

COSMOS PhD School "Artificial Intelligence and Democracy" Cortona, 18-22 May 2026

Organizers: Hans-Jörg Trenez and Marco Deseriis

Programme

Monday, May 18

- 10:00-14:00 Arrival & Welcome (shuttle bus service available from the Cortona train station)
- 14:30-16:30 **Mark Coeckelbergh**, University of Vienna, *AI, democracy, and the common good*
- 16:30-17:00 *Tea Break*
- 17:30-19:00 PhD student presentations: Nicolás Palomo Hernandez, Andrei-Ioan Marin-Balulescu, Paula Borges Liébana
Discussants: Mark Coeckelbergh, Sarah Kassem

Tuesday, May 19

- 09:00-11:00 **Peter Asaro**, The New School, *AI and the automation of warfare*
- 11:00-11:30 Coffe Break
- 11:30-13:00 Student presentations: Patrick Soliman; Luna Boiago; Geremia Trinchese
Discussants: Peter Asaro; Sarah Kassem
- 13:00-14:30 Lunch Break
- 14:30-16:30 **Fieke Jansen**, University of Amsterdam, *The (Un)sustainability of AI infrastructure*
- 16:30-17:00 Tea Break
- 17:00-18:30 Student presentations: Svetlana Chukina; Klara Matuszewicz; Esra Ince
Discussants: Fieke Jansen, Hans-Joerg Trenez, Silvia Keeling

Wednesday, May 20

- 09:00-11:00 **Federica Merenda**, Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna, *Feminist perspectives on Artificial Intelligence*
- 11:00-11:30 Coffee Break
- 11:30-13:00 Student presentations: Lorenzo Borelli; Helena de Martini Melo; Nele Elina Prinz
Discussants: Marco Deseriis; Jacopo Custodi
- 13:00-14:30 Lunch Break

14:30-16:30 **Antonio Casilli**, Institute Polytechnique de Paris, *Where does ChatGPT come from? Mapping land, labor, and capital in AI global value chains*

16:30-17:00 Tea Break

17:00-18:30 Student presentations: Vittoria Crall; Marta Fornacini; Enrico Pittalis
Discussants: Antonio Casilli; Federica Merenda

Thursday, May 21

09:00-11:00 **Matteo Pasquinelli**, Università Ca' Foscari, *The algorithm and the Antichrist: Political theology and economy at the sunset of Silicon Valley*

11:00-11:30 Coffee Break

11:30-13:00 Student presentations: Luigia Tricase, Umberto Spaticchia, Sarah Feldes, Giuseppe Vena
Discussants: Matteo Pasquinelli, Hans-Jorg Trenez, Marco Deseriis

13:00-14:30 Lunch Break

14:30-16:30 Roundtable: *AI and Journalism, from Creative to Democratic Challenges?*
Silvia Keeling, Scuola Normale Superiore
Iva Nenadic, University of Dubrovnik and Centre for Media Pluralism and Media Freedom (EUI)
Marco Pratellesi, independent journalist and professor at Lumsa in journalism and AI
Guido Vetere, Università Guglielmo Marconi

16:30-17:00 Tea Break

17:00-18:30 Student presentations: Harshita Mehta, Melek Kılıçgedik; Muhammad Auwal
Discussants: Silvia Keeling; Jacopo Custodi

Friday, May 22

09:00-11:00 **Dario Guarascio**, Sapienza Università di Roma, *Digital imperialism and the political economy of the military-digital complex*

11:00-11:30 Coffee Break

11:30-13:00 Student presentations: Abdullah Al Mahmud; Riccardo Angius; Lori Sramel Cebular
Discussants: Dario Guarascio; Silvia Keeling

13:00-14:30 Lunch Break

14:00-16:00 Farewell & departure (shuttle bus service available to the Cortona station)