“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 – Wi-Fi Based Sensing for Human Presence Detection and Counting
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 – Can A Machine Think? Turing and Wittgenstein on the Conceptual Foundations of AI
15:15–15:30	Hussein Ahmad – Beyond Accuracy: Reliable AI Forecasting for Critical Infrastructure and Responsible Deployment
15:30–16:15	**Coffee Break & Poster Session I**
16:15–16:45	**Keynote Lecture II** Alemka Markotić: *Infectious Diseases Hospitals as Dual-Use Infrastructure: From Pandemic Response to Biological Threat Preparedness* University of Zagreb, Croatia
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, 14 th 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 – Innovative Primitivism - The Duality of the Human in Its Technologies
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	*Artificial Intelligence in Dry Marinas: A Dual-Use Approach to Safety, Resilience and Operational Efficiency*
Vladimir Mrvoš	*Legal Aspects of Journalism in the Age of Artificial Intelligence*
Višnja Smoje	*Self-employment and quality of life in the age of Artificial Intelligence and Dual-Use Technologies*
Elysee Gasana Manimpire, Annunziata Pirro, Pierre–Marie Poulain, Elena Mauri, Luca Manzoni, Milena Menna	*Learning Implicit Subsurface Velocity Fields from Argo Hydrography with Physics-Informed Neural Emulation*
Sara Nocent	*The Aesthetics of Duplicated Presence: The Human Digital Twin at the Crossroads of Body, Technology and Presence*

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 Mladenić, 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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