# Rethinking the Human in the Age of AI

## Perspectives from **Europe** and the **Sinophone World**

人工智能

12–13 November 2026

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST)

cefc
French Centre for Research on Contemporary China
法國現代中國研究中心

# Rethinking the Human in the Age of AI:
## Perspectives from Europe and the Sinophone World

**Organised by**

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# THE CEFC

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Created in 1991, the **French Centre for Research on Contemporary China (CEFC)** is the only European research centre in China entirely devoted to the study of contemporary China, in the field of social sciences and humanities. Since 1994, it has an office in Taipei.

The CEFC is a publicly funded research institute, part of the network of the 27 French research centres abroad (UMIFRE) supported by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the CNRS (French National Centre for Scientific Research).

The CEFC is hosted on the campus of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST), a prestigious partner with whom the Centre organises conferences and events.

**OUR MISSIONS:**

- To welcome and support scholars and students who are visiting China, by giving them access to workspaces and resources.
- To foster scientific activity, by organising research seminars and international conferences.
- To promote doctoral research by funding mobility grants and hosting the awardees in the Centre.
- To publish a multidisciplinary academic journal, *China Perspectives*.

"On behalf of the CEFC team, I am pleased to welcome you to this international conference, 'Rethinking the Human in the Age of AI.'

We will be discussing a challenging and timely topic. At a time when scientific and technological developments can sometimes push humans aside, it seems particularly important to put the human being back at the centre of the debate. As social scientists, we believe that the human dimension deserves a central place in discussions of AI.

We hope that these two days of stimulating intellectual exchange will foster dialogue between Europe and China and pave the way for future collaborations."

**Florence Padovani**, Director of the CEFC

# THE EVENT

One of the defining features of modern societies is that humans themselves assume responsibility for deciding what counts as human. The possibility – whether real or imagined – that AI might one day relieve us of this task points to a different form of life, one in which this arrangement no longer appears self-evident.

In Europe and the Sinophone world alike, scholars, professionals, artists, and policymakers are increasingly debating the implications of these developments. Since these discussions do not always circulate across disciplinary, linguistic, and geographical boundaries, the French Centre for Research on Contemporary China (CEFC) is organising a two-day event to bring voices from both sides into dialogue.

Who should decide what counts as human today?

This question arises in a growing number of fields. In law, it concerns responsibility, rights, and the protection of human dignity. In education, publishing, science, and the arts, professionals are increasingly confronted with forms of production that challenge established understandings of authorship, creativity, expertise, and judgment. In medicine and healthcare, AI appears both as a potential response to major social challenges and as a source of new ethical dilemmas. In all these fields, AI not only raises practical questions; it also provides new models through which we imagine human capacities, limitations, and forms of agency.

This event builds on the roundtable cycle “The Humanities and Social Sciences Meet AI” organised by the CEFC in 2026.

# PROGRAMME

**Venue: Council Chamber,** Room 7336, 7/F, Lifts 13/15, Academic Building, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST), Clear Water Bay, Hong Kong.

## **12 November 2026** (Thursday)

**09:00–09:30** – Registration and welcoming coffee

**09:30–10:00** – Opening remarks and group photo

- **Florence PADOVANI**, Director of the French Centre for Research on Contemporary China (CEFC)
- **Yike GUO,** Provost, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST)
- **Ping LI**, Dean of Humanities and Social Science, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST)
- **Fabien FIESCHI**, Consul General of France in Hong Kong and Macau

## PART 1: How Is the Human Defined and Protected by Law?

**10:00–12:15** – Panel discussion: How Is the Human Defined and Protected by Law?

- **Michel CANNARSA** (Lyon Catholic University, Lyon, France)
- **Xinhua FU** (Beijing Jiaotong University, Beijing, China)
- **Wenlong LI** (Zhejiang University, Hangzhou, China)
- **Frédérique MICHÉA** (University of Rennes, Rennes, France)
- Chair: **Yongshun CAI** (Division of Social Science, HKUST, Hong Kong SAR)

**12:15–14:00** – Lunch

## PART 2: Production of Knowledge, Authorship, and Agency

**14:00–14:30** – Keynote – **Jean-Claude RUANO-BORBALAN** (Cnam, Paris, France): "Knowledge Production in the Age of AI: Narratives, Scientific Judgment and the Human"

**14:30–16:15** – Panel discussion: Human Intellectual Work in the Age of AI

- **Matthieu HUSSON** (CNRS, Paris, France)
- **Thorben PELZER** (Division of Humanities, HKUST, Hong Kong SAR)
- **Celine Yunya SONG** (Division of Emerging Interdisciplinary Areas, HKUST, Hong Kong SAR)
- Chair: **James WONG** (Division of Social Science, HKUST, Hong Kong SAR)

**16:15–16:35** – Coffee break

**16:35–18:20** – Panel discussion: Rethinking the Human: Creativity, Reality, and Human–Machine Relations

- **Tristan BRAUD** (Division of Integrative Systems and Design, HKUST, Hong Kong SAR)
- **Vennes CHENG** (Division of Arts and Machine Creativity, HKUST, Hong Kong SAR)
- **Camille SALGUES** (CEFC, French Centre for Research on Contemporary China)
- **Zhen WU** (Division of Integrative Systems and Design, HKUST, Hong Kong SAR)
- Chair: **James SIMPSON** (Division of Humanities, HKUST, Hong Kong SAR)

**18:30** – Artistic performance and cocktail reception

## PART 3: Medicine and Ethical Challenges Raised by AI

**09:30–10:00** – Registration and welcoming coffee

**10:00–10:45** – Keynote – **François BERGER** (Grenoble Alpes University, Grenoble, France): "AI, Health and the Human: From Augmented Intelligence to Single-Patient Focus"

**10:45–12:45** – Panel discussion: Medicine and Ethical Challenges Raised by AI

- **Joffrey BECKER** (National School of Electronics and its Applications (ENSEA), Cergy, France)
- **Roger CHUNG** (The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK), Hong Kong SAR)
- **Jean-Marc VAN GYSEGHEM** (Rawlings Giles and University of Namur, Namur, Belgium)
- **David C.C. LAM** (School of Engineering, HKUST, Hong Kong SAR)
- **Malo MOFAKHAMI** (Sorbonne Paris North University, Paris, France)
- Chair: **Carl HILDEBRAND** (LKS Faculty of Medicine, University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong SAR)

**12:45–13:00** – Concluding remarks: **Florence PADOVANI**, Director of the French Centre for Research on Contemporary China

## Additional Event

**14:30–16:30** – Seminar – **Matthieu HUSSON**: "Governing the Memory Engine: A History of AI Through its Governance" (Discussant: **Thorben PELZER**)

# Panel: "How Is the Human Defined and Protected by Law?"

**12 November 2026** / 10:00–12:15

## Michel CANNARSA

Lyon Catholic University, Lyon, France



Michel Cannarsa is Professor of Private Law and Dean of the Faculty of Law at Lyon Catholic University (UCLy). His areas of research are law and technology, international and European law, commercial law, comparative law, consumer law, law of obligations, and legal translation.

His recent works have focused on the interaction between law and technology, contract, and products liability law, including the *Research Handbook on the Metaverse and Law* (Edward Elgar, 2024, with L. DiMatteo), *The Cambridge Handbook of Artificial Intelligence – Global Perspectives on Law and Ethics* (Cambridge University Press, 2022, with L. DiMatteo and C. Poncibò), *The Cambridge Handbook of Lawyering in the Digital Age* (Cambridge University Press, 2021, with L. DiMatteo, M. Durovic, F. De Elizalde, A. Janssen and P. Ortolani), *The Cambridge Handbook of Smart Contracts, Blockchain Technology and Digital Platforms* (Cambridge University Press, 2019). He is a member of the editorial board of the *European Review of Private Law*, a fellow of the European Law Institute and Member of the ELI's Council, a member of UCLy Research Unit's Scientific Committee as well as of UCLy Vulnerability Research Group's Scientific Committee.

## Xinhua FU

Beijing Jiaotong University, Beijing, China



Xinhua Fu is an Associate Professor at the School of Law, Beijing Jiaotong University, and Director of the Research Center for Data Law. Her research lies at the intersection of jurisprudence, data law, and AI governance, with a particular focus on how digital technologies reshape human agency, rights, and responsibility. Her recent work addresses personal information protection, data rights, platform responsibility, large AI models, and AI agents.

Her current research examines how increasingly capable AI systems are reshaping the relationship between humans and machines. As AI develops greater capacities for learning, adaptation, content generation, and autonomous action, it challenges existing legal frameworks and prompts us to reconsider human autonomy and agency. Through her research on personal information protection, AI agents, and platform responsibility, she explores how law can preserve human dignity, autonomy, and ultimate decision-making authority. This connects directly with the panel's central question: how should law define and protect the human as AI becomes increasingly capable?

## Wenlong LI

Zhejiang University, Hangzhou, China



Wenlong Li is a Research Professor at Zhejiang University, specialising in the transnational and global regulation of artificial intelligence. He is a member of UNESCO's AI Ethics Without Borders, Scientific Expert for the International Panel on the Information Environment (IPIE), and Research Affiliate at the Edinburgh Centre for Data, Culture & Society (CDCS). Wenlong Li also serves as Associate Editor of *International Data Privacy Law* (OUP), Editor of the Future Law book series at Edinburgh University Press, and Country Correspondent (China) for the *Journal of AI Law and Regulation* (lexxion). As Executive Guest Editor, he is currently organising a special issue on AI regulation in Asia with *Computer Law & Security Review* (Elsevier). Prior to joining Zhejiang University, Wenlong Li developed a hybrid academic–industry career. He held several academic appointments in the United Kingdom, including Guest Lecturer and Editor of SCRIPTed at the University of Edinburgh, Interdisciplinary Research Fellow in Law, Ethics and Computer at the University of Birmingham, and Lecturer in AI Law at Aston University (open-ended). Alongside his academic roles, he worked in full-time research and governance positions within leading technology companies including TikTok (Privacy & Data Protection Office), Alibaba (Research) and Tencent (Research). Wenlong Li completed his PhD in IT Law at the University of Edinburgh.

## Frédérique MICHÉA

University of Rennes, Rennes, France



Lecturer in European Union Law and co-director of the Master's degree in European Law at the University of Rennes (France), Frédérique Michéa is a member of the team "European Integration" in the Research Laboratory Institut de l'Ouest: Droit et Europe (IODE, UMR CNRS 6262). Her research agenda focuses on the substantive and institutional law of the European Union (EU) and pays particular attention to the way in which EU law is evolving in response to the increasingly widespread use of information technology (IT), such as algorithms and artificial intelligence (AI) systems. Data law, social law, health law and criminal law all represent fertile areas of research for analyzing the changes that EU law is undergoing as it is linked to IT and the automated procedures that govern them.

In her research, Frédérique Michéa examined the legal mechanisms tailored to assure that EU regulation is consistent with the objective of keeping people at the heart of AI development. These include the risk-based approach, the fundamental rights impact assessments (FRIAs), the standardization work aiming at incorporating ethical principles for AI into the technical standards currently being drawn up, the guarantee of an effective human oversight during the deployment of AI systems, and the treatment of individual rights in the context of decisions made by high-risk AI systems impacting health, safety and fundamental rights of the person.

## (Chair) **Yongshun CAI**

Division of Social Science, HKUST, Hong Kong SAR



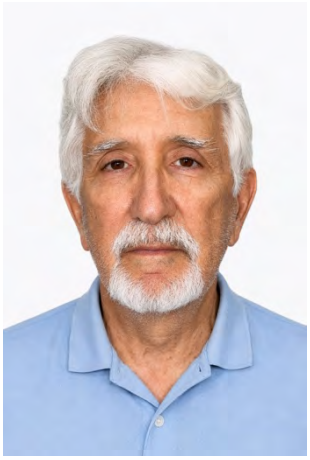
Yongshun Cai is Chair Professor and Head of the Division of Social Science at HKUST. His current research interests include governance, institution building, and dispute resolution in China and Hong Kong society.

# Keynote: "Knowledge Production in the Age of AI: Narratives, Scientific Judgment and the Human"

**12 November 2026** / 14:00–14:30

## Jean-Claude RUANO-BORBALAN

Cnam (Conservatoire national des arts et métiers), Paris, France



Jean-Claude Ruano-Borbalan is Professor at the Conservatoire national des arts et métiers (Cnam, Paris), where he holds the Chair "Technology and Science in Society." Trained as a social historian at Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne University, he works at the intersection of the anthropology and socio-history of knowledge, Science and Technology Studies, and research on higher education and research systems. His long-term work examines the production, circulation and legitimation of knowledge and, comparatively, the convergence and divergence of higher education and research systems under the effects of massification, internationalisation, evaluation, innovation policies, doctoral transformation and artificial intelligence. China is a major comparative setting: he collaborates with Tsinghua and Beihang University on higher education and research governance, doctoral education, innovation and science mediation. He has also developed long-standing cooperation with the China Academy of Art in Hangzhou. His comparative activities extend to European projects including Erasmus+ SQUARE and Horizon BRIDGE, work related to Industry 5.0 and open science, and collaborations with Ilia State University in Georgia and Mohammed VI Polytechnic University in Morocco, etc. His recent work also addresses scientific judgment, critical thinking, experiential knowledge, and Digital Humanism, understood through the historical entanglement and co-evolution of human capacities, technologies and institutions.

His current research on AI is part of a broader programme on the production and legitimation of knowledge and the comparative transformation of higher education and research systems. Rather than treating AI as the autonomous cause of a technological "revolution," he examines how it interacts with institutions already reshaped by massification, internationalisation, evaluation, innovation policies, digital infrastructures and changing relations between teaching and research, and how its effects vary across national contexts, particularly in Europe and China. A related strand focuses on the intellectual

operations through which knowledge is produced and validated. His work on narrative examines how temporalisation, causal configuration, comparison and interpretation generate scientific intelligibility, while requiring a clear distinction between coherence, plausibility and warranted knowledge. Doctoral research offers a complementary site for studying the formation of scientific judgment, including problem construction, interpretation, revision anmd judgment under uncertainty; a current programme combines empirical research with an experimental AI agent designed to support questioning and reflexivity rather than replace the researcher. These issues also connect with his longer-standing work on scientific, professional and experiential knowledge, critical thinking and regimes of truth. More broadly, he approaches AI as a composite sociotechnical object, shaped by artefacts, scientific discourses, industrial strategies, public policies and imaginaries. From a Digital Humanism perspective, the issue is not to defend an immutable human essence against machines, but to understand and govern the co-evolution of human capacities, technologies and institutions, particularly in relation to autonomy, responsibility, standardisation, control and collective deliberation about technological futures.

## Panel: "Human Intellectual Work in the Age of AI"

**12 November 2026** / 14:30–16:15

### Matthieu HUSSON

CNRS, Paris, France



Matthieu Husson is an *agrégé* in mathematics and holds a doctorate in history. He is a CNRS researcher at the Paris Observatory – PSL, working within the history of astronomy team at the *Laboratoire Temps Espace*. His scholarship focuses on the history of mathematics and astronomy in late medieval Western Europe (1200–1500), examining source criticism, historiography, and computational instruments. For over a decade, Husson has worked at the intersection of history and digital tools, notably directing the ERC ALFA project and developing the DISHAS information system. Blending technical acumen with historical inquiry, he serves on the steering committee of Université PSL's DHAI (Digital Humanities meets AI) initiative and, since 2025, acts as Scientific Deputy for AI at the CNRS Institute for Humanities and Social Sciences (INSHS).

Husson approaches Artificial Intelligence both as an advanced methodological tool and as an object of historical inquiry. He pioneered computational techniques to extract, edit, and analyze non-discursive historical sources, leading the ANR projects EIDA (2023–2027) and HAIKIDO (2026–2029) to process astronomical tables and diagrams using AI. In 2024, he co-organized the CNRS/AISSAI thematic semester on Digital Humanities and AI. Beyond technical implementation, Husson interrogates AI as an epistemological object: a long-term historical process of externalizing human cognition, embedded within material, political, and industrial structures. Leveraging his dual expertise in mathematics and history, his work deconstructs polarized narratives of technological progress or decline, advocating for hybrid, interpretable systems capable of handling the nuanced "Smart Data" characteristic of humanistic cultural heritage.

## Thorben PELZER

Division of Humanities, HKUST, Hong Kong SAR



Dr. Thorben Pelzer is an assistant professor in digital humanities at Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. As a trained China historian, he researches the social history of Republican China. This includes publications on infrastructure and space, as well as the role of engineering. His books include a history of civil engineers entitled *Engineering Trouble: US–Chinese Experiences of Professional Discontent* and, in German, the general audience book *100 Maps of China*. His articles have been published in *Twentieth Century China*, *History of Education* and *East Asian Science, Technology and Society*. Thorben Pelzer has also served as treasurer of the German Association for China Studies since 2021.

Thorben Pelzer most recently discusses the use of AI as a site of knowledge production in a forthcoming research essay titled "AI as a Method in Chinese History Research," to be published in Chinese in *Twenty-first Century*, based on a keynote by the same name. He also uses AI agents in his daily workflow to co-design his programme codes and discusses the challenges and opportunities of AI in his seminars.

## Celine Yunya SONG

Division of Emerging Interdisciplinary Areas, HKUST, Hong Kong SAR



Celine Yunya Song is Professor and Head of the Division of Emerging Interdisciplinary Areas (EMIA) at The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST), Director of the Media Intelligence Research Center (MIRC), and President-elect of the International Communication Association (ICA). Her interdisciplinary scholarship examines how artificial intelligence, digital media, and emerging technologies transform communication, knowledge production, and human agency.

Her recent work starts from a question sharpened by generative AI: what happens to knowledge, authorship, and agency when intelligent systems move from instruments of communication to participants in it? Rather than treating AI as a tool that merely accelerates existing human practices, she examines how AI reshapes the conditions under which knowledge is produced, evaluated, attributed, and trusted.

## (Chair) James WONG

Division of Social Science, HKUST, Hong Kong SAR



James K. Wong is Associate Dean of Humanities and Social Science and Associate Professor of Social Science Education in the Division of Social Science and the Division of Public Policy at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST). His research and teaching center on the ethics and governance of science, technology, and sustainability. His scholarly work appears in *AI and Ethics*, *Political Studies*, and *Philosophy Compass*. An award-winning educator, James Wong has spearheaded innovative teaching initiatives, including the HKUST Inter-University Case Analysis x AI Competition. He holds a PhD in Government from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) and is a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (FHEA).

# Panel: “Rethinking the Human: Creativity, Reality, and Human–Machine Relations”

**12 November 2026** / 16:35–18:20

## Tristan BRAUD

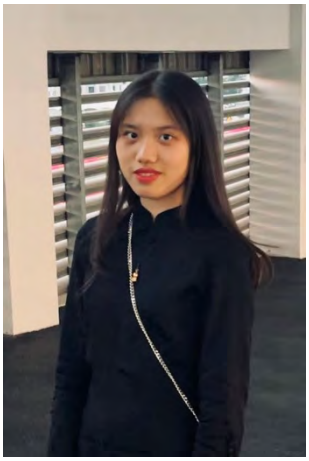
Division of Integrative Systems and Design, HKUST, Hong Kong SAR



Dr. Tristan Braud is an Assistant Professor in the Division of Integrative Systems and Design at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST), where he leads the Extended Reality and Immersive Media Lab (XRIM Lab). His research explores the intersection between pervasive computing and human-centred systems design, leveraging extended reality as its primary medium. As part of his research, Tristan Braud actively explores the intersection between technology and artistic expression through several projects that integrate sensing, AI, and extended reality into installations and performances.

## Zhen WU

Division of Integrative Systems and Design, HKUST, Hong Kong SAR



Zhen Wu (Yoyo) is a researcher, designer, and artist in interactive systems, with an interest in sensorial interface and emergent interactive art. She is a PhD candidate at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, where her research focuses on crafting emergent, artistic experiences that are embedded in ubiquitous sensing systems. She develops generative data-driven art systems across various media – digital games, textiles, performance, and installation. She also creates AI-driven creativity support tools for emergent art.

Tristan Braud and Zhen Wu’s research operates at the intersection of ubiquitous computing, creativity support, and media art. Centred on the concept of emergence, their work presents an alternative investigation of knowledge production, authorship, and agency within human-machine ecosystems. Rather than treating authorship as a top-down construct governed by a single human, they examine a distributed model where agency is dynamically shared among authors, users, generative intelligent systems, and physical environments. This approach is reflected in their development of creativity support tools for human-AI authoring that emphasize process over immediacy. These concepts are further leveraged in interactive art systems that challenge the strict one-to-one mappings typical of environmental sensing instruments in ubiquitous computing. Audiences are no longer treated as passive data points to be sensed, nor as anthropocentric directors, rather becoming entangled with the system and its physical environment. Generative AI is deployed to materialize this entanglement, enabling emergent outputs driven by an expanded network of more-than-human actors. In these systems, knowledge production does not exist prior to usage. Instead, it is imparted to the audience interacting with the system. These real-time, embodied negotiations between the users and the system result in unpredictable possibilities of physical reality and machine.

## Vennes CHENG

Division of Arts and Machine Creativity, HKUST, Hong Kong SAR



Dr Vennes Cheng is a Hong Kong-based scholar and curator, currently serving as faculty member in the Division of Arts and Machine Creativity at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. Formerly an Associate Curator of Hong Kong Visual Culture at M+ and a research fellow at the documenta institut, she holds a PhD in Art History from The Chinese University of Hong Kong and an MA in Cultural Studies from Goldsmiths, University of London, where she was a UK Chevening Scholar.

Her research explores the intersection of contemporary art, archival practices, and the politics of memory. Her monograph, *Archive as Detour* (2024), investigates archival art and artist archives as structure of historical knowledge production. Recognised for her scholarship, she received an honourable mention for the 2023 *Journal of Visual Culture* Early Career Researcher Prize. Her curatorial projects have been realised across Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Southeast Asia, reflecting her commitment to mapping new, adaptive archival architectures through both analogue and digital methodologies.

Vennes Cheng's current research investigates how emerging technologies, such as AI, VR, and XR, transform the archive from a static repository into a dynamic, generative space of critical speculation. By examining artistic projects that employ "constellation rearrangements" of fragmented collections and technological reenactments, she explores a fundamental shift in the production of knowledge: moving historical truth from fixed, indexical evidence to digital, probabilistic plausibility. Furthermore, it interrogates questions of authorship and agency by analysing how machine intelligence and immersive media dismantle traditional, retrospective historiography, allowing the past to be perpetually re-encoded as a living, affective, and participatory contemporary event.

## Camille SALGUES

CEFC (French Centre for Research on Contemporary China)



Camille Salgues is a researcher at the French Centre for Research on Contemporary China (CEFC) in Hong Kong, an associate researcher at UESTC (Chengdu), and Chief Editor of *China Perspectives*, an SSCI journal on contemporary China. He completed his PhD at the School for Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences (EHESS) in Paris and subsequently worked in China (at Sun Yat-sen University and South China Normal University) as a postdoctoral researcher, focusing on rural childhood and disadvantaged children. He is also interested in questions of epistemology and intercultural scientific dialogue. He is the author of *Une après-midi à Shanghai: L'enfance et la question anthropologique de l'âge* (*An Afternoon in Shanghai: Childhood and Age as an Anthropological Question*, 2024, IES), and has translated several scholarly books and articles from English into French, including Vivian Zelizer's *Pricing the Priceless Child* (*Fixer la valeur monétaire des enfants*, translated with Francine Mores, 2024, Éditions de la rue d'Ulm).

His interest in AI stems from two aspects of his work – not to mention his own rather enthusiastic use of it. As an academic journal editor, he cannot avoid the questions of authorship raised by AI in his daily work. Should we try to identify or detect AI-generated articles? Should we encourage authors to use AI, for instance when it comes to language and style? In addition, his current research examines the poetics and politics of contemporary social sciences and humanities, from the perspective of childhood studies and China studies. In particular, he pays attention to how the writing dimension of academic

work remains relatively undertheorized, especially when compared with the attention we devote to fieldwork. As a result, writing often remains more normative and less reflexive than other stages of the research process. This leads him to ask whether some features of contemporary knowledge production may have prepared the ground for AI to take over part of the work traditionally associated with authorship.

## (Chair) **James SIMPSON**

Division of Humanities, HKUST, Hong Kong SAR



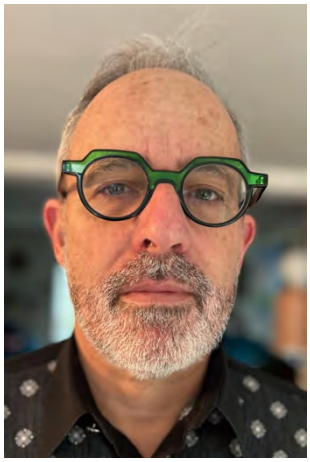
James Simpson is Professor and Acting Head in the Division of Humanities at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, where he is also the academic director of the Masters programme in International Language Education. Prior to joining HKUST in 2021 he worked for many years at the School of Education, University of Leeds, UK. His research interests lie in migrant language education and the sociolinguistics of mobility. His work coheres around a concern with social justice, particularly for people on the move, and of what it means to belong. His books include *ESOL: A Critical Guide* (OUP, 2008, with Melanie Cooke), the *Routledge Handbook of Applied Linguistics* (2011; 2nd ed. 2023), *Adult Migrant Language Education: Challenging Agendas in Policy and Practice* (Routledge 2015, edited with Anne Whiteside), *Translanguaging as Transformation* (Multilingual Matters 2020, edited with Emilee Moore and Jessica Bradley), and *Language Learning for Adult Migrants in Europe* (Routledge 2024, edited with Sari Pöyhönen). He is the editor of the Applied Linguistics volume of the recently-published *Encyclopedia of Language and Linguistics* (Elsevier 2026).

# Keynote: "AI, Health and the Human: From Augmented Intelligence to Single-Patient Focus"

**13 November 2026** / 10:00–10:45

## **François BERGER**

Grenoble Alpes University, Grenoble, France



François Berger is Professor of Cell Biology and Neuro-Oncology at Grenoble Alpes University and Director of the BrainTech Lab, a multidisciplinary translational research laboratory bringing together clinicians, biologists, engineers and technology experts to develop innovative approaches for brain diseases and first-in-human proof-of-concept studies.

Building on Grenoble's pioneering tradition in neurotechnology, his research has focused on bridging advanced technologies and clinical medicine, particularly in neuro-oncology. His team developed BrainPrint, a patented micro- and nanostructured silicon technology designed to access and molecularly characterize otherwise difficult-to-sample brain territories. The approach was translated into a first proof-of-concept clinical study in patients with glioblastoma supported by the French National Cancer Institute (INCa), opening new perspectives for spatially resolved precision medicine. His research also explores innovative therapeutic approaches combining local drug delivery with electrical and mechanical modulation of the brain and tumor microenvironment, including theranostic nanotechnologies (Graphene and spintronics). More recently, his team has developed a nanoporous silicon-based

organoid/tumoroid platform designed to capture and preserve patient-specific tissue and microenvironmental complexity, providing a functional biological avatar of individual disease.

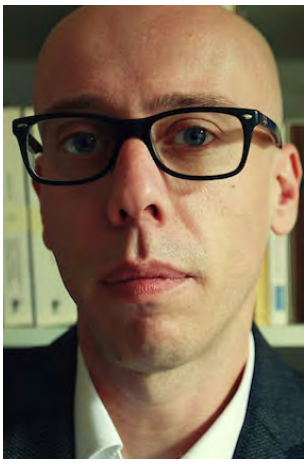
His current research focuses on integrating these living biological avatars with multimodal patient data, digital twins and artificial intelligence to develop N-of-1 precision medicine. The objective is to move beyond population-based prediction toward a closed-loop strategy in which AI generates individualized therapeutic hypotheses, biological avatars experimentally test them, and longitudinal patient data continuously refine therapeutic decisions. At the interface between artificial intelligence, neurotechnology and human biology, his work ultimately aims to develop AI not as a replacement for human medical intelligence, but as an equitable tool for augmented, individualized and more human medicine.

## Panel: "Medicine and Ethical Challenges Raised by AI"

**13 November 2026** / 10:45–12:45

### Joffrey BECKER

National School of Electronics and its Applications (ENSEA), Cergy, France



Trained in social anthropology at EHESS and in Sciences Po's Programme in Arts and Politics, Joffrey Becker teaches at the National School of Electronics and its Applications (ENSEA) and conducts research at the ETIS Lab (CNRS, CY Cergy Paris University, ENSEA). Since the late 2000s, his work has examined human–machine relationships in robotics and AI, exploring how intelligent systems challenge established models at ontological, interactional, and societal levels. Through interdisciplinary and collaborative approaches involving public and private partners, he studies how AI and robotics are reconfiguring contemporary relationships and practices.

His scholarly work spans peer-reviewed articles and book chapters, the book *Humanoïdes. Expérimentations croisées entre arts et sciences* (Presses Universitaires de Paris Ouest, 2015), edited volumes and special issues, and audiovisual research, notably with the film *Routines*, selected for the Jean Rouch International Festival in 2023. His research lies at the intersection of anthropology, robotics, cognitive science, science and technology studies and artistic practices, while engaging directly with the scientific communities he studies.

Joffrey Becker's current work focuses on the design and evaluation of robotic objects intended for care settings, deliberately moving away from the dominant models of social robotics based on anthropomorphic imitation. His projects use non-mimetic technical objects as a means of exploring what forms of presence, communication and agency can support vulnerable lives without replacing the human relationships that surround them. The interdisciplinary project Réespiration, carried out in collaboration with the R3S department at the Pitié-Salpêtrière Hospital and ENSAD, explores, for example, a behavioral object that opens a channel of mediation around dyspnoea. The MR2S (Robotic Mediation in Healthcare) project, led with Mathilda Gaulard and Juliette Flamant within the Neurocybernetics team at the ETIS laboratory in partnership with Mutuelle La Mayotte, adopts a participatory design approach to develop a mediation robot for children with autism spectrum disorder. This device aims to support the relationship between children and adults. In both cases, the research seeks to restore the robot's status as a tool serving existing care practices, rather than allowing it to become an autonomous social agent capable of replacing them. This approach closely involves professionals and families in the very design of the devices.

## Roger CHUNG

The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK), Hong Kong SAR

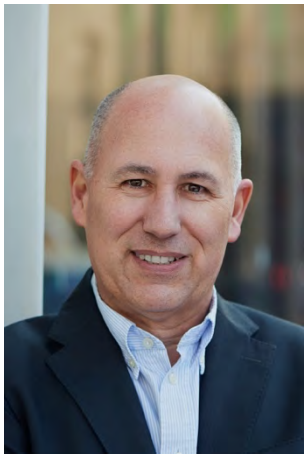


Roger Yat-Nork Chung, PhD, MBE, MHS, is a social epidemiologist and bioethicist who uses the lens of biomedical ethics and justice to examine the social determinants of health, health inequalities, and end-of-life care. A graduate of Johns Hopkins University with a Bachelor of Arts (Public Health Sciences), the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health with a Master of Health Science, Harvard Medical School (HMS) with a Master of Science in Bioethics, and the University of Hong Kong with a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in social and lifecourse epidemiology, he currently serves as Associate Director (Advanced Education) and Associate Professor at the JC School of Public Health and Primary Care of the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK). He is also the Co-Director of the CUHK Centre for Bioethics, spearheading bioethics research, education, and community engagement programs in Hong Kong, an Affiliate of the HMS Center for Bioethics, and was the inaugural US National Academy of Medicine (NAM) International Health Policy Fellow (2018-20), where he participated in two consensus studies on healthy longevity and global vaccine policies to counter pandemic threats.

His current research investigates social determinants such as poverty, deprivation, socioeconomic disadvantage, environmental and housing factors, and migrant status. He is also interested in the health of migrant workers and rare disease patients. Additionally, his research on end-of-life care focuses on the ethics of advance directives and voluntary medical aid in dying (commonly known as voluntary euthanasia). By integrating local cultural and philosophical perspectives, his bioethical analysis seeks to contextualize these issues within a field traditionally dominated by Western philosophical frameworks. Looking toward the future of healthcare, his newer lines of inquiry delve into the ethical challenges posed by artificial intelligence and emerging technologies. Collectively, the purpose of his research is to inform health services and public policy, domestically and beyond.

## Jean-Marc VAN GYSEGHEM

Rawlings Giles and University of Namur, Namur, Belgium



Jean-Marc Van Gyseghem is Director of Research and Deputy Director at the Centre for Research on Information, Law and Society at the University of Namur. Since November 2014, he has also been Administrative and Financial Director of the Master's program in Digital Law as well as the conferences “@Crids” and DataSafe programs. He also teaches courses on data protection in the digital world. Since 2018, he has been a senior lecturer at the Catholic University of Lyon, where he teaches data protection and fundamental rights. He is also a member of the Scientific Council of the Confluence Research Unit and a guest researcher in the research group “Thematic, Problematic and Objectives of the Research Group.” His field of research is personal data protection and AI — more specifically, medical data (telematics, healthcare networks, digital twin, etc.) — at both the Belgian and European levels. He is also Chairman of the Ethics Committee of the Belgian Health Council. In parallel, he has been an attorney at law since 1997 and is a founding partner of the law firm Rawlings Giles, specializing in privacy, medical and hospital law, and insurance. He is also an expert for the ITU (the UN's specialized agency for information and communication technologies), mainly in data protection. He has written several articles and given numerous lectures on privacy, AI and patient rights.

Artificial intelligence (AI hereafter) is being used in more and more fields, including medicine. It turns out that, thanks to AI, certain diseases such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's can be detected more than 10 years earlier than with conventional diagnostic methods. Furthermore, AI also makes it possible to develop personalized medicine using digital twins. However, this raises both legal and ethical issues. His concerns therefore focus, on the one hand, on the data processed in this digital representation — both in terms of quality and proportionality in compliance with GDPR — and, on the other hand, on the patient's informational self-determination regarding the processing of their personal data, particularly in its ethical and legal dimensions. Of course, these issues cannot be addressed without keeping in mind the AI Act adopted by the European Union.

## David C. C. LAM

School of Engineering, HKUST, Hong Kong SAR



David C. C. Lam is a Professor in the School of Engineering at The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST). His work spans biomedical engineering, medical devices, diagnostics, and translational healthcare technologies. He works with clinicians, healthcare institutions, and industry partners on the development and evaluation of technologies in healthcare settings. His recent work includes the use of routine clinical data to support disease screening and diagnosis, with experiences in in clinical validation, implementation, and regulatory translation.

David Lam's current research focuses on diagnostic and screening technologies based on routine clinical investigations of heart diseases, cancers, and strokes, including software-based medical technologies intended for regulatory approval and clinical deployment. His work is concerned with the translation of new technologies into healthcare systems, encompassing clinical validation, regulatory requirements, efficiency, implementation, and economic sustainability and equity in low resource settings. His work has given him insight into the practical realities of adopting, scaling, and delivering real-world impact through emerging technologies in healthcare settings beyond the laboratory.

## Malo MOFAKHAMI

Sorbonne Paris North University, Paris, France



Malo Mofakhami holds a PhD in economics from Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne University (2019). His thesis studied the links between innovation dynamics and job quality in the European Union. He is now an Associate Professor at Sorbonne Paris North University (IRIS), affiliated with CEET-CNAM, and on CNRS abroad research stay at IFRJ-MFJ in Tokyo. His work sits at the intersection of labour economics, health economics, and the economics of innovation. He asks how technology adoption, digitalisation and new forms of work organisation affect working conditions, job satisfaction and workers' health. He has contributed to several interdisciplinary projects.

Malo Mofakhami's current research has one guiding question: who benefits from technological change, and under what conditions does it improve or harm people's working lives and health? He is currently involved in an international research project (about sixty researchers in France and Japan), InnovCare, "Care-led innovation: the case of eldercare in France and Japan" (ANR-23-PAVH-0005), disciplines included social

sciences, medicine, engineering and robotics. The project starts from one diagnosis: the needs of older people and the technologies offered to them are partly disconnected. It asks how innovation could start from care instead. Malo Mofakhami develops, in collaboration with an interdisciplinary team, the concept of care-led innovation. Digital, robotic, and data-intensive technologies, including AI, are multiplying to support ageing in place and improve care. Frameworks to judge whether these tools are relevant, coherent and good for society have not kept pace. The usual tools, user-centred design and health technology assessment, mostly look at one technology at a time, at clinical outcomes or at economic efficiency. They miss the relational, ethical and system-level sides of care. His current research contributes to proposing a new framework to enable innovation in the interests of Care, driven by a logic different from the current market-led one. This normative perspective is based on a comprehensive diagnosis of the ambivalent effects of AI and the need to anticipate the vulnerabilities it is creating.

## (Chair) **Carl HILDEBRAND**

LKS Faculty of Medicine, University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong SAR



Carl Hildebrand is Assistant Professor at the Medical Ethics and Humanities Unit, School of Clinical Medicine, LKS Faculty of Medicine, University of Hong Kong, and Research Associate at the Centre for Medical Ethics and Law. He holds a DPhil in Philosophy from the University of Oxford. His research sits at the intersection of bioethics, moral psychology, and the philosophy of medicine. He has published on the nature of empathy, moral character and emotion, and the ethical implications of artificial intelligence in healthcare, including work on LLMs and informed consent. Current research focuses on the evolving doctor-patient relationship in the age of clinical AI. Other projects engage philosophical questions related to forgiveness, moral trauma, and friendship among other things. Carl recently worked on the team that designed a new AI literacy course for the Faculty of Medicine at HKU, coordinating the portion concerned with AI ethics.

# Additional Event: "Governing the Memory Engine: A History of AI Through its Governance"

**13 November 2026** / 14:30–16:30

Speaker: **Matthieu HUSSON** (CNRS, Paris, France)
Discussant: **Thorben PELZER**, Assistant Professor of Digital Humanities, Division of Humanities (HKUST)

Most histories of artificial intelligence follow one of two paths. Internalist accounts narrate a cumulative progression toward thinking machines; critical accounts diagnose the extraction, labour and surveillance on which today's systems rest. This lecture presents a third approach, from my book in progress The Inventions of a Future: a history of AI centred not on intelligence but on memory. From the symbolic programs of the 1950s to today's generative models, AI can be read as an effort to make the archive act: to keep the past in a form that produces decisions. This effort has taken three forms, or memory regimes: rules written by experts and held inside the program; statistical engines coupled to databases they read but do not contain; and large models that absorb their archives into their parameters.

Rather than retelling the technical history, the lecture tests this framework on a question it was not built for: the governance of AI. It argues that governance has attached, in each regime, to wherever memory sits. Funders audited programs whose rules they could read; data-protection law governed files and the decisions drawn from them; courts and legislators now work around models whose memory cannot be separated from the machine, through training data, memorized outputs and computing thresholds. Governance does not only constrain: funding, academic legitimacy, commercial and civil law have also made each regime possible, often before any friction revealed their limits. The lecture closes by asking what the framework explains, where it strains, and who governs AI when memory can no longer be read.

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