

Minds, Media, Machines Newsletter

July / August 2023

Dear MMM members,

These recent months have been an exciting time for MMM! With our involvement in the new CHORUS excellence cluster proposal, we have taken an important step towards further enhancing the excellent and internationally visible profile of Minds, Media, Machines. With this newsletter, we would like to continue providing you with regular information regarding upcoming events, funding calls, and other scientific developments in the area of Minds, Media, Machines.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact us with any updates on recent news from your lab!

With kind regards,

Dennis Küster

Current Announcements

New MMM Members: We warmly welcome our latest members, **Prof. Dagmar Borchers** and **Prof. Björn Niehaves**! We are very much looking forward to their contributions to MMM!

Prof. Björn Niehaves, head of the working group „**Digital Transformation of Public Services**“ at the Department 03 (Mathematics and Computer Science) addresses digital transformations at the interface of business, government, and society. His works include MMM topics in the public sector, cognitive systems and their application in the context of workplace, and Ethical and social issues around MMM.



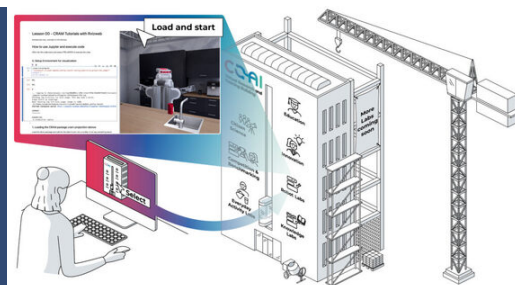
Prof. Dagmar Borchers, professor of Applied Philosophy, is particularly concerned with the ethical aspects of the provision and use of digital devices and AI-based systems, but above all with the use of AI in the context of political and administrative decision making processes while preserving and taking into account central social values of liberal, democratic societies. She aims to bring her team and the Center for Decision Research (**Decisium**) into contact with the research foci of Minds, Media, Machines.



Joint Research Center on Cooperative and Cognition-enabled AI

Minds, Media, Machines will be part of the Joint Research Center on Cooperative and Cognition-enabled AI (CoAI JRC) of the Universities of Bielefeld, Bremen and Paderborn. Our High Profile Area is central to the Bremen location of the research center.

For further information, please have a look at the [CoAI JRC website](#)!



MMM General Assembly - Save the Date!

Please keep / keep the following dates free in your calendars:
The MMM General Assembly will be held on 07.11.2023 from 4-7 pm on campus, and the Retreat will be held on 19.01 - 20.01.2024 at Schloss Etelsen. We look forward to two productive meetings and will be in touch with more info in due course!



Sustainability in MMM Research

Sustainability, climate justice and climate neutrality (SCC) are among the most socially relevant issues of the 21st century. Jarina Kühn has been working on this topic in MMM with a part-time position since the beginning of the year. A corresponding study is currently being conducted by Jarina, who has recently contacted many of our members. Are you interested in the working group and its activities? You are welcome to participate. Please contact [Jarina Kühn](#) directly.



MindTalks in the Summer!

The highly successful "MindTalks" series, organized by Udo Ernst, Olivia Maseck and Tanja Schultz has continued through the summer. This June, Prof. Stefan Bornholdt, Dr. Janelle Pakan, and Prof. Jan Clemens have been continuing our tradition of this public lecture series we present and discuss interdisciplinary approaches in brain research in a generally understandable way.

For the complete program of all upcoming MindTalks, please see: www.uni-bremen.de/mindtalks



Awards and Initiatives of MMM members

Special Issue and Publication by Prof. Dr. Andreas Hepp and Anne Schmitz

ZeMKI members Andreas Hepp and Anne Schmitz have published a special issue on "Afterlives of the Californian Ideology - Tech Movements, Pioneer Communities, and Imaginaries of Digital Futures" in the International Journal of Communication! Read more here: t.co/4c7qTDdpex



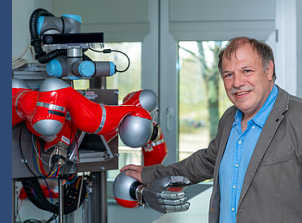
Best Student Paper Award for Sajjad Parvin

Sajjad Parvin from Rolf Drechlsler's Group of Computer Architecture (AGAR) received the best student paper award at ISVLSI 2023 for the paper "LAT-UP: Exposing Layout-Level Analog Hardware Trojans Using Contactless Optical Probing" - congratulations! <https://ufrgs.br/isvlsi2023/>



Michael Beetz Receives ERC Advanced Grant

We warmly congratulate Michael for earning this outstanding achievement! As our president, Jutta Günther has already expressed it in March, this prestigious award "is a further testament to the outstanding scientific importance of the artificial intelligence research at our university". For the official Newspost, please see: <https://tinyurl.com/yc2ybv8>



Upcoming Events

AI-In Health Conference

On 21 September, 2023, the U Bremen Research Alliance, together with JUST ADD AI, the Transfer Center for Artificial Intelligence BREMEN.AI and the Integrated Health Campus Bremen, invites you to the AI in Health conference with a diverse program of presentations, discussions and networking. The event is free of charge and places are limited. For further information, please refer to their [website](#).



The event will be chaired by the UBRA lead project speakers Prof. Dr.-Ing. Tanja Schultz (Director Cognitive System Lab, Speaker Minds Media Machines, University of Bremen) and Prof. Dr.-Ing. Horst Hahn (Institute Director Fraunhofer MEVIS) and framed by two exciting keynotes and a panel discussion. Image (right): Impression from last year's AI-In Health Conference.



EASE Fall School 2023 (11 - 15 September)

MMM invites to the upcoming [EASE Fall School 2023](#), hosted by the IAI. This year's confirmed lecturers include MMM speaker Michael Beetz, Daniel Leidner (DLR Robotics & Mechatronics Center), and Erol Sahin (Middle EAST Technical University). The EASE Fall School is an excellent possibility to get into the exciting field of cognition-enabled everyday activity robotics. All workshops are located at the University of Bremen.



Bremer KI Tage

The second edition of the "[Bremer KI-Tage](#)" (Bremen AI Days) of the Transfer Center for Artificial Intelligence Bremen / Bremerhaven (27.06. - 28.06.2023) have attracted a lot of

attention.

The Bremen AI Days show how Bremen companies and scientific institutions are using artificial intelligence. The two-day event with lectures and workshops was organized by the Bremen AI Transfer Center Bremen.AI, based in Bremen and Bremerhaven, which cooperates with Bremerhaven University of Applied Sciences. School classes, students as well as the interested public were invited to participate free of charge.



Snapshot of MMM-Member Christof Büskens giving a talk on Electromobility at the Bremen AI Days. (Twitter: <https://tinyurl.com/4xkat8ew>)



Rachel Ringe and Gerald Volkmann presenting AI research from MUHAI at the Bremen AI Days (Twitter: <https://tinyurl.com/j4ya4bba>).

Young people interested in the IAI VR Expo today on the first day of the Bremen AI Days! (Twitter: <https://tinyurl.com/yun9bv5>)



Funding Opportuninites (DFG, BMBF)

- **DFG Priority Programme “Theoretical Foundations of Deep Learning” (SPP 2298)**
The present call invites proposals for the second (and last) three-year funding period. The research questions to be addressed within this Priority Programme are of a truly interdisciplinary nature and can only be solved by a joint effort of mathematics and computer science. Proposals must be written in English and submitted to the DFG by 1 December 2023 (submission will open on 1 November 2023).
- **BMBF: Design Tools for Sovereign Chip Development with Open Source (DE:Sign).**
Based on the DE:Sign guideline, the BMBF is funding projects to research new design tools and methods as well as innovative chip designs with a focus on open-source approaches for new microelectronics. Deadline: 31 July 2023. tinyurl.com/2h5mkfh3

Other Funding Opportunities

- **2023 Call for Fellowship Applications at the Hanse-Wissenschaftskolleg Institute for Advanced Study Delmenhorst (HWK)**

Three different programs are available: HWK Regular/ Junior Fellowships, Joint Research Fellowships with the Oldenburg Medical School and Joint Junior Fellowship with the Excellence Cluster Hearing4All Oldenburg. In all cases, the deadline is July 15 (the only deadline in 2023).

hanse-ias.de/en/fellowships/fellowship-program

uol.de/en/medicine/hwk

hearing4all.de/en/career/fellowships/h4a-hwk-fellowship/

- **Evaluation of ERC grant proposals:** what to expect in 2024: The ERC has announced further innovations for the [2024 work program](#).

Tentative calendar of 2024 calls

	Starting Grant	Consolidator Grant	Advanced Grant	Synergy Grant	Proof of Concept Grant
Call opens	11/07/2023	12/09/2023	29/05/2024	12/07/2023	16/11/2023
Deadline to submit applications	24/10/2023	12/12/2023	29/08/2024	08/11/2023	14/03/2024
					17/09/2024
Budget	€601m	€584m	€578m	€400m	€30m

Early Career Researchers

Successful PhD-Defense: Pascal Pieper @AGRA

We congratulate Dr. Pascal Pieper to his successful PhD-Defense at [AGRA](#) with Rolf Drechsler, on the topic of "Formal and Practical Techniques for the Complex System Design Process using Virtual Prototypes"! Notably, this also marks the [50th PhD Defense](#) for Rolf Drechsler in the role of a supervisor. Congratulations also to Rolf!

Award for Outstanding Doctoral Supervision

MMM-member [Prof. Dr. Nicole Megow](#) has received the Award for Outstanding Doctoral Supervision from the University of Bremen. The award honors professional and encouraging support of doctoral candidates and is endowed with prize money of 2.000 euros sponsored by the Alumni Network of the University of Bremen. The solemn award ceremony took place on July 4th at the Campus Space of Sparkasse Bremen. Congratulations Nicole!

Minds, Media, Machines Integrated Graduate School

Did you know? The **Minds, Media, Machines Integrated Graduate School** supports doctoral candidates and supervisors associated with MMM. To this end, **MMMIGS** provides networking opportunities, a

demand-tailored qualification program, and financial support for research, training, and networking activities benefitting the individual projects of PhD candidates. Furthermore, MMMIGS promotes structured doctoral education within MMM, and supports PhD programs and MMM members in recruiting PhD candidates.



- **MMMIGS PhD Grants:** Since the beginning of 2023, seven new MMMIGS PhD Grants have been awarded to members of MMM working groups and institutes. Will your PhD student be among the next? Find more information at tinyurl.com/4bd9x6pr
- **MMMIGS Intro2PhD:** Throughout the summer semester 2023, seven beginning PhD candidates met with MMMIGS coordinator Dr. Lena Wollschläger on a regular base to learn about and discuss topics like time and self management, developing research questions, and communicating about research to the scientific community and the general public. The next cohort will start in fall 2023, watch out for the announcement at tinyurl.com/4kepbtv5
- **MMMIGS Networking Offers:** MMMIGS offers a variety of networking opportunities for PhD candidates, supervisors and coordinators of structured doctoral programs. A collaborative handbook about the doctoral process and an online communication platform have been set up, access to both can be requested by email to mmmigs@uni-bremen.de. There will also be a new series of networking events for doctoral candidates starting soon, about which more information is available at tinyurl.com/mr2m43u2
- **MMMIGS Support Offers for MMM members:** MMMIGS offers support for setting up structured doctoral programs and applying for internal recognition or third-party funding of such programs. Additionally, advice and financial support for advertising PhD positions or stipends is provided to MMM members and to doctoral programs in the MMMIGS network. Please contact MMMIGS coordinator [Dr. Lena Wollschläger](#) for more information.

Dr. Lisa-Marie Vortmann nominated for "Deutschen Studienpreis" 2023

Former [CSL](#)-Member MMM-member Lisa-Marie Vortmann has been selected for the shortlist of 33 out of 672 young researchers for the German "Studienpreis" 2023. In the final round of the competition the nominees present their research to the jury. In each of the three sections - social sciences, natural and technical sciences, and humanities and cultural studies - one top prize of 25,000 euros and two second prizes of 5,000 euros will be awarded. Fingers crossed for Lisa!



Other Science News

- **Excellence Strategy:** 143 Draft Proposals for New Clusters of Excellence submitted. Of the 143 draft proposals, 55 were submitted by several universities in a consortium, including 14 draft proposals submitted jointly by three universities. Our CHORUS-proposal with the universities of Bielefeld and Paderborn is therefore one of only a small number of such proposals with two other universities. 80 percent of the draft proposals envisage the participation of non-university partners.

The majority of the new concepts are interdisciplinary: nearly half the projects (64 draft proposals, or 45 percent) describe themselves as belonging to more than one scientific discipline. 31 percent of the draft proposals see their thematic focus in the life sciences, 28 percent in the humanities and social sciences; 21 percent of the projects are predominantly rooted in the engineering sciences and 20 percent in the natural sciences. Further details: tinyurl.com/3djnnsje

- **Diversity News Update:** According to recent data, International academic staff at German universities in 2021 amounted to around 59,300 academic and artistic staff of foreign nationalities, or 13.9% of all academic staff. Since 2018, the number of international staff has increased by 20%. By comparison, the number of German academics and researchers has only risen by 5% over the same period. Further details: tinyurl.com/469x2t8h

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