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FAKULTÄT
FÜR MATHEMATIK, INFORMATIK
UND NATURWISSENSCHAFTEN

TAMING THE MACHINES

GENERATIVE AI'S GAPPINESS:

MEANINGFULNESS, AUTHORSHIP, AND THE
CREDIT-BLAME ASYMMETRY

PROF. DR. SVEN NYHOLM (LMU MÜNCHEN)

PUBLIC LECTURE
SERIES

About the lecture

When generative AI technologies generate novel texts, images, or music in response to prompts from users of these technologies, are the resulting outputs meaningful in all the ways that human-created texts, images, or music can be meaningful? Moreover, who exactly should be considered as the author of these AI outputs? Are texts created by generative AI perhaps best considered as authorless texts? In my presentation, I will relate the above-mentioned questions to the topic of who (if anyone) can take credit for, or potentially be blameworthy for, outputs created with the help of large language models and other generative AI technologies. I will argue that there is an important asymmetry with respect to how easily people can be praiseworthy or blameworthy for outputs they create with the help of generative AI technologies: in general, it is much harder to be praiseworthy for impressive outputs of generative AI than it is to be blameworthy for harmful outputs that we may produce with generative AI. This has implications for the issues of meaning and authorship. Generative AI technologies are in important ways “gappy”: they create gaps with respect to meaning and authorship, as well as with respect to responsibility for their outputs.

Tuesday, 21. November 2023
18:15–19:45 (CET)

Flügelbau West, 2. OG, Raum W 221
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ETHIK IN DER
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