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FAKULTÄT  
FÜR MATHEMATIK, INFORMATIK  
UND NATURWISSENSCHAFTEN

TAMING THE MACHINES

# REPAIRING AI FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

PROF. DR. AIMEE VAN WYNSBERGHE  
(RHEINISCHE FRIEDRICH-WILHELMS-UNIV. BONN)

PUBLIC LECTURE  
SERIES

## About the lecture

Let us imagine that Artificial Intelligence (AI) is broken. Not in the physical sense in which pieces are falling apart and need to be put together; rather, in the metaphorical sense in which there are serious ethical concerns related to the design and development of AI that demand repair. In this talk I will outline a definition of Sustainable AI as an umbrella term to cover two branches with different aims and methods: AI *for* sustainability vs the sustainability *of* AI. I will show that AI *for* sustainability holds great promise but is lacking in one crucial aspect; it fails to account for the environmental impact from the development of AI. Alternatively, the environmental impact of AI training (and tuning) sits at the core of the sustainability *of* AI, for example measuring carbon emissions and electricity consumption, water and land usage, and regulating the mining of precious minerals. All of these environmental consequences fall on the shoulders of the most marginalized and vulnerable demographics across the globe (e.g. the slave like working conditions in the mining of minerals, the coastal communities susceptible to unpredictable weather conditions). By placing environmental consequences in the centre one is forced to recognize the environmental justice concerns underpinning all AI models. The question then becomes, how can the AI space be repaired to transform current structures and practices that systemically exacerbate environmental justice issues with the consequence of further marginalizing vulnerable groups.

**Tuesday, 25. June 2024**  
**18:15–19:45 (CEST)**

Flügelbau West, 2. OG, Raum W 221  
Edmund-Siemers-Allee 1  
20146 Hamburg

If you like to join us virtually, register at [uhh.de/inf-eit](https://uhh.de/inf-eit).

ETHIK IN DER  
INFORMATIONSTECHNOLOGIE

Kontakt: Prof. Dr. Judith Simon

