

Communicating (with) Non-Humans. Animals and Machines as Interlocutors – Conference Program Date: June 11th/12th 2026

Place: Logensaal, Logenstraße 11, European University Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder), Germany Contact: mtm@europa-uni.de

Thursday, 11 June		
Time (CEST)	Speaker	Title
08.30-09.30	<i>Registration</i>	
09.30-10.00	Welcome/Introduction	
10.00-11.00	Keynote 1: Chloé Mondémé	Communicating (with) Non-Humans. Why interspecies communication helps us move beyond the metaphor of the ‘code’
11.00-11.30	<i>Coffee break</i>	
11.30-12.00	Gustė Stasevičiūtė	Best Friends with Cows: Exploring Close Human-Animal Interaction in Industrial Farming
12.00-12.30	René Foidl	The Ghost in the Chat: On the discursive construction of animacy in interaction with generative AI
12.30-13.30	<i>Lunch break</i>	
13.30-14.30	Poster Session (Student Posters)	
14.30-15.00	Lynn de Rijk, Mike Huiskes, Wyke Stommel	Practices of searching, finding, and doing connectedness with nonhumans
15.00-15.30	Sasha Genevieve Coelho, Christina Sanchez-Stockhammer, Sascha Kaden, Marina Beccard, Florian Röhrbein	Is there a WE in Human-Robot Teams? Personal pronouns and other deictic expressions in Human-Robot Collaboration
15.30-16.00	<i>Coffee break</i>	
16.00-16.30	Eleonora Kacł	“Not sure what I was told but I’m still wagging my tail” – Exploring Pet-Inclusion in Veterinary Consultations
16.30-17.00	Saeed Radawi	From Animal-Directed to Human-Directed Speech: Interactional Loops with Talking Birds
17.00-17.30	Ulrike Gut	Todd Talks: Investigating Cat-Human Interaction with a Soundboard-Using Cat
19.00	<i>Dinner (self-paid)</i>	

Friday, 12 June		
Time (CEST)	Speaker	Title
9.30-10.30	Keynote 2: Hannah Pelikan	Communicating with Robots: Making sense of non-human actors.
10.30-11.00	<i>Coffee break</i>	
11.00-11.30	Florian Busch, Alexandra Gubina	Making Sense of Talking Machines: Metapragmatic Imaginaries of AI on Social Media
11.30-12.00	Alexandra Chudar, Ulrike Gut, Decai Xia	Linguistic accommodation in human-cat communication
12.00-12.30	Netaya Lotze, Anna Greilich	Politeness Markers in Chatbot- and Alexa-Directed Speech: The Role of Modality in Human–Machine Interaction
12.30-13.30	<i>Lunch Break</i>	
13.30-14.00	Florence Oloff, Uwe A. Küttner	Prompting as situated social (inter-)action: How users design input for AI chatbots in joint problem-solving
14.00-14.30	Simon Oppermann	Animal-Directed Dialect? On the Use of Diatopic Variants in Animal-Directed Speech
14.30-15.00	<i>Coffee break</i>	
15.00-15.30	Michał Bryja	Writing to the Deceased Animal: Digital Epistolary Practices of Grief
15.30-16.00	Karsten Senkbeil, Bettina Lindner-Bornemann, Beatrix Kreß, Joachim Griebbaum, Karen Krüger, Nicola Hoppe, Stephan Schlickau	Between Anthropomorphism and Technicity: Studies on Interactions with an Embodied AI in Virtual Reality
16.00-16.30	Michele Mannoni	Do we really see animals as non-humans? Personification metaphors in posthumous discourse
16.30-17.00	Wrap-Up	
18.00	<i>Dinner (self-paid)</i>	