



“Dual-Use Technologies and Artificial Intelligence”

INTERNATIONAL PhD CONFERENCE

RIJEKA–KLagenfurt 2026

13th–14th November 2026

Faculty of Civil Engineering,
University of Rijeka
Radmile Matejčić 3,
Rijeka, Croatia

DAY 1 – FRIDAY, 13th NOVEMBER 2026

12:00–13:00 **Registration & Welcome Reception**

13:00–13:15 **Opening Ceremony**

University of Rijeka & University of Klagenfurt

Marina Šantić, Vice-Rector for Science and Arts, University of Rijeka

Igor Prpić, Head of the Doctoral School, University of Rijeka

Andrej Zwitter, Head, AIM – University Center for [Human and Data] Sciences, University of Klagenfurt

13:15–13:45 **Keynote Lecture I**

Andrej Zwitter: *AI Ethical Alignment and its Limitations*

University of Klagenfurt, Austria

13:45–15:30 **ORAL SESSION I: Dual-Use Technologies, Security and Applied AI**

Moderators: Marina Šantić and Andrej Zwitter

Doctoral Research Presentations · 10-minute presentation + 5 minutes for questions and discussion

13:45–14:00 Muhammad Nasar Jamal – Enacting Dual Use: The Ariane 6, the M51, and the Technopolitics of Solid Fuel Propulsion Technology

14:00–14:15 Antonija Mataković Grizila – AI as Support or Threat? Frontline Employees' Readiness for Human-AI Collaboration in Croatian Hotels

14:15–14:30	Roberta Žauhar Bačić, Lana Glavan – Robotic Surgery and Artificial Intelligence in the Operating Room: Transforming Outcomes and Training for the Next Generation of Surgeons
14:30–14:45	Rene Manasse Napifongo Galekwa – From Integration Gap to Governance Gap: Dual-Use Risk in Uncertainty-Aware AI Decision Systems
14:45–15:00	Faisal Shehzad – Are Newer and More Complex AI Models Genuinely Better, or Do They Sometimes Only Appear Better Because of How They Are Evaluated?
15:00–15:15	Alba Ramírez Guijarro – Innovative Primitivism – The Duality of the Human in Its Technologies
15:15–15:30	Hussein Ahmad – Can a Machine Think? Turing and Wittgenstein on the Conceptual Foundations of AI

15:30–16:15 Coffee Break & Poster Session I

16:15–16:45	Keynote Lecture II Alemka Markotić: <i>Infectious Diseases Hospitals as Dual-Use Infrastructure: From Pandemic Response to Biological Threat Preparedness</i> University of Zagreb, Croatia
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16:45–18:15 ORAL SESSION II: AI, Ethics, Law and Governance
Moderators: Ivana Kunda and Josip Šimić
Doctoral Research Presentations · 10-minute presentation + 5 minutes for questions and discussion

16:45–17:00	Mario Dominik Burić – Beyond the Machine: Should LLM Humanization Be Prohibited by Law?
17:00–17:15	Ksenija Savčić – Can AI Possess Aesthetic Concepts? A Naturalistic Account of Aesthetic Judgment
17:15–17:30	Rodrigo Conde Jiménez – The Role of Ethics Boards in the Regulation of Dual-Use Artificial Intelligence
17:30–17:45	Adna Škamo – When Dual-Use Becomes a Matter of National Security: Patent Secrecy and State Intervention in the Age of AI – Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina
17:45–18:00	Bianca Contardi – Private Law Liability Applied to the Use of AI Systems in the Tuscany Region
18:00–18:15	Eve Järve – The Fourth Hand: Exploring Generative AI as a Dual-Use Technology in Art Therapy

18:30 Dinner / Akvarij, Radmile Matejčić 5, Rijeka

DAY 2 – SATURDAY, 14th NOVEMBER 2026

09:00–09:30 **Registration & Coffee**

09:30–10:00 **Keynote Lecture III**

Jan Steinbrener: *From Discovery to Stewardship: Dual-Use AI Through the Eyes of a Researcher and University Leader*

University of Klagenfurt, Austria

10:00–11:30 **ORAL SESSION III: AI, Human Cognition and Society**

Moderators: Marin Karuza and Igor Prpić

Doctoral Research Presentations · 10-minute presentation + 5 minutes for questions and discussion

10:00–10:15 Miljenko Hajdarović – From Teacher to Learning Designer? The Changing Role of History Teachers in the Age of Generative AI

10:15–10:30 Damjan Stanić – Sociability in the Era of Artificial Intelligence

10:30–10:45 Paloma Puljic – Normative Implications of AI Sycophancy: Epistemic and Relational Harms of Human-Chatbot Interactions Shaped by Sycophancy

10:45–11:00 Ana–Marija Ćorić, Marina Kotrla Topić, Anja Kereta – A Sneak Peek into First-Graders' Digital World: Screen Time Patterns, Problematic Media Use, and Parental Mediation

11:00–11:15 Zhen Li – Trust, Identity, and Hidden Standard: Chinese English Learners' Attitudes Toward AI-Mediated Language Learning

11:15–11:30 Natalia Lecce – The "Human Game" in the AI Era: Potential and Limits of Artificial Intelligence for Creative Writing and Literary Studies

11:30–12:00 **Coffee Break & Poster Session II**

12:00–12:30 **Keynote Lecture IV**

Marin Karuza: *AI: Threat or Treat?*

University of Rijeka, Croatia

12:30–14:15 **ORAL SESSION IV: AI, Engineering and Critical Infrastructure**

Moderators: Jan Steinbrener and Davor Šakan

Doctoral Research Presentations · 10-minute presentation + 5 minutes for questions and discussion

12:30–12:45	Gabriel Marvin – Optimal Sensor Placement for Leak Detection in Water Distribution Networks Using Differentiable Gumbel-Softmax Node Selection
12:45–13:00	Domagoj Palinić – Computer Vision in Classification of Sea States
13:00–13:15	Ferekh Khaled – Towards Robust Radio-Frequency Fingerprint Identification: Data Collection and Experimental Framework
13:15–13:30	Enrique Caballero Garces – AI-Driven 5G Drone Height Estimation as a Service for Resilient UAV Navigation in GNSS-Denied Environments
13:30–13:45	Stefan Feinig – Beyond Accuracy: Reliable AI Forecasting for Critical Infrastructure and Responsible Deployment
13:45–14:00	Giorgio Ciani – Patterns of Brainwaves: AI-Driven EEG and Dual Use
14:00–14:15	Marin Donadić, Alen Jugović, Dario Ogrizović, David Sopta – Digital Twin of the Adriatic Logistics and Security Network: A Dual-Use Approach to Coastal and Island Resilience
14:15–14:30	Closing Remarks & Awards
14:30	Lunch (venue TBC) & Networking (Guided City Tour of Rijeka)

POSTER SESSION

The posters will be on display during the conference poster session.

Moderators: **Vanja Čotić Poturić**
Jelena Ban

Eva Mlinar Mikuličić, Alen Jugović, Juraj Bukša, Renato Oblak	<i>Artificial Intelligence in Dry Marinas: A Dual-Use Approach to Safety, Resilience and Operational Efficiency</i>
Vladimir Mrvoš	<i>Legal Aspects of Journalism in the Age of Artificial Intelligence</i>
Višnja Smoje	<i>Self-employment and quality of life in the age of Artificial Intelligence and Dual-Use Technologies</i>
Elysee Gasana Manimpire, Annunziata Pirro, Pierre–Marie Poulain, Elena Mauri, Luca Manzoni, Milena Menna	<i>Learning Implicit Subsurface Velocity Fields from Argo Hydrography with Physics-Informed Neural Emulation</i>
Sara Nocent	<i>The Aesthetics of Duplicated Presence: The Human Digital Twin at the Crossroads of Body, Technology and Presence</i>



Vedrana Nefat, Linda Jerinić, Andreja Zubković, Petra Grbčić, Mirna Mihelčić, Marina Šantić

Designing the mutant strains of Francisella in order to understand the infection of amoeba

Linda Jerinić, Vedrana Nefat, Andreja Zubković, Petra Grbčić, Mirna Mihelčić, Marina Šantić

From Cell Cultures to Mouse Models: Dual-Use Considerations in Biomedical Research

Klara Mladenović, Jelena Ban, Fadi Almahariq, Katarina Kapuralin

Deciphering the Transcriptional Regulators of Glioblastoma Cell State Plasticity Using AI-driven Single-Cell Regulatory Network Analysis

Dominik Patafta

From artificial intelligence to service robots: The dual-use potential of intelligent technologies in hospitality

Teo Brusić, Zoran Levnajić

Changes in cognitive functions in individuals with stress-related conditions

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We are pleased to invite everyone interested to attend the International PhD Conference Rijeka – Klagenfurt 2026.

Everyone is welcome to the conference!

Please register using [Registration link](#)



We look forward to welcoming you to Rijeka!

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