



WebSci'26

18th ACM Web Science Conference 2026

Celebrating 20 Years of Web Science
May 26-29, 2026 in Braunschweig, Germany



Program for the 18th ACM Web Science Conference

May 26 to May 29, 2026 in Braunschweig, Germany

Imprint

Technische Universität Braunschweig

Institut für Informationssysteme

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Credits

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Preface

Welcome Message

The 18th ACM Web Science Conference (WebSci'26) is held as an in-person event at Technische Universität Braunschweig and Haus der Wissenschaft in Braunschweig, Germany from May 26 to May 29, 2026. The conference takes place exactly 20 years after the publication of the seminal “Creating a Science of the Web” article¹ – marking the inception of Web Science as a discipline. The theme of the conference was therefore set to:

“Celebrating 20 Years of Web Science”

Today, life without the World Wide Web has become quite unimaginable. The evolutionary stages growing from the initial Web of documents into a Web of people and a Web of intelligent services during the short time span of only about 30 years have created an unprecedented impact on all levels of society. Offering pervasive access to information and social contacts the Web thus shapes to a large degree how we experience the world. In step with the technological evolution, however, already 20 years ago a strong emphasis was put on the establishment of a dedicated Web Science investigating what we do with the Web and what the Web does with us.

Research Paper Sessions

WebSci'26 offers a high-quality program courtesy to the dedication of all authors, reviewers, and the program committee. We received a total of 146 submissions for full and short papers, of which unfortunately 15 had to be desk rejected for formal reasons. The remaining 131 valid submissions featured 430 authors spanning 26 countries, mostly from the United States, Germany, Brazil, the United Kingdom, and India. After thorough peer-review, 45 papers were accepted (35 long papers and 10 short papers) which resulted in an acceptance rate of approx. 23% for full research papers and about 30% including also short papers. The Program Committee (PC) consisted of 68 members and additionally 20 senior members. Each paper was reviewed by at least three reviewers and received a meta-review from a senior PC member. Each paper is presented in one of eight sessions in the conference week (page 11ff).

Workshops

This year's WebSci features four workshops and two forums. All workshops invited participants to submit workshop papers which will be published in a companion volume along with the WebSci'26 proceedings. Forums, on the other hand, are designed as interactive events or retreats that aim to engage the community for specific topics or to serve as tutorials to new topics. Please refer to page 15 for a full overview.

¹Tim Berners-Lee, Wendy Hall, James Hendler, Nigel Shadbolt, and Daniel J. Weitzner. Creating a Science of the Web. Science 313, 769-771 (2006). <https://doi.org/10.1126/science.1126902>

Poster Exhibition

For this year's WebSci, we received a total of 39 poster submissions. Out of these papers, we selected 19 (less than 49%) for poster presentation after a selective reviewing process. We believe that the submitted as well as accepted posters are a highly representative sample of Web Science research. Given the many frequent and returning contributors, we consider this edition as a success story on Web Science research. The poster exhibition takes place on Wednesday evening; please refer to page 14 for a full list.

Keynotes and WSTNet Labs Panel

A special thanks goes to our keynote speakers who will share their experiences with the Web and its impact throughout the last 20 years. *James Hendler* helped to shape the Web's development over the last decades and will discuss in his keynote, whether we actually still need a dedicated Web Science. As a knowledgeable practitioner of the Web and its applications landscape, *Steffen Staab* will discuss the transdisciplinary nature of compliance issues in times of Artificial Intelligence. Finally, *Anni Rowland-Campbell*, joined by *Hannah Stewart* and *Ghada Ibrahim*, shares her long-running experiences and expertise in public outreach programs closely connected to the Web's societal impact. Full speaker bios and time slots are available on page 8ff.

Besides the keynotes, the WSTNet Labs Panel will take place on Wednesday with a distinguished roster of speakers including *Steffen Staab* (University of Stuttgart), *Jürgen Pfeffer* (Technical University of Munich), *Manfred Hauswirth* (TU Berlin), and *Dame Wendy Hall* (University of Southampton). All information can be found on page 10.

Social Activities and Brave Conversations

Reception. After the first day, we will come together for the conference reception. This year, the reception starts with a guest talk on species preservation in Braunschweig's natural history museum ("Staatliches Naturhistorisches Museum"). Afterwards, we invite all participants to beer and snacks in front of the Haus der Wissenschaft. More information on page 16.

Conference Dinner. The conference dinner will be part of a city reception ("Städtischer Empfang") and take place in the historical Dornse in the Old Town Hall ("Altstadtrathaus"). All information and the address can be found on page 17.

Brave Conversations. This year, the 32nd edition of Brave Conversations will take place in conjunction with the 18th ACM Web Science Conference. The core topic will be: How can we help Humans become Smarter in a world where the machine is becoming rapidly smarter? Brave Conversations invites minds to get curious and explore selected questions about how emerging technologies shape our daily lives and to reflect on how we can preserve both our humanity and our agency in the Age of Smart Machines. More information on page 18.

We wish all participants an inspiring and entertaining week!

Wolf-Tilo Balke	Florian Plötzky	Gianluca Demartini
Stefan Dietze	Jennifer Golbeck	Eelco Herder
Lydia Manikonda	Marc Spaniol	Haiming Liu
Luis-Daniel Ibáñez	Shadi Rezapour	Sierra Kaiser

Timetable

RS: Regular Session, KN: Keynote, WS: Workshop, FR: Forum

Tuesday, May 26

8:00–9:00	Registration	
9:00–12:00	WS	Workshop Room: PK11.2 DHOW: Diffusion of Harmful Content on Online Web
	WS	Workshop Room: PK11.1 ABIS 2026 The Effects of Adaptive Web on Society
	FR	Forum Room: PK11.4 MESHARE: Method Sharing Retreat
12:00–13:00	Lunch Room: Mensa	
13:00–16:00	FR	Forum Room: Weitblick WebPol: Getting Involved in Technology Policy for Web Researchers
	WS	Workshop Room: PK11.1 SDW: First Int. Workshop on Science-Related Discourse on the Web
	FR	Forum Room: PK11.4 MESHARE: Method Sharing Retreat
	WS	Workshop Room: PK11.5 TSWW'26: Towards a Safer Web for Women
	PhD Symposium Room: PK11.2	
17:00–18:00	Late Registration	
18:00–21:00	Conference Reception Natural History Museum	

Wednesday, May 27

8:00–8:45	Registration	
8:45–9:00	Opening	
9:00–10:00	KN	James Hendler Room: Aula Web Science at 20, is it still needed?
10:00–10:30	Coffee Room: Weitblick	
10:30–12:00	RS	Session 1 Room: Aula Discourse and Community Engagement
12:00–13:00	Lunch Room: Mensa	
13:00–14:30	RS	Session 2 Room: Aula LLMs and Multimodal Content
14:30–15:00	Coffee Room: Weitblick	
15:00–16:30	RS	Session 3 Room: Aula User Dynamics and Pattern-Detection
16:30–17:30	WSTNet Labs Panel Room: Aula	
17:30–19:00	Poster session Room: Weitblick+Ideenraum	

Thursday, May 28

8:00–9:00		Registration	
9:00–10:00	KN	Steffen Staab Room: Aula	Artificial Intelligence Compliance – A Transdisciplinary Challenge
10:00–10:30		Coffee Room: Weitblick	
10:30–12:00	RS	Session 4 Room: Aula	Toxicity, Health, and User Interactions on Platforms
12:00–13:00		Lunch Room: Mensa	
13:00–14:30	RS	Session 5 Room: Aula	Framing, Fairness, and Privacy
14:30–15:00		Coffee Room: Weitblick	
15:00–16:30	RS	Session 6 Room: Aula	Influence and Personalization in LLMs
16:30–17:15		Test-of-Time Award Winner Talk Room: Aula	
19:00–22:00		Conference Dinner Dornse, Altstadtmarkt 7, 38100 Braunschweig	

Friday, May 29

8:00–9:00		Registration	
9:00–10:00	KN	Anni Rowland-Campbell, Hannah Stewart, Ghada Ibrahim Room: Aula	Web Science in Practice – Two decades of Brave Conversations
10:00–10:30		Coffee Room: Weitblick	
10:30–12:00	RS	Session 7 Room: Aula	Behavior and Safety
12:00–13:00		Lunch Room: Mensa	
13:00–14:30	RS	Session 8 Room: Aula	Datasets and News Analysis
14:30–15:00		Closing and Awards Room: Aula	
16:00–19:30		Brave Conversations @ WebSci'26 Room: Weitblick+Ideenraum	

Keynotes and Panel

Wednesday 9:00-10:00 Chair: Jennifer Golbeck

James Hendler: **Web Science at 20, is it still needed?**



Abstract. Yes.

Speaker Bio. James Hendler is the Tetherless World Professor of Computing, Web and Cognitive Science at RPI. Hendler is an expert in artificial intelligence, with special expertise including linked-data and Semantic Web, open scientific and government data sharing, and machine learning (especially transfer learning and foundation models). His work in AI and Machine learning have produced over 450 books and papers in his 40 years of AI experience and has been recognized in his citations as a Fellow of the Association for Artificial Intelligence (AAAI), American Association for Advancement of Science (AAAS), Association for Computing Machinery (ACM), and the US National Academy of Public Administration. Hendler was the winner of the 2025 AAAI Feigenbaum Prize.

Thursday 9:00-10:00 Chair: Stefan Dietze

Steffen Staab: **Artificial Intelligence Compliance – A Transdisciplinary Challenge**

Abstract. Compliance means conforming to a set of rules, requirements, or standards that apply to an organization or individual. AI compliance is often discussed as a technical challenge to be achieved algorithmically. In contrast, we draw on other compliance challenges, e.g., financial compliance, and sketch a landscape in which many stakeholders from diverse backgrounds and disciplines must collaborate to achieve AI compliance throughout the lifecycle of an AI system.

Speaker Bio. Steffen is a professor for Analytic Computing and heads the Institute for Artificial Intelligence, the Cluster of Excellence for „Data-integrated simulation science“ (SimTech), and the Research Initiative „Reflecting on Intelligent Systems“ (IRIS) at the University of Stuttgart, Germany. He also holds a chair for Web and Computer Science at the University of Southampton, UK. Steffen studied in Erlangen (Germany), Philadelphia (USA) and Freiburg (Germany) computer science and computational linguistics. From 1998 to 2004, Steffen worked as a project lead and lecturer at KIT, Germany, and from 2004 to 2020 as a professor for database and information systems at the University of Koblenz, Germany. At Koblenz, he founded the Institute for Web Science and Technologies (WeST). Steffen is a fellow of the ACM, ELLIS, EurAI, and AAIA. In his research career, he has managed to avoid almost all good advice that he now gives to his team members. Such advice includes focusing on research (vs. the company) or on only one or two research areas (vs. considering ontologies, knowledge graphs, Web science, data management, machine learning, simulation, and more). Actually, improving how we understand and use text and data is a good common denominator for many of Steffen’s professional activities.



Anni Rowland-Campbell, Hannah Stewart, Ghada Ibrahim: Web Science in Practice – Two decades of Brave Conversations

Abstract. How do you take the knowledge and learning of Web Science beyond academia? This is the question posted by Anni Rowland-Campbell to Professor Dame Wendy Hall in 2012. Since then Brave Conversations has become a focus for this question bringing together an audience which is inter-generational, multi-language and globally diverse. On Friday 29th May, 2026 Braunschweig hosts the 31st event in a time when the messages of Brave Conversations and the questions posed by it are more crucial than ever. How do we live in the “Social Machine”? How do we preserve human dignity in the age of Smart Machines? This talk will describe the story of Brave Conversations as a key component of the international outreach programme of the Web Science Trust and give you a taste of what it is all about.



Anni Rowland-Campbell is a philanthropist and Web Science practitioner. She is Director of Intersticia (www.intersticia.org) a global charity and social enterprise which focuses on helping to develop emerging leaders for the 21st Century. In 2017 she created Brave Conversations (www.braveconversations.org) as a way to bring the conversations of Web Science and the Social Machine to the general public of all ages, stages and from all walks of life. Since

then Brave Conversations has been held all around the world. Anni has worked in the Arts, Government and the Corporate sector and has also led a number of research projects with the Web Science Institute investigating the topic of “Government as a Social Machine”. Anni is a Trustee of the Web Science Trust, a Non-Executive Director of Founders and Coders UK, and a Fellow of Goodenough College, London.

Hannah Stewart currently works as a Senior AI and Technology Analyst for the Ellen MacArthur Foundation. She has a Master’s degree in the Social Science of the Internet from Oxford University and is interested in the relationship between people and systems that manage text data. Hannah graduated from Founders and Coders in 2015 and has been co-creating Brave Conversations since then, leading many events combining her socio-technical skills with knowledge of the Circular Economy.



Ghada Ibrahim is an educator, technologist, and community builder with more than six years of experience in international development, digital transformation, and learning innovation. She began her career with Mercy Corps, where she led digital education programs in Gaza that taught young people to code and helped them access opportunities in the global tech industry. Later, with GIZ Palestine, Ghada led the innovation component of the INDIGO Project within the Governance Cluster, working with the public sector to promote citizen-centered service design and digital transformation. This role deepened her expertise in human-centered design, cross-sector collaboration, and ethical digitalization—skills that continue to shape her work today.

Wednesday 16:30-17:30

Moderator: Matthew Weber

WSTNet Labs Panel

The Next 20 Years of WebScience: Perspectives from the Web Science Trust Network

As Web Science enters its third decade, this panel brings together senior members of the Web Science Trust network to reflect on the field's trajectory and future directions. Panelists will discuss key challenges—including AI-driven transformation, trust, and governance—and consider how the Web Science community can advance interdisciplinary research over the next 20 years. Each panelist will highlight research challenges faced in their own work, and talk to future directions guide by their current research.

Panelists

- Steffen Staab, University of Stuttgart
- Jürgen Pfeffer, Technical University of Munich
- Manfred Hauswirth, TU Berlin
- Dame Wendy Hall, University of Southampton

The panel will be closed by Noshir Contractor (Northwestern University).

Session 1: Discourse and Community Engagement

Wednesday 10:30-12:00 | Room: Aula Chair: Miriam Fernandez

Reddit's Appetite: Predicting User Engagement with Nutritional Content • Gabriela Ozegovic, Thorsten Rupprechter, and Denis Helic

When Discourse Meets Behavior: Cross-Platform and Multilingual Fandom Dynamics during High-Impact Events • Rian Wagner Costa, Lívia Dâmaso, Carlos Henrique Ferreira, Carolina Xavier, and Vinícius Vieira

Who Shapes Brazil's Vaccine Debate? Semi-Supervised Modeling of Stance and Polarization in YouTube's Media Ecosystem • Geovana Silva de Oliveira, Ana Paula Couto Silva, Fabricio Murai, and Carlos H. G. Ferreira

The Anatomy of Political Advertising: Spending, Efficiency, and Targeting Strategies on Meta Platforms During the Brazilian Elections • Kauan Costa, Helen Lima, Carlos H. G. Ferreira, and Filipe Ribeiro

A Digital Architecture of Belonging: Tracking Physical Community Formation Through Email Communications • Alex Leitch, Celia Chen, and Jennifer Golbeck

Socio-Technical Constraints and Cross-Platform Model Generalization: Text Classification in Brazilian Public Security (short) • Saul S. da Rocha, Carlos H. V. Silva, Mateus J. da Silva, José T. Neto, Carlos H. G. Ferreira, and Glauber D. Gonçalves

Session 2: LLMs and Multimodal Content

Wednesday 13:00-14:30 | Room: Aula Chair: Haiming Liu

Comparing the Subjective Opinions and Justifications of LLMs and Web Search Engines • Md Taukir Azam Chowdhury, Vagelis Hristidis, Kevin Esterling, Jannat Ara Meem, and Zahir Al Nazi

Interactive Clustering through Deep Metric Learning: A Study on Loss Function • Nikiforos Fasfalis, Pantelis Kyriakidis, Despoina Chatzakou, Theodora Tsikrika, Stefanos Vrochidis, and Ioannis Kompatsiaris

Early Multimodal Prediction of Cross-Lingual Meme Virality on Reddit: A Time-Window Analysis • Sedat Dogan, Nina Dethlefs, and Debarati Chakraborty

Assessing the Reliability of a Large Multimodal Model for Scoring and Reasoning Commercial Videos • Xiao Luo, Xiang Fang, Yuechen Wu, Preethika Chidara, and Rob Elliott

Interpreting Short Social Media Videos with Multimodal LLMs: A Validation Experiment (short) • Sandy Liu, Ella Haig, and Eni Mustafaraj

Identifying the Geographic Foci of US Local News (short) • Gangani Ariyaratne, Isuru Ariyaratne, Greatness Emmanuel-King, Kate Lawal, and Alexander Nwala

Session 3: User Dynamics and Pattern-Detection

Wednesday 15:00-16:30 | Room: Aula Chair: Johannes Kiesel

Assessing Crime Disclosure Patterns in a Large-Scale Cybercrime Forum • Raphael Hoheisel, Tom Meurs, Jai Wientjes, Marianne Junger, Abhishta Abhishta, and Masarah Paquet-Clouston

From Tumblr to Twitter: Evidence of NSFW Community Migration via Bio Keyword Prediction • Alessio Tosolini and Jason Jeffrey Jones

Spread the Word! Dynamics of Collaboration in Translocal Social Movement Groups on Telegram • Janine Schröder, Daniel Matter, and Juergen Pfeffer

Which Types of Brazilian Telegram Groups are More Susceptible to being Politicized? • Samuel Guimarães, Filipe Ribeiro, Oana Goga, and Fabricio Benevenuto

Navigating the Disagreement Space: A Case Study on Persistent YouTube Users' Interactions in Immigration-Related Discussions • Davide Bassi, Martin Pereira-Farina, and Renata Vieira

Session 4: Toxicity, Health, and User Interactions on Platforms

Thursday 10:30-12:00 | Room: Aula Chair: Wolf-Tilo Balke

Detecting Early and Implicit Suicidal Ideation via Longitudinal and Information Environment Signals on Social Media • Soorya Ram Shingekar, Ruining Zhao, Agam Goyal, Violeta Rodriguez, Paul Bloom, Navin Kumar, Hari Sundaram, and Koustuv Saha

Transformer-based Risk Screening of Gaming Addiction from Reddit Posts and Posting Burstiness • Tianwei Xu and Yohei Seki

Uneven Toxicity Dynamics: A Multi-Dimensional Analysis of Toxicity and Engagement in Instagram News • Sehrish Qummar, Alireza Mohammadinodooshan, and Niklas Carlsson

The Hidden Rise of Toxicity: How Retweets Obscure Increasing Hostility in Brazilian Politics • Soroush Karimi, Marcos Oliveira, and Diogo Pacheco

What Did My Users Experience? Discovering Visual Stimuli on Graphical User Interfaces of the Web (invited paper from TWEB) • Raphael Menges, Steffen Staab, Christoph Schaefer, Tina Walber, and Chandan Kumar

Broken Links and Fading Stories: How Dominant Online Platforms Subvert the Hypermedia Foundation of the Web (short) • Luka Bekavac and Simon Mayer

Session 5: Framing, Fairness, and Privacy

Thursday 13:00-14:30 | Room: Aula Chair: Eelco Herder

FairGCL: Embedding Fairness for Influence Maximization with Graph Contrastive Learning • Arpan Dam, Sougata Roy, and Bivas Mitra

Invisible Influences: Investigating Implicit Intersectional Biases through Persona Engineering in Large Language Models • Nandini Arimanda, Achyuth Mukund, Sakthi Balan Muthiah, and Rajesh Sharma

Framing AI on YouTube: A Comparative Analysis of Discourse in Brazil and the United States • Marisa Vasconcelos, Giovana Machado, Igor Costa, and Jussara Almeida

Framing the Fringe: Dynamics of Ingroup and Outgroup Narratives in Fringe Telegram Channels • Upasana Dutta and Yasmine Hour

Why They Link: An Intent Taxonomy for Including Hyperlinks in Social Posts • Fangping Lan, Abdullah Aljebreen, and Eduard Dragut

Home Location Leakage via Weather-Related Social Media Posts (short) • Akitaka Yamashita and Keishi Tajima

Session 6: Influence and Personalization in LLMs

Thursday 15:00-16:30 | Room: Aula Chair: Luis-Daniel Ibáñez

Fairness-Aware Ranking Recovery from Pairwise Comparisons • Georg Ahnert, Antonio Ferrara, and Claudia Wagner

DTInf: Dynamic Topic-Aware Influence Maximization with Incremental Embedding Updates • Arpan Dam, Hunny Chandra, and Bivas Mitra

Self-Promotion in LLM Recommendations • Rustom M. Dubash and Sorelle A. Friedler

APLE: A Framework for Adaptable and Personalized Live Explainability for Recommender Systems (short) • Gourab K. Patro, Srimeyee Mukhopadhyay, Arsh Banerjee, Daniel Abreu, Kevin Perkins, Siddharth Kotwal, Vijay Nagaraj Sivakumar, Aram Bidzyan, and Diganta Nayak

Directional Semantic Drift Across Grokipedia Versions: A Diffusion-Manifold Analysis (short) • Veronika Batzdorfer and Oliver Tölkes

Analysing Logs of LLM-Based Counselling-Style Conversation Agents: A Perspective from NLP (short) • Chengqian Wang, Arjumand Younus, and Kalpana Shankar

Test-of-Time Award Winner Talk

Thursday 16:30-17:15 | Room: Aula Chair: James Hendler

The winner of this year's Test-of-Time Award will give a ceremonial talk about the winning paper and how it developed over time. The winning paper and authors are announced at the beginning of the session.

Session 7: Behavior and Safety

Friday 10:30-12:00 | Room: Aula Chair: Niklas Kiehne

Measuring Privacy vs. Fidelity in Synthetic Social Media Datasets • Henry Tari and Adriana Iamnitchi

Behavior Change as a Signal for Identifying Social Media Manipulation • Isuru Ariyaratne, Gangani Ariyaratne, Alessandro Flammini, Filippo Menczer, and Alexander Nwala

Causal Effects of Politically Charged Words in Social Media Discussions: A Large-Scale Case Study about UK Politics on Reddit • Dimosthenis Antypas, Christian Arnold, Jose Camacho-Collados, Nedjma Ousidhoum, and Carla Perez-Almendros

Gendered Communication Patterns of Political Elites on Truth Social • Tom Bidewell, Artemis Deligianni, Tuğrulcan Elmas, Clare Llewellyn, and Björn Ross

Designing for Safety in Sensitive Online Spaces: The Role of Pseudonymity and Verification Friction • Adyn Gallagher, Hanjing Shi, and Dominic DiFranzo

Tracking the Trackers: Structural Evolution of Web-Tracking on Educational Websites (short) • Akarti Saxena, Aman Singh, Harsh Saxena, and Rasmus Helles

Session 8: Datasets and News Analysis

Friday 13:00-14:30 | Room: Aula Chair: Florian Plötzky

From Guidelines to Practice: Evaluating the Reproducibility of Methods in Computational Social Science • Fakhri Momeni, Sarah Sajid, and Johannes Kiesel

Long-Term Topic Dynamics in U.S. News Coverage • Jaein Shim, Maximilian Kreutner, and Markus Strohmaier

Quantifying Media Representation Dynamics Across 25 Years of News Reporting on Policing-related Deaths • Farhan Samir, Jappun Dhillon, Meghna Ravikumar, Syed Ishtiaque Ahmed, and Vered Schwartz

Exploring Large-Scale Social Media Data Using Sentiment Analysis and Topic Modeling – A Case Study of Instagram Posts in Context of the 2024 German Government Crisis • Jessica Stiegelmayr, Arabella Petz, Leo Bruckmüller, Jakob Fehle, Michael Achmann-Denkler, and Christian Wolff

Ancient GeoCities: A Dataset of Temporally Annotated Web Pages (short) • Ira Kokoshko and Robert Jäschke

PhD Symposium

Tuesday 13:00-16:00 | Room: PK11.2 Chair: Haiming Liu & Luis-Daniel Ibáñez

Alexander Loth: The Indistinguishability Threshold: Measuring Cognitive Vulnerabilities to AI-Generated Disinformation

Matt Javanshir: Applying Actor-Network Theory to the UK's Public Policy of Generative Artificial Intelligence and the Creative Industries

Melyssa Ortiz Quintairos Jorge: AI Governance and Public Engagement: Rethinking the Instrumentalisation of Public Trust to Drive Innovation

Poster Session

Wednesday 16:30-18:00 | Room: WB Chair: Marc Spaniol & Local Organ. Commit.

[System Name]: Reclaiming Trust on the AI-Mediated Web Through On-Device Image Provenance Verification • Alexander Loth, Dominique Conceicao Rosario, Peter Ebinger, Martin Kappes, and Marc-Oliver Pahl

On the Meaning of the Web as an Object of Study • Claudio Gutierrez and Daniel Hernández

From Images to Topics: Evaluating Vision-Language Models for Topic Classification of Election Advertising • Julia Weiss, Axel Burger, Joss Roßmann, Jan Eric Meurer, and Ali Abusaleh

The Methods Hub: A Community Portal for Finding and Re-Using Methods • Johannes Kiesel, Christina Viehmann, Felix Victor Münch, Arnim Bleier, Chung-Hong Chan, Po-Chun Chang, Raniere Gaia Costa da Silva, Ahrabhi Kathirgamalingam, Muhammad Taimoor Khan, Stephan Linzbach, Fakhri Momeni, Ran Yu, Claudia Wagner, and Stefan Dietze

EchoShield: Understanding Structural Hole Spanners to Mitigate Echo Chambers • Maloth Rajashekar, Posimshetty Chaitanya Shesha Govind, Thirumalareddy Sudheshna Reddy, Nakka Sai Sankar, Roshni Chakraborty, Flavio Bertini, and Mahua Bhattacharya

Information Diversity and Authority Shifts in Google's AI Overviews: An Audit of Health Queries • Sebastian Sünkler, Dirk Lewandowski, Sebastian Schultheiß, and Oliver Koop

Unexpected knowledge: Auditing Wikipedia and Groklopedia Search Recommendations • Erica Coppolillo and Simone Mungari

Can Humans Tell? A Dual-Axis Study of Human Perception of LLM-Generated News • Alexander Loth, Martin Kappes, and Marc-Oliver Pahl

The WebKurator.de Platform: Combined Regional and Topical Web Curation • Michael Dinzinger, Natanael Arndt, Ben Böck, Jelena Mitrović, and Michael Granitzer

Steering Stereotypes: Inference-Time Intervention on Social Group Descriptions Generated by Large Language Models • Farane Jalali Farahani and Steffen Staab

Brazil Data Commons: Unified Platform for Analyzing Public Data from Different Repositories • Isadora Cristina, Julio Reis, Bernardo Queiroz, and Fabrício Benevenuto

Discrepancies in the Geotargeting of Spanish vs English Google Search Results During the 2024 US Elections • Dianna Gonzalez, Nina Howley, Emma Lurie, and Eni Mustafaraj

The Day My Chatbot Changed: Characterizing the Mental Health Impacts of Social AI App Updates via Negative User Reviews • Sirajam Munira and Lydia Manikonda

Citation Farming on ResearchGate: Blatant and Effective • Benedikt Wotka, Bennett Daniel, Cenk Erdogan, Ashish Rajendra Sai, and Adriana Iamnitchi

Multi-Platform Analysis of Electoral Discourse on Social Media as a Research Infrastructure Problem • Ludwig Schulte, Dino Pasic, Catalina Goanta, and Adriana Iamnitchi

Examining Gender and Racial Bias in Vision-language Models within Colonial Contexts • Sushil Awale, Omkar Gavali, Ratan Sebastian, Christoph Rippe, Anett Hoppe, Thomas Risse, and Ralph Ewerth

News Source Profiling from Articles text: A Benchmark Study • John Bianchi, Manuel Pratelli, Fabio Pinelli, and Marinella Petrocchi

Workshops and Forums

Tuesday 9:00-12:00 and 13:00-16:00

DHOW: Diffusion of Harmful Content on Online Web

9:00-12:00 | Room: PK11.2 | [Workshop](#)

Organizers: Thomas Mandl, Haiming Liu, Gautam Kishore Shahi, Amit Kumar Jaiswal, Luis-Daniel Ibáñez, and Durgesh Nandini

Auditing Bias in Search Query Suggestions for US Politicians Across US and EU Locales • Fabian Haak and Philipp Schaer

Labeling the Spectrum of AI Involvement: New Tag Proposals for Wikipedia and Commons • Ashik Ahamed, Max Wang, and Jeanna Matthews

ABIS 2026: The Effects of the Adaptive Web on Society

9:00-12:00 | Room: PK11.1 | [Workshop](#)

Organizers: Laura Stojko, Eelco Herder, Jannis Stecker-Bischoff, Julia Seitz, Thomas Neumayr, Enes Yigitbas, and Mirjam Augstein

LLM-Mediated XAI Explanations: A Decision Co-Pilot for Fast and Calibrated Judgments on Potential Misinformation • Valentin Grimm, Eelco Herder, Jessica Rubart, and Carsten Röcker

Detecting Persona-Generated AI Text with Interpretable Linguistic Features • Elena Slavova, Angelina Parfenova, and Juergen Pfeffer

Tracking Childhoods: Inter-generational Perspectives on Parent-Child Relationships and the Ethics of Digital Monitoring • Eelco Herder and Ana Cîrnu

Level-Differentiated Nutrition Education in Virtual Reality • Dennis Wüppelmann, Sarah Claudia Krings, Carina Micheel, and Corinna Ostwinkel

Evaluating LLM-Based Bias Detection on Wikipedia: A Prompt Strategy Analysis Using NPOV Guidelines • Ashik Ahamed, Max Wang, and Jeanna Matthews

Exploring the Limits of Predicting User Watching Behavior with Short-Form Videos on TikTok • Carolina Coimbra Vieira, Sepehr Mousavi, Oshrat Ayalon, Abhisek Dash, Krishna Gummadi, and Sawas Zannettou

Structuring the Last Mile with ReActV: Tool-Augmented Delivery Planning with Verification • Pushkal Agarwal, Joyjit Chatterjee, Akash Marar, and David Gamtenadze

SDW: First International Workshop on Science-Related Discourse on the Web

13:00-16:00 | Room: PK11.1 | [Workshop](#)

Organizers: Katarina Boland, Dimitar Dimitrov, Michelle Riedlinger, Philipp Meier, Sebastian Schellhammer, and Stefan Dietze

Identifying Scientists on Social Media • Philipp Meier, Katarina Boland, Laura Kallmeyer, and Stefan Dietze

TSWW'26: Towards a Safer Web for Women – Second International Workshop on Protecting Women Online

13:00-16:00 | Room: PK11.5 | [Workshop](#)

Organizers: Miriam Fernandez, Christine de Kock, Alba Morales, Arianna Muti, and Ángel Pavón Pérez

BiasShield: An AI Browser Extension Against Online Misogyny • Filipa Da Hortinha Chambel Vieira and Cigdem Sengul

Ontology-Guided Causal Modeling of Online Abuse: A Cross-Cultural Perspective • Afef Bahri

Beyond Existing Frameworks: Generative AI-Facilitated Gendered Harms Facing Women Politicians in the European Union • Sarah Hesterman

MESHARE: Method Sharing Retreat

9:00-12:00 & 13:00-16:00 | Room: PK11.4 | [Forum](#)

Organizers: Muhammad Taimoor, Ran Yu, Felix Victor Münch, Fakhri Momeni, Stephan Linzbach, Arnim Bleier, and Johannes Kiesel
On-site discussion event

WebPol: Getting Involved in Technology Policy for Web Researchers

13:00-16:00 | Room: Weitblick | [Forum](#)

Organizers: Michel Beaudouin-Lafon, Virginia Dignum, Eelco Herder, Jeanna Matthews, Tom Romanoff, and James Hendler
On-site discussion event

Social Events

Conference Reception



After the first day, we start the main conference with the conference reception which is divided into two parts. We start with a short welcome and talk in the nearby Staatliches Naturhistorisches Museum (which is Braunschweig's museum of natural history). The topic of the talk will be preservation efforts in order to bridge the “analogue” world with the digital one.

Afterwards (at 7pm), we invite you to join us either in front or in the lobby of the Haus der Wissenschaft for German beer and snacks to get in the right mood for the Welcome on Wednesday. The location ultimately depends on the weather and will be communicated in time on that day.

The reception desk in the lobby of the Haus der Wissenschaft will be re-opened about an hour before the reception start for late arrivals, please check-in to the conference before arriving at the reception. Also note that **only MainConf+WS tickets qualify for the reception!**

Part One – Start: 18:00, End: 19:00

Address: Staatliches Naturhistorisches Museum, Pockelsstraße 10

Part Two – Start: 19:00

Address: Haus der Wissenschaft, Pockelsstraße 11



Conference Dinner

The conference dinner is hosted by the city of Braunschweig as part of a town reception (“Städtischer Empfang”) and will take place in the main hall of the Old Town Hall, colloquially known as “Dornse”. As part of the dinner, city mayor Anke Kaphammel and TU Braunschweig’s president Prof. Angela Ittel will join us for a welcome address.

The Old Town Hall is a medieval building whose oldest parts can be dated back to the 13th century. In the old days, it used to be a meeting place for the Old Town Council. It contains the historical Dornse, the biggest hall in the building, which is also used for festivities, as it will be the case for the dinner.

Arrival: ca. 18:30, Start: 19:00, End: 22:00

Address: Altstadtrathaus, Altstadtmarkt 7, 38100 Braunschweig

Closest bus stop: Altstadtmarkt

From Haus der Wissenschaft, the Old Town Hall can be reached:

- By bus to “Altstadtmarkt” either starting from “Mühlenpfordstraße” and taking line 416 or from “Pockelsstraße” and taking 419 or 436 to “Jasperallee” and then line 411 or 422.
- By tram, start from “Theaterwall” via “Rathaus” (city center) to “Altstadtmarkt” (change to a bus line at the city center).
- By foot in about 30min or by bike in about 10min



Brave Conversations

This year, the 32nd edition of Brave Conversations will take place in conjunction with the 18th ACM Web Science Conference.

The core topic will be: How can we help Humans become Smarter in a world full of “smart machines”?

Brave Conversations is independently organized by INTERSTICIA and Haus der Wissenschaft and will be represented by INTERSTICIA's director Anni Rowland-Campbell, and Fellows Hannah Stewart and Ghada Ibrahim.

Brave Conversations invites those with curious minds to come along and explore how emerging technologies shape our daily lives, and most importantly to reflect on how we can preserve both our humanity and our agency in the Age of Smart Machines.

Come along and spend a few hours being brave, consider things from a new angle, and above all have some fun.

Date: Friday 29th May, 2026 | 16:00 to 19:30 after the main conference's closing
Location: Haus der Wissenschaft, Pockelsstraße 11, 38106 Braunschweig, 5th floor
A free registration is required: <https://brave-conversations26.eventbrite.de/>



Useful Information

Talks will be held at the **Conference Hall / Aula** of *Haus der Wissenschaft (HDW)*. It is situated on the third floor of the HDW. Furthermore, a gallery can be accessed from the fourth floor.

Coffee breaks will be offered in the **Weitblick / Ideenraum** on the fifth floor of the HDW.

Lunch will be offered in the Mensa 1 of the TU Braunschweig.

The **poster session** will be held on Wednesday evening starting at 17:30 in room **Weitblick / Ideenraum**.

Wi-Fi will be available during the conference; Haus der Wissenschaft provides eduroam and additionally a local guest network for all participants without eduroam access. Login details for the guest network are available at the reception desk.

The **conference dinner** will be held at the “Dornse”, at Altstadtmarkt 7, 38100 Braunschweig, Germany. For more information, refer to the *Conference Dinner* section on page 17.

Getting Around

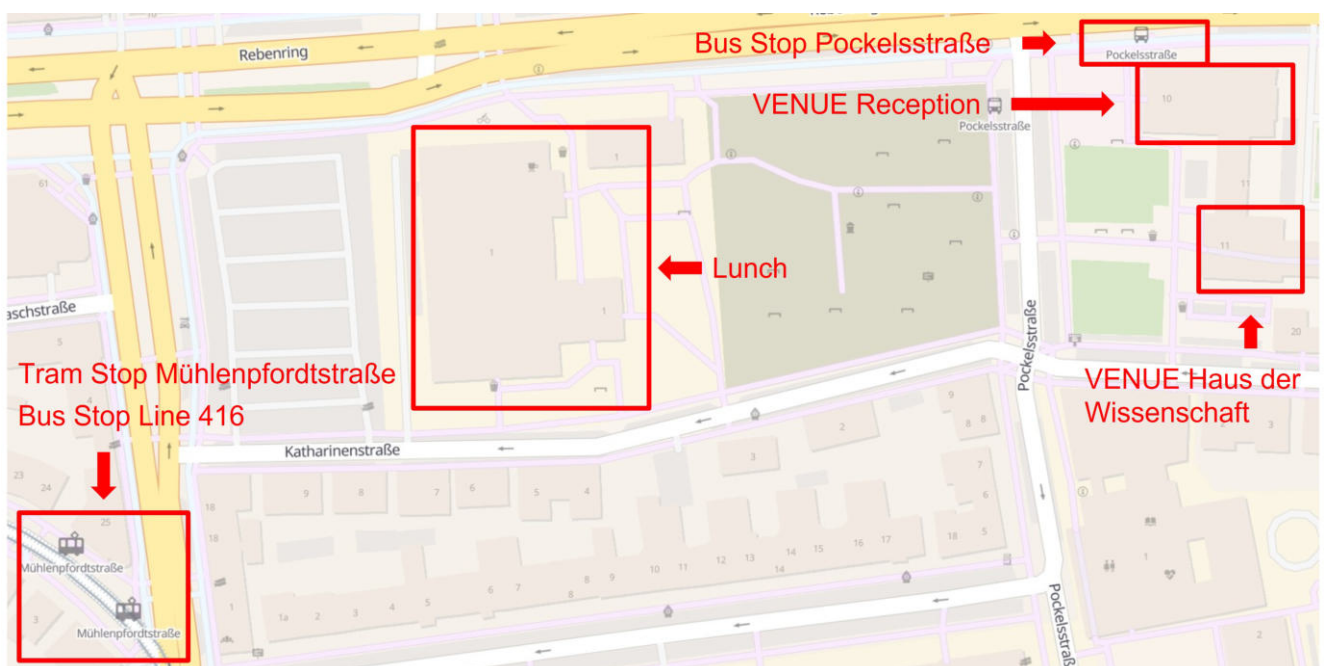
Public Transport

The address is Pockelsstraße 11, 38106 Braunschweig, Germany. From the Main Station (or its bus terminal), a bus or tram ride takes about 15 minutes. The HDW can be reached by:

- **Bus:** lines 419, 426, 436 stop: Pockelsstraße; line 416 stop: Mühlenpfordtstraße.
- **Tram:** lines 1, 2 stop: Mühlenpfordtstraße.

Bike-Sharing

Rental bikes are available all throughout Braunschweig through the **Veloleo/nextbike** bike-sharing service (<https://www.nextbike.de/veloleo/en/>) by use of the nextbike app. Multiple bike-rental locations are conveniently placed around campus close to the HDW. The service can be used for a 1€ fee per 30 minute rental or alternatively for a flat 10€ monthly subscription.



Venue Overview

The whole conference (except the lunches, reception, and dinner) will physically take place in the “Haus der Wissenschaft” (please note that the building and the co-organizers of this conference share the same name). All routes to the respective conference and workshop rooms will be marked at the venue. The rooms are located on different floors, an overview is depicted in the following:

Floor	Rooms	Activities
Ground Floor	Reception Desk Room PK 11.1	Workshop: ABIS Workshop: SDW
First Floor	Room PK 11.2	Workshop: DHOW PhD Symposium
Second Floor	Room PK 11.4 Room PK 11.5	Forum: MESHARE Workshop: TSWW'26
Third Floor	Conference Hall (Aula)	Opening and Closing All Paper Sessions Keynotes WSNET Labs Panel
Fourth Floor	<i>Gallery of the Conference Hall</i>	<i>Not relevant for the conference</i>
Fifth Floor	Room Ideenraum Room Weitblick (WB)	Coffee Breaks Forum: WebPol Poster Session Brave Conversations

On-Site Contact

The reception desk in the lobby (ground floor to the right of the three main entrances) of Haus der Wissenschaft is staffed for most of the day during the conference's duration. The planned schedule (potentially subject to slight changes) is:

Conference Day	Reception desk times
Tuesday, May 26	8:00–12:00
	12:30–14:00
	16:45–18:30
Wednesday, May 27	8:00–12:00
	13:00–16:00
Thursday, May 28	8:00–12:00
	13:00–16:00
Friday, May 29	8:00–10:00

Please feel free to contact the local team at the desk if you need information or assistance. In times when the reception desk is not staffed, please refer to the Organizing Chair (Florian Plötzky; ploetzky@ifis.cs.tu-bs.de) or Thoren Seddig (t.seddig@hausderwissenschaft.org) from Haus der Wissenschaft. Both will be on site for most of the time and open for questions. In case of urgent requests, please call +49 (0)151 62373842 (Mr. Seddig). In case of an emergency: the German helpline for emergency services (ambulance and fire fighters) is 112, the emergency number for the police is 110.

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