AIAS Off-Site Seminar for AIAS Fellows, 2-3 October 2025

"Generative AI: Practices, Impacts, and Responsibilities"

General aims:

- **To create a forum for academic exchange on Generative AI (GenAI)**
- **To explore different research approaches to environmental, social, and technical aspects of GenAI**
- **To socialize with colleagues and foster collaborative reflections**

Abstract
The Sandbjerg Seminar this year is titled *"Generative AI: Practices, Impacts, and Responsibilities."* The rapid adoption of Generative AI (GenAI) technologies is reshaping societies worldwide, with profound environmental, social, and economic implications. Researchers, policymakers, and the general public alike face challenges in understanding how these technologies operate, how they impact communities, and how to use them responsibly.

In this seminar, we will hear from researchers with firsthand experience in both critical and applied AI research, exploring how diverse approaches can inform sustainable and responsible AI practices. On the first day, we will examine the environmental footprint of AI and explore issues of responsible AI in the Global South, highlighting equity, governance, and practical implications. On the second day, we will gain a deeper understanding of Large Language Models (LLMs), learn how prompts shape outputs, and experiment with "slow prompting" strategies to enhance research and inquiry in a hands-on workshop.

Through a unique blend of abstract discussion, specific case studies, and hands-on experimentation, the aim of this seminar is to encourage a reflection on the responsibilities, possibilities, and limitations of AI usage.

Programme

DAY 1: Thursday 2. October

08:15 – 11:00 Transportation by bus from AIAS to Sandbjerg

11:00 – 12:00 Arrival at Sandbjerg Manor, followed by a guided walk around the property with Lars Dall, Operational Inspector at Sandbjerg.

Please bring proper footwear for this walk.

12:00– 13:00 Lunch

13:00-13:45 **'Climate-Accountable GenAI: Measuring and Mitigating the Carbon Footprint of GenAI Across Research, Policy, and Practice'**
By Janet Frances Rafner

Janet Rafner is a postdoc and project lead at the Center for Hybrid Intelligence at the Department of Management at Aarhus University. She is an incoming tenure-track assistant professor in Innovation Management at University of Southern Denmark and a Danish Institute of Advanced Studies Fellow. She is a former AIAS-SHAPE fellow, a US Fulbright fellow, and holds degrees in physics, studio art, and information communication technology. Dr Rafner is a leading expert in hybrid intelligence and human-AI co-creation, and generative AI.

The rapid adoption of Generative AI (GenAI) technologies worldwide has profound environmental, political, and economic implications. While often lauded for its transformative potential, GenAI is already contributing to rising carbon emissions due to the energy demands of model training, deployment, and inference (Strubell et al., 2019; Luccioni et al., 2023; Inie et al., 2025). As a result, these models require immense computational resources, leading to significant demands on energy, water, and rare materials—often with minimal transparency or regulatory oversight. These impacts are not theoretical—they are material, measurable, and mounting. Current critical discourse and AI governance efforts often focus on social risks such as bias or misinformation, while overlooking the environmental externalities of AI infrastructure (Crawford, 2024). Transparency around carbon footprint remains rare, and few shared standards or tools exist for measuring emissions across sectors.

In my talk, I will give an overview of current literature and ongoing dialogues regarding the carbon impact of generative and discuss direct implications and considerations for research practice involving genAI

13:45-14:30 **'Unpacking Responsible AI from the perspective of the Global South, drawing on fieldwork and case studies from communities in Namibia'**
By Rachel Charlotte Smith

Rachel C. Smith is a social anthropologist and associate professor of Human-Centred Design at Aarhus University. Her research focuses on relations between people's everyday life and emerging technology, specifically on social change and transformation. In her project *Participatory AI for Sustainable Alternative Futures,* funded by DFF Green, she addresses urgent calls for technological alternatives to drive green transitions that engage diverse communities across global north and south communities.

Drawing on research in Namibia, the presentation will approach responsible AI from the perspectives of policy visions for Responsible AI in Namibia and codesign experiments with local communities with small-scale AI probes and smart hydroponics. Off-grid AI-IoT-driven hydroponic farming as a sustainable alternative to traditional farming and food insecurity, allowing rural and urban communities to grow plants with little water and no soil. Retrofitting the hydroponics across southern African regions (and Denmark) in collaborative processes reveals critical questions about the role of emerging AI technologies and their ability to provide future subsistence while preserving local knowledge, heritage and ecologies. The research explores and raises new questions and perspectives on responsible, sustainable, decolonial and participatory AI to support locally situated alternatives that align with local practices, knowledges, and lifeworlds for green transitions.

14:30-15:00 **Coffee break**

15:00-17:00 **Walk & Talk to discuss: Practices, impacts, and responsibilities when working with GenAI**
Followed by a plenary wrap-up. Facilitated by Christian Ulrik Andersen and Anna Maria Langmüller.

17:00 – 18:30 Free time for socializing, settling into rooms, and enjoying the surroundings of Sandbjerg.

18:30 Drinks followed by dinner

DAY 2: Friday 3. October

08:00– 09:00 Check out of rooms (Main building, reception) and breakfast
You are welcome to explore the beautiful surroundings at Sandbjerg before breakfast, so bring running shoes, swimsuits or practical footwear, if you are up for it!

09:00 –12:00 **'Co-Researching with AI Large Language Models: Making use of Hallucinations, Large-Corpus Analysis, and Disciplinary Differences'**
By Joe Dumit

Joe Dumit is an American cultural anthropologist and professor at UC Davis, known for his work in science & technology studies. His research explores how bodies, health, and knowledge are shaped by science, technology, and culture. Recently, he has turned to large language models (LLMs), experimenting with them as collaborators in creativity, perspective-taking, and critical reflection rather than simply tools for answers.

In this workshop, Joe will present how AI confabulations are integral to how large language models work, and how they are a feature, not a bug. LLMs are trained on texts, not truths. Each text bears traces of its context, including its genre, voice, audience and the history and local politics of its place of origin. A correct sentence in one scientific discipline might be inaccurate or nonsensical in another.

The hands-on workshop shares research into how scholars are "co-researching" with LLMs. We will explore how chat interfaces require active resistance to the notion that the LLM has “an answer” to a question (dialogues cause us to hallucinate!). Prompting should instead involve agentive stance-taking, point-of-view activating, and iterative co-creativity. Techniques for slow prompting, field-shifting, hypothesis generating, teaching with rather than against, and collective querying with LLMs are offered.

The current generative AI Large Language Models (LLMs) are surprising in no small part for their ability to imitate almost any style and genre of writing, from snarky Reddit-like conversation to programming in C# to postmodern critical theories of Shakespeare to regenerative cancer biology. And style is not simply a manner of grammar and word choice, it inheres in the scale and scope of questions, the rhetorics of argument making, and intricacies of causal types of evidence. It is precisely one of the hardest things for scholars in universities to master, if they ever do, because these styles are constantly changing in small and big ways. Indeed, each academic journal seems to have its own micro-genre and publishing in them is a practice of care and attention in itself. As scholars who regularly train graduate students in multi-field academic writing, we have both developed techniques to learn this kind of attunement, and we can potentially use LLMs to help us (not replace us) in co-researching, co-writing and co-revising our work.

Please bring your own laptop for this workshop.

12:00 - 13:00	Lunch
13:00	Bus departure from Sandbjerg to AIAS
Approx. 15:30	Arrival at AIAS