

Scuola Universitaria Superiore IUSS Pavia

IUSS Doctoral School

Seminar – Transversal skills

"AI and Ethics of Research"

Speaker: Daniela Ovadia, Center for Ethics in Science and Journalism (CESJ).

Abstract:

Artificial intelligence (AI) is rapidly reshaping how research is conceived, conducted, and communicated. This seminar will provide an overview of what AI can (and cannot) do across the research workflow: from literature discovery, coding, and data analysis to drafting text, creating figures, and exploring new hypotheses. We will then map this practice onto the emerging regulatory and policy landscape, including the EU AI Act and institutional guidelines on the responsible use of generative AI in research. Drawing on recent statements from journal editors, scientific societies, and ethics bodies (e.g. COPE, ICMJE), we will examine current norms around authorship, transparency, data protection, and research integrity, and discuss how these shape acceptable uses of AI in manuscripts and peer review. The seminar will also survey positions taken by major research funders on AI-assisted grant writing and evaluation, highlighting converging themes such as disclosure, human accountability, and the limitations of AI in peer review. Finally, we will discuss key foresight studies on “AI for science”, exploring scenarios in which AI systems act as powerful assistants, collaborators, or even generators of new scientific questions, and consider the implications for research skills, collaboration, and inequality in the global research ecosystem.