EC²U
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UNIVERSITÀ DI PAVIA

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VIRTUAL INSTITUTE FOR QUALITY EDUCATION

DEALING WITH BIASES IN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

INTERDISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVES

JKU JOHANNES KEPLER UNIVERSITY LINZ

ALEXANDRU IOAN CUZA UNIVERSITY of IAȘI

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TUESDAY | SEPTEMBER 1

How Language and Technology Construct Bias

📍Aula VII Lettere e Filosofia, Corso Strada Nuova 65 (view Campus map **here**)

9:00 - 9:30 — **Registration and welcome**

9:30 - 10:00 — **Opening ceremony and institutional greetings**
Elisabetta Rocca, Rector's Delegate for Europe, University of Pavia
Elisabetta Jezek, VIQE Representative, University of Pavia

10:00 - 11:00 — **KEYNOTE 1 - Edoardo Lombardi Vallauri, Roma Tre University**
Biases, Persuasion and Manipulation: Implicit Strategies in Public Communication

11:00 - 11:30 — **Coffee break**

11:30 - 12:55 — **PANEL 1: Bias by Design? Social and Cognitive Dimensions of Language Models - *Chair: Elisabetta Jezek***

- Deepak Kumar (JKU) — Social Bias in LLMs: Detection to Mitigation
- Vittoria Dentella (UNIPV) — LLMs and Decision Making: Some Caveats
- Dorota Zygadlo (UP) — Morphosyntactic Errors in Generative AI Outputs: Evidence from Polish as a Foreign Language
- Felix Fahnroth (FSU) — Shifting Biases in Educational AI: How LLM Versions Influence Conversational Dynamics

12:55 - 14:30 — **Self-paid Lunch Break**

14:30 - 15:35 — **PANEL 2: Gender Bias in Language and Technology - *Chair: Nora Koller***

- Rossella Varvara, Matteo Rinaldi, Viviana Patti (UNIPV/UNITO) — Measuring Diachronic Gender Bias in Italian Online Discourse
- Antonella Orologiaio, Susanna Sassi, Daniele Ronzoni,
- Guido Legnante (UNIPV) — Gender Bias in LLMs: Evaluating Occupational Stereotypes and the Effects of Interaction Modality
- Martina Matozzi (UC) — Gender Marking in Italian Occupational Titles: Morphology, Variation and Implications for L2 Italian

15:35 - 16:05 — **POSTER SESSION 1 — Bias in Language, Gender and Technology - *Chair: Nora Koller***

- Maya Köthe (FSU) — How does Gender Bias Impact Artificial Intelligence and Can It Be Mitigated?
- Giuseppe Bruni (UNIPV) — Tactile Tale: A Computational Tool for Cognitive Bias Detection in Language
- Ana-Magdalena Petraru (UAIC) — Interdisciplinary Perspectives from Romanian Translation Studies

16:05 - 16:35 — **Coffee break**

16:35 - 17:40 — **PANEL 3: Language, Manipulation and the Construction of Prejudice - *Chair: Freiderikos Valetopoulos***

- Raul Sanchez Prieto (USAL) — Inferring Biases in AI Models Toward Lesser-Taught Languages
- Caroline Aubry (FSU) — Weaponizing Words: Biased Language and the Spreading of Misinformation Online
- Serena Coschignano (UNIPV) — Bias and Social Identities in Italian Migration News: A Computational-Critical Discourse Study

17:50 - 18:20 — **EC2U Graduation Ceremony**
Diploma award to EC2U graduates

18:20 — **Welcome reception**

WEDNESDAY | SEPTEMBER 2

How Power Uses Bias: From Politics to War to Othering

📍 Aula Weber, via Luino 12

9:15 - 10:20 — **PANEL 4 : Framing Power: Media, Politics and Democratic Crisis**

Chair: Ilaria Fiorentini

- Ilaria Poggiolini, Elisabetta Jezek (UNIPV) — Bullshitting and Declarative Speech Acts in Diplomacy
- Lucian Bălănuță (UAIC) — Epistemic Rupture and Media Bias: The Annulment of the 2024 Romanian Presidential Elections
- Amy Marie Mc Intire (UNIPV) — Pills, Politics and Prejudice: How Political Discourse is Fueling False Narratives about Autism

10:20 - 11:20 — **KEYNOTE 2 - Clara Keating, Universiy of Coimbra**

From Linguistic Bias to Colonial Difference: Re-reading One Migration Narrative through Racialized and Gendered Listening

11:20 - 11:50 — **Coffee break**

11:50 - 12:20 — **POSTER SESSION 2 — Bias in Educational and Institutional Practices**

Chair: Camilla De Riso

- Olha Tarnopolska (IFNUL) — Unconscious Bias in Higher Education Teaching Practices
- Raneem Abdalrahim (UAIC) — Hidden Assumptions: Bias in Health Economics Education and Diabetes Burden in EU
- Mauro Mosconi (UNIPV) — Visual and Comic-Based Pedagogical Tools for Bias Awareness and Critical Thinking in Higher Education.

12:20 - 14:15 — **Self-paid Lunch Break**

14:15- 15:20 — **PANEL 5 - War, Conflict and Biased Media Narratives**

Chair: Christoph Vatter

- Omar Awad (UP) — Framing Sectarian Tension: Media Bias and the Tayouneh Clashes (Lebanon, 2021)
- Costanza Marini, Elisabetta Jezek (UNIPV) — Detecting Media Bias in an English-Italian News Corpus on the Global Sumud Flotilla
- Nora Koller (UC) — Conceiving of the Child: Propaganda and Survivor Discourse in Hungary

15:20 - 16:00 — **Coffee break**

16:00 - 17:05 — **PANEL 6: Identity, Othering & Intercultural Encounters**

Chair: Silvia Monti

- Christoph Vatter (FSU) — Bias and/in intercultural training: from culture awareness to anti-bias
- Hải Nguyễn (UTU) — Where are you really from? Emphasizing the Asian in Asian American
- Paiwei Qin (UMU) — An Art-Based Approach to Explore the Multilingual Identity of Chinese (Im)migrant Families in Sweden

17:15 - 18:45 — **Sociocultural activity**

20:00 — **Social dinner**

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THURSDAY | SEPTEMBER 3

How Education and Culture Can Recognise and Transform Bias

📍 Aula Weber, via Luino 12

9:00 - 10:25 — **PANEL 7: Bias in Educational Settings: Institutions, Bodies and Minds**
Chair: Camilla De Riso

- Satu Koistinen (UTU) — Interpreter Bias in Curriculum Texts: Misalignments and Underspecified Terminology
- Monica Negri (UNIPV) — Potential Risks of Overreliance and Authority Bias in the Use of AI in Secondary Education
- Olga Gruber, Jennifer Preschern (JKU) — Bias in University: When classrooms become a "war zone" for students with autism
- Lorenzo Cavagna (UNIPV) — Beyond Disciplinary Blinders: Cognitive and Disciplinary Biases in Medical Education

10:25 - 10:55 — **POSTER SESSION 3 — Bias in Cultural Representations**
Chair: Jennifer Preschern

- Lorena Andrade (UC) — Bias and Cultural Misrepresentation in Global Narratives of Açaí
- Narcis Apostu (UAIC) — Becoming Human: A Posthumanist Approach to Cyberpunk Science Fiction
- Olga Gruber, Jennifer Preschern, Anja Plank (JKU) - The Glassroom: Invisible Barriers of Autistic Students in Education

10:55 - 11:20 — **Coffee break**

11:20 - 12:25 — **PANEL 8- Language Learning, Curricula and Academic Discourse: Invisible Biases - *Chair: Mai Trang Vu***

- Camilla De Riso, Costanza Marini (UNIPV) — Attitudes towards English among Early Career Researchers at the University of Pavia
- Mai Trang Vu (UMU) — Critical Interculturality in Modern Language Textbooks in Sweden
- Luca Briatico (UNIPV) — Cultural Bias in the Perception of L2 Impoliteness: Evidence from Italian Learners of English and Spanish

12:25 - 13:30 — **Self-paid Lunch Break**

13:30 - 14:50 — **PANEL 9: Literary, Cultural and Postcolonial Representations of Bias**
Chair: Ana-Magdalena Petraru

- Freiderikos Valetopoulos, Laurie Dekhissi (UP) — Emotion Mediation in Graphic Narratives: Mechanisms of Linguistic Bias
- Mariana Oleksyshyn (IFNUL) — Linguistic Markers of Narrator Bias through Stylization in Cloud Atlas and its Ukrainian Translation
- Lydia Uriarte Arreba (USAL) — Writing Against Otherness: Female Subjectivity and Cultural Bias in Emine Sevgi Özdamar
- Gireesh Kumar T.K., Olimpia Niglio (UNIPV) — From Cultural Bias to Epistemic Bias: Rethinking Digital Heritage Representation through RWYC and IKS

14:50 - 15:10 — **Closing remarks**

15:10 — **Farewell toast**