

Autonomy & Algorithms

Abstracts

The abstracts are presented in the order of the talks. We have assigned 35+35 minutes to talks.

Carina Prunkl

When does reliance on AI become a threat to autonomy?

This talk examines when reliance on AI becomes autonomy-undermining. I take debates about “overreliance” as a starting point, but argue that the term is often used to describe different concerns: undue deference to AI outputs, dependence on systems or providers, and the erosion or displacement of human capacities and practices. I suggest that these concerns need to be distinguished if we want to assess their implications for autonomy. Reliance on AI can become problematic when it changes how agents form judgments, relate to their own capacities, or remain able to question, revise, and resist the systems on which they rely.

Thu, June 11, 2026, 10:10

Keith Harris

Can epistemic autonomy survive AI?

Some forms of epistemic dependence on experts and other authoritative sources are thought to be at odds with epistemic autonomy. Social epistemologists have responded to such concerns by locating ways in which dependence on experts and other sources can manifest epistemic autonomy. Here, I argue that epistemic dependence on artificial intelligence, and especially on AI-powered chatbots, poses an especially potent threat to epistemic autonomy. What is more, some proposals for reconciling epistemic autonomy with dependency on experts are inapplicable in the case of dependence on artificial intelligence.

Thu, June 11, 2026, 11:40

Simona Chiodo

From the right to health to the duty to health? Emerging technologies, self-surveillance and the fate of human autonomy

In my presentation, first, I will offer significant cases of health self-surveillance pursued through technology and, second, I will propose a possible reading of their profound reasons by arguing that, as paradoxical as it may seem, they are a kind of desperate way out of typically neoliberal imperatives of self-optimisation and, thus, individual success. More precisely, I will argue that there is a significant sense in which health self-surveillance pursued through technology, from the case of the quantified self to the case of self-biohacking, can free us from the burden of autonomy that, especially in neoliberal societies, means the unbearable burden of being the best. Indeed, if we can increasingly replace our autonomy with our (technological) automation, we can also increasingly replace our responsibility for our failure with technology's responsibility for our failure.

Thu, June 11, 2026, 14:10

Alina Jacobs

Epistemic Autonomy and the Electronic Patient Record (ePA)

In Germany, the electronic patient record (ePA) aims to digitally store medical data and allow patients to independently manage and oversee their health information. With direct access to diagnoses and treatment records, patients can develop a better understanding of their medical situation and take an active role in managing it. However, it is unclear whether the ePA actually strengthens patients' epistemic autonomy or if it creates new challenges. Drawing on the experience of implementing the electronic patient record in Germany, this talk considers what is needed to foster epistemic autonomy and reflects on which concept of epistemic autonomy is best suited to reviewing practical cases.

Thu, June 11, 2026, 15:40

Margherita Mattioni

Epistemic Agency under Algorithmic Mediation in Social Media Platforms

This talk examines how algorithmic tools used by social media platforms for filtering, content moderation, and information verification can undermine users' epistemic autonomy, contributing to various forms of epistemic injustice. A philosophical analysis of these issues helps identify the key material and conceptual resources users need in order to adopt more responsible and effective epistemic habits, hereby improving the overall epistemic quality of these information ecosystems.

Thu, June 11, 2026, 16:50

Joshua Habgood-Coote

A Planning Theory of Deskilling

We are encouraged to think that so-called artificial intelligence systems will replace human workers. Many sociologists and political commentators have argued that in the present and on the ground, the introduction of these systems into the labour process does not replace human workers, but deskills them. From education to coding to medicine to the law, deskilling has an increasingly central role in debates about the politics of technology. It is not at all clear what 'deskilling' either does or should mean in these debates. Drawing on the work of the Marxian sociologist Harry Braverman and the non-Marxian philosopher of action Michael Bratman, I will argue that we should think about deskilling in general as concerning the structure of our planning agency, and concerns about deskilling by technology as concerning the way our agency interfaces with certain kinds of technological systems.

Fri, June 12, 2026, 10:00

Nicola Mößner

Science Tracking: Scientific Autonomy at Risk

We value scientific autonomy for different reasons, such as fostering innovation and progress or ensuring that science can serve the common good. However, the phenomenon of science tracking puts this ideal of autonomy at risk. In this talk, we will take a closer look at what 'science tracking' means: Who is responsible? How does it function? Furthermore, we will highlight the ways in which it threatens scientific autonomy on different levels.

Fri, June 12, 2026, 11:30

Leonie Buschhoff

Surveillance and Democracy: A Double-Edged Relationship in the Age of Algorithms

The rise of algorithms and the ever-growing volume of data collected mark a fundamental shift that sets modern surveillance apart from older forms of state surveillance. It is this technological transformation that makes the role of surveillance in modern democracies particularly complex and twofold. On the one hand, surveillance — especially when algorithmically driven — is seen as a threat to democratic institutions. An excessive reliance on these systems risks eroding citizens' trust in the very structures that govern them. On the other hand, the same tools may actually strengthen democracy by providing security for those living within democratic societies.

Fri, June 12, 2026, 14:10

Otto Sahlgren

On the Ethics of Memorization in Machine Learning Models

Machine learning models can memorize training data points, including sensitive information about people, which persist in the model even when the training data have been deleted and continue to influence the model's predictions. In this talk, I explore potential moral complaints against accessing or utilizing memorized data points and discuss machine unlearning as a means to make models "forget" memorized data. I argue that agents can have a duty to erase memorized data from models, and that users have a duty to dismiss model predictions as *inadmissible evidence* in restricted cases.

Fri, June 12, 2026, 15:40

Christian Seidel

Newspeak, Doublethink and Beliefs of One's Own: Reconsidering (Epistemic) Autonomy in Times of Artificial Deliberation.

The emergence of LLM-based AI systems (LAS) in deliberative contexts presents several challenges. This paper focuses on a comparatively under-explored one: how LAS challenge our understanding of personal epistemic autonomy — that is, what it means to hold beliefs that are genuinely one's own. I will delineate the specific nature of this challenge (as creating a tension). By examining the extent to which epistemic autonomy and autonomous deliberation rely on conceptual abilities such as disambiguation, differentiation, and articulacy, I will elaborate a disturbing scenario that threatens epistemic autonomy in a manner akin to, but far more profound than, Orwellian Newspeak and doublethink: the pervasive deployment of LAS in epistemic contexts could fundamentally reshape established deliberative practices, altering both how and what we think, by reshaping linguistic practices. I will conclude by tentatively drawing lessons about what fostering epistemic autonomy may require in an era of LLM-based artificial deliberation.

Fri, June 12, 2026, 16:50