

UNIVERSITY OF OSLO

AI at the Faculty of Humanities in Oslo

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HumAIIn – A Humanities Hub for the Reimagination of AI

- A network led by Taina Bucher (media and communications) and Alexander Kempton (informatics)
- Involves scholars from media and communication, cultural studies, rhetorics and informatics
- HumAIIn will analyse, critique, and reimagine artificial intelligence (AI) narratives for a just and sustainable future
 - What material presumptions and cultural imaginaries are invested in the stories surrounding and embedded within AI?
 - How can the humanities be mobilized to engage and reimagine AI in new and creative ways?

KnowAI

Rune Karlsen's project on how Generative Artificial Intelligence affects what people know, believe, and trust.

- Develop a theoretical framework for studying opinion processes in an AI-infused digital media environment
- Assess how AI influences knowledge acquisition, misinformation, and opinion formation
- Reimagine how AI can foster informed citizens and reduced polarization in society

AI and ethics

- UiO philosophers (Sebastian Watzl, Anna Smajdor) are involved in various AI projects and centers outside of the humanities
 - Integreat (Centre of excellence in machine learning)
 - AI-centre proposal “Trust”
 - Warring with machines (at the Peace research institute)

Communication with machines

Two research projects led by Ingrid Lossius Falkum (philosophy/linguistics) and Nick Allot (English linguistics)

- How do people actually interact with LLMs?
- What communicative expectations and biases do we bring to our conversations?
- Investigate how LLM 'utterances' are interpreted by
 - typically developing children
 - individuals on the autism spectrum
 - neurotypical adults

RITMO

- RITMO is a centre of excellence in musicology led by Alexander Jensenius
- Numerous activities related to AI and music
 - Deep learning for music analysis
 - Deep learning models (with raw audio IO) as musical instruments
 - Autonomous agents that can control musical devices and co-perform with humans
 - Software libraries for image to sound generation

MishMash

- MishMash is a proposed centre for AI & Creativity growing out of RITMO
- MishMash will create, explore, and reflect on AI for, through, and in creative practices (visual arts, film, VR, literature, performing arts, games, music, ...)
 - Create a national virtual research environment
 - Develop AI-based algorithms and tools applicable in creative practices
 - Build expertise on creative AI
 - Internationalise Norwegian AI research
 - Foster interdisciplinary collaboration across academic disciplines from the “soft” to the “hard”

Humit

- The Faculty of Humanities has established a centre for digital development - HUMIT led by Dag Haug
- Seven research engineers developing custom digital solutions for humanities research
- Unsurprisingly, we have seen a drift towards use of AI in our work

Language modelling at Humit

- BERT-models for Old Norse and Middle Norwegian (Norchron infrastructure project)
- LLMs for Norwegian as an academic language (Norbruk centre for Norwegian as an academic language)
- Automatic speech recognition for Norwegian as an academic language (Norbruk)
- LLM-based applications such as part-of-speech-taggers, semantic parsers (various projects)

Image transformers for archival search

- The Ottoman state archives (Turkish in Arabic script) are too complex to be amenable to OCR or HTR
- We have trained BERT-type image transformers on the photos
- The model can be fine-tuned to search for specific words (as a picture component)



Outlook

- A lot of activity both on AI and using AI
- Set to continue, with many new initiatives
- Still a challenge to create good arenas for meetings between technical expertise and humanities researchers

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