



IGNORANCE, OPACITY, AND DEPENDENCE

*Epistemic Challenges for
Scientists in the Age of AI*



SELENE ARFINI * JUAN M. DURÁN * OTÁVIO BUENO

ELOISE BOISSEAU * MOISES MACIAS BUSTOS * GABRIEL TARZIU * LUIGI SCORZATO * JOHAN LARGO * MICHAEL FRIEDMAN

XAVIER DE DONATO * JURAJ HVORECKY * KESAVAN THANAGOPAL * MARC MELA QUILES * MARIA MARTINEZ ORDAZ

1-2
June 2026



MONDAY | 1 June

Meeting room of the Institute of Art History

9.30 – 11.00 | Keynote Lecture

Selene Arfini (University of Pavia)

*Productive Opacity: R(el)ational Ignorance as
Ground for Epistemic Agency in AI-Mediated
Science*

11.10 – 12.00

Éloïse Boisseau (Aix-Marseille University)

Trust, Blindness and Expertise

12.00 – 13.30

Lunch

13.30 – 14.20

Moisés Macías-Bustos (University of
Massachusetts, Amherst)

*Philosophy of Maths in the Age of LLM:
Knowledge & Metaphysics*

14.20 – 15.10

Gabriel Tarziu (Leibniz University Hannover)

*AI, Counterfactuals, and Understanding:
Assessing Their Interaction in Climate Science*

15.20 – 16.10

Luigi Scorzato (Accenture AG)

*Reliability and Interpretability in Science
and Deep Learning*

16.10 – 17.00

Johan Largo (University of Luxembourg)

*Proxies in Inquiry: On the Epistemic Interaction
of Scientists and (Reliable but Opaque) LLMs*

17.10 – 18.40 | Keynote Lecture

Juan M. Durán (Delft University of
Technology)

Can We Be Epistemically Lucky with Algorithms?

TUESDAY | 2 June

Meeting room of the Institute of Philosophy

9.30 – 11.00 | Keynote Lecture

Otávio Bueno (University of Miami)

*Opacity in Machine Learning Models:
An Inferential Approach*

11.10 – 12.00

Michael Friedman (University of Bonn)

The Opaque Reasoning of AI

12.00 – 13.30

Lunch

13.30 – 14.20

Xavier De Donato (University of Santiago
de Compostela)

*When Scientists Must Trust What They Do Not
Understand: AI and Epistemic Dependence*

14.20 – 15.10

Juraj Hvorecký (Institute of Philosophy CAS)

The Epistemology of Sycophantic AI

15.20 – 16.10

Kesavan Thanagopal (University of Notre
Dame)

*Who Knows? Responsibility, Opacity,
and the Illusion of Epistemic Agency
in AI-Mediated Science*

16.10 – 17.00

Marc Mela Quílez (University of Barcelona)

*When Deep Neural Networks Become Scientific
Models*

17.10 – 18.00

María del Rosario Martínez-Ordaz (Institute of
Philosophy CAS)

*Disruptive technologies and the epistemic
vulnerability of science: The cases of the Accuracy
Paradox and Model Collapse*



Co-funded by
the European Union



Institute of Philosophy
Filosofický ústav AV ČR

STRATEGIE AV21



Artificial Intelligence
for Science and Society