, the collaboration between citizens and governments is highlighted as well. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and non-profit

organizations (NPOs) already proposed recommendations for developers of AI that include the AI should directly benefit citizens and more importantly operate in a way that honors human dignity and respects privacy.

AI and cross language communication

The sixth report on "AI and cross language communication" examined how ChatGPT overcomes the challenge of context and bias in cross-national and cross-language communication, specifically in translation. With the help of practical experiments and literature research, the speakers were able to demonstrate that there are currently still limitations, but that possible solutions are being worked on. There were more problems with the translation of lyrical texts, and cultural texts in particular, than with official texts. In the follow-up discussion, questions were raised about the development of AI regarding smaller languages and the interpretation of humour and emotions. Due to the constantly changing AI landscape, no clear answers could be given, but the outlook for the future is very positive, even if some further development is still necessary. Overall, the presentation was able to provide a brief insight into the potential and limitations of ChatGPT with regard to intercultural communication.

AI and finance

The talk highlighted key challenges in adopting AI by finance companies. These include data protection issues, high costs of errors, job displacement and the loss of employee skills. Other challenges are unclear responsibilities for errors, an outdated IT infrastructure, difficulties in the availability and quality of training data and the potential need for large financial investments to introduce AI technology. The biased Apple credit card case exemplified these issues. The speakers concluded the presentation with three possible solutions followed by a discussion on how AI in the financial sector affects competitiveness and the current areas of application.

AI and digital media arts

The discussion on AI and Digital Media Arts highlighted the growing impact of AI in the film industry and art world,. It discussed AI history, Deepfakes, and AI awareness among fellow students. The debate emphasized the need for regulations to protect labor conditions and copyrights, as well as the need for transparent licensing agreements for artists. The focus was on the artistic potential of generative AI. The conference also discussed AI's disruptive impact in the workplace and the importance of balancing efficiency gains with human creativity.

Summary

The online conference showcased a broad spectrum of perspectives on AI, including a keynote. In the discussions, the audience contributed questions and additional perspectives. Most likely, next year, another IPILM conference will take place.

Videos of this year's presentations and past conferences are available on the project's Youtube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@interculturalperspectiveso2656/videos>