The Great Transformation

AI, Cities, and Democracy

11 November 2026:
Smart City Lab, via Ripamonti, 88 - Milan

12-13 November 2026:
IULM University, via Carlo Bo, 1 - Milan

11

WEDNESDAY 11 NOVEMBER - Smart City Lab Milano

10.00	**WELCOME** Participants registration
10.30	**OPENING REMARKS** Anna Maria Bernini - Ministry of University and Research (videomessaggio) Mario De Caro - President SEPAI, Roma Tre University Laura Prinzi - General Manager Smart City Lab Milano
10.40	**KEYNOTE LECTURE** Francesca Rossi - IBM Research, New York *Beyond AI ethics? Ten years from principles to practice, and what society needs next* *Chair:* Andrea Lavazza - Roma Tre University
11.30	**ROUNDTABLE** ***AI: The Great Transformation*** Domenico Agnello - CEO Primordy.Ai Simone Pieranni - Direttore di Chora Media Francesco Ubertini - President CINECA
12.30	**PARALLEL SESSIONS 1** Tech Aggregator
13.30	**LUNCH BREAK**

14.30 **KEYNOTE LECTURE**
Theodore Lechterman - IE University, Madrid
They not like us? The problem of AI citizenship

Chair: Enrico Panai - Catholic University of Milan, President Association of AI Ethicists

15.30 **ROUNDTABLE**
AI: Explainability and Truth
Chiara Agnello - University of Palermo
Antonio Chella - University of Palermo
Paolo Merialdo - Roma Tre University

Chair: Riccardo Cangialosi - Primordy.Ai

15.30 **ROUNDTABLE**
AI: Opportunities and Risks
Andrea Le Moli - University of Palermo
Enrico Panai - Catholic University of Milan, President Association of AI Ethicists
Viola Schiaffonati - Politecnico di Milano

Chair: Paola Fiorio - Communication Manager

16.30 **COFFEE BREAK**

16.45 **AI, RESEARCH, INDUSTRY**
By Primordy

Maria Chiara Carrozza - Milano Bicocca University
Domenico Agnello - Ceo Primordy.Ai
Andrea Toselli - President PwC Italia
Benedetta Giovanola - Vice President SEPAI, University of Macerata

17.30 **SEPAI PRIZE**
Laudatio: Benedetta Giovanola - Vice President SEPAI, University of Macerata

KEYNOTE LECTURE
Mark Coeckelbergh - Universität Wien
AI and Democracy

18.45 **PARALLEL SESSIONS 2**
Sala Formazione

20.00 **LIGHT DINNER**

12

THURSDAY 12 NOVEMBER - IULM University

9.00	**OPENING REMARKS** Valentina Garavaglia - Rector, IULM University **KEYNOTE LECTURE** Riccardo Manzotti - IULM University *The treachery of reason: Values, knowledge and power in the age of AI* *Chair:* Andrea Lavazza - Roma Tre University
10.30	**ROUNDTABLE** ***AI and Society*** Emanuele Frontoni - University of Macerata Ivana Pais - Catholic University of Milan Emanuela Totaro - Fondazione Kainòn *Chair:* Fernanda Faini - Pegaso University
11.30	**COFFEE BREAK**
11.45	**AI AND EDUCATION** Roundtable by HUB Scuola
12.45	**LIVE STREAMING WITH STATI GENERALI DELLA SCUOLA DIGITALE (Varese 2026)**
13.15	**LUNCH BREAK**
14.15	**PARALLEL SESSIONS 3**
15.00	**KEYNOTE LECTURE** Paul Nemitz - College of Europe *How can AI strengthen the rule of law and democracy - and should it?* *Chair:* Alessandro Bruno - IULM University
16.00	**ROUNDTABLE** ***AI, Consciousness and Relationships*** Massimo Chiriatti - Catholic University of Milan Pietro Perconti - University of Messina Stefano Triberti - Pegaso University *Chair:* Priscilla Pallante - University of Sassari

17.00	**COFFEE BREAK**
17.15	**PARALLEL SESSIONS 4**
18.15	**PARALLEL SESSIONS 5**
19.15	**SEPAI Members' assembly**

13

FRIDAY 13 NOVEMBER - IULM University

9.00	**KEYNOTE LECTURE** Oreste Pollicino - Bocconi University, Milan *Quale etica per l'intelligenza artificiale? La prospettiva del costituzionalismo digitale* *Chair:* Benedetta Giovanola - Vice President SEPAI, University of Macerata
10.00	**PARALLEL SESSIONS 6**
11.00	**COFFEE BREAK**
11.15	**PARALLEL SESSIONS 7**
12.15	**KEYNOTE LECTURE** Patrick Lee Plaisance - Pennsylvania State University *Why pacing the frontier is insufficient: pernicious LLM design features that hinder digital flourishing* *Chair:* Maria Silvia Vaccarezza - University of Genoa
13.15	**LUNCH BREAK**
14.15	**KEYNOTE LECTURE** Giuseppe Sartori - University of Padua *Which is the current limit of AI in mimicking human cognition?* *Chair:* Rosanna Fanni - UNESCO Paris
15.15	**UNIVERSITY AND BIG TECH** by Seeweb
16.00	**COFFEE BREAK**
16.15	**PARALLEL SESSIONS 8**

17.45	**KEYNOTE LECTURE** Marcello Massimini - University of Milan *Where intelligence and consciousness dissociate* *Chair:* Sofia Bonicalzi - Roma Tre University
18:45	**BEST PAPER AWARDS CEREMONY AND CLOSING REMARKS**

REGISTER ON EVENTBRITE

Please register by 10 November 2026 for the full conference.

Registration for individual days (11, 12, 13 November) will remain open throughout each day.

SEPAI - Society for Ethics and Politics in Artificial Intelligence

President: Mario De Caro **Vice-President:** Benedetta Giovanola

Organizers: Domenico Agnello, Sofia Bonicalzi, Riccardo Cangialosi, Mario De Caro, Benedetta Giovanola, Andrea Lavazza, Riccardo Manzotti, Priscilla Pallante, Fausto Raciti

Contacts and information:

info@sepai-international.org

info@p4b.ai

sepai-international.org

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AI, Cities, and Democracy

PARALLEL SESSIONS

11 November: Smart City Lab, via Ripamonti 88, Milano

Parallel Session 1 – AI in cities, smart cities, public administration, and participatory governance

11 November: 12:30 – 13:30

Aula 1

- Takehito Akima (Keio University Graduate School of Media Design; Digital Hollywood University), *The Reduction of Public-Value Commitments in AI Ethics Implementation: A Literature Review and Public-Sphere Research Agenda*
- Andrea Battistoni (Eta beta ETS), *From smart cities to living public systems: AI, endogenous social security and multilevel democratic capability in the beta age*
- Giovanna Costanzo (University of Messina), *From Smart Cities to Just Cities: AI, Urban Governance and the Right to the City*

Aula 2

- Grazia Serena D'Agostino, *Tutela cognitiva e sicurezza nella smart city - Strategie di Cyber intelligence per la prevenzione delle minacce ibride*
- Eugenia Lancellotta, Federico Cabitza, Michela De Felice, Enrico Maria Piras (Centre for Digital Health and Wellbeing, Fondazione Bruno Kessler, Trento), *When Accountability Chills Judgement: AI Advisors, Defensive Non-Use, and the Administrative City*
- Muhammed İkbal İnce (Marmara University, Turkey), *One Sovereignty Goal, Two Calculations: A Rule-Consequentialist Critique of the EU's Twin Transition in the AI Act and the European Green Deal*

Aula 3

- Alexandra Lisac (Attorney admitted to the Bar of La Spezia; AI Legal Advisor and AI business consultant), *From Shadow AI to Shadow Agents in the Workplace: The Governance Drift Zone and the Risks They Pose to Organizations*
- Martina Todaro (UniCusano; UNESCO Chair in Bioethics and Human Rights, University of Trento), *Delegating the Route, Losing the Destination: AI in Public Administration*
- TBD

Parallel Session 2 – AI governance, regulation, the rule of law, and democratic accountability

11 November: 18:45 – 19:45

Aula 1

- Rodney Ashfield (Incandescence Initiative, independent researcher), *Who Can Challenge the Answer? AI-Mediated Knowledge and Democratic Oversight*
- Carlo Burelli (Università del Piemonte Orientale), *An Adversarial Architecture for Democratic Self-Government at Scale*
- Davide Imeneo, *Relational AI literacy: educating young users in the age of emotional AI*

Aula 2

- Emanuela Logozzo, Francesco Cofano, *La monocultura del probabile. Illusionismo, pensiero laterale e diritto alla riformulazione nella democrazia mediata dall'intelligenza artificiale.*
- Hamidreza Mobasherian (Pegaso University), *Mapping AI Sovereignty: Structural Asymmetries and Democratic Accountability in the AI Value Chain*
- Margaret Jenkins (University of Ottawa), *Political Liberalism and AI Governance*

Aula 3

- Paolo Monti (University of Milano-Bicocca), *Citizen AI: On the Democratic Risk of Linguistic Value Capture by Large Language Models*
- Massimo Vittorio (University of Catania), *The AI-Spoiled Child: Cognitive Surrogation and Thin Democracy. An Orteguian Account of Democratic Agency in the Age of AI*
- Laura Hernandez Martin (University of Macerata), *A decolonial and participatory approach to social justice for AI in healthcare*

12 November: IULM University, Via Carlo Bo 1, Milan

Parallel Session 3 – AI and human development

12 November: 14:15 – 15:00

Aula 1

- Giulia Bazzoni (University of Verona), *Architetture artificiali dannose in uno spazio deterritorializzato: effetto Truman Show*
- Simona Michelon (University of Modena and Reggio Emilia), *AI in Pedagogical Action: Conditions for Teacher Agency*

Aula 2

- Valeria Cesaroni (Università di Perugia, Researcher & Ethics Consultant, CyberSocial Lab) & Emanuela Tangari (University of Rome Tor Vergata), *Distributed Computation, Concentrated Control? AI, Energy Systems, and the Politics of Optimisation*
- TBD

Aula 3

- Pierre-Thomas Eckert (Universidad Villanueva, Madrid), *AI and Writing: Is Research Consequentialism a Tenable Position?*
- Sinan Kadir Çelik (Atatürk University), *The Corpus That Cannot Be Signed: A Reflexive Case Study of the Integrity-Contribution Dilemma in AI-Assisted Academic Production*

Parallel Session 4 – AI, consciousness, cognition and the future of moral and political agency

12 November: 17:15 – 18:15

Aula 1

- Alessandro Acciai (UniCusano), *What Situational Awareness Leaves Out: Civic Awareness and the Ethics of Delegating to LLMs*
- Francesco Paolo Adorno (University of Salerno), *From Artifact to Subject: The Conditions of Moral Agency in Artificial Intelligence*
- Brenno Dell'Utri (Roma Tre University), *Whose Practical Judgment? — Personalized AI and Moral Sourcehood*

Aula 2

- Francesco Benedetto (Roma Tre University), *AI as an IA (Intelligent Amplifier): From Governance to Accountability*
- Emma Brambilla (University of Pisa), *Normative Vulnerability and Epistemic Agency: debating the possibility of artificial self-knowledge*
- Giovanna Musilli (Pontifical Lateran University), *AI and Human Thought: The Irreducible Difference from a Heideggerian Perspective*

Aula 3

- Dimana Orlinova Anastassova (Roma Tre University), *Language models and language understanding: disentangling the debate through a joint empirical and epistemological approach*
- Marco Fenici (Pegaso University), *The Impact of Generative AI on Critical Thinking: Cognitive Scaffolding, Substitution, and the Risk of Deskilling*
- Yizhou Sun (Free University of Berlin), *Cognitive Outsourcing: Towards a Relationship Between Us and AI*

Parallel Session 5 – Human-AI interaction, responsibility and delegated decision making

12 November: 18:15 – 19:15

Aula 1

- Virginia Alja De Franchis (University of Salento), *Beyond Human Oversight: Responsive Institutional Authorship in AI-Assisted Public Decision-Making*
- Calogero Caltagirone, Roberta Gambardella, Angelo Tumminelli (Università LUMSA), *Rethinking Agency in Human–AI Interaction: Functional Autonomy, Freedom, and Co-Responsibility*
- Lucrezia Savioni (Pegaso University), *Beyond the final choice: How AI reshapes the decisional journey. A pilot study and directions for future research*

Aula 2

- Christabel Cane (University College London), *Temporal Biases & AI Decision-making*
- Emanuele Fulvio Perri (University of Pisa), *Closed-World LLM+RAG Augmented Journalism: An Ethics-by-Design Pipeline for News Production in Democratic Crisis*
- Paola Fiorio (Journalist and Communication Manager), *From Transparency to Collective Responsibility: Environmental Accountability Across the AI Value Chain*

Aula 3

- Debora Tringali, Annalisa Castellitti, Mariaconcetta Mangia (Pegaso University), *Trust in Medicine in the Age of Artificial Intelligence: Theoretical Constructs, Vulnerability and Ethical Perspectives*
- Davis Yadav, Patrick Lee Plaisance (Donald P. Bellisario College of Communications, The Pennsylvania State University), *Virtue in AI by Design: Intervention Strategies to Promote Phronetic Development*
- TBD

13 November: IULM University, Via Carlo Bo 1, Milan

Parallel Session 6 – AI, public space and social justice

13 November: 10:00 – 11:00

Aula 1

- Shane Epting, *Moral Ordering for AI Implementation and Municipal Governance*
- Stefano Machera, *AI bias and Human bias: the case of Politics*
- Roberto Cecere, *Big Data, capitalismo della sorveglianza e trasformazione della democrazia*

Aula 2

- Saman Daryab (University of Macerata), *Woman, Life, Surveillance: AI, Gendered Urban Governance, and Civic Agency in Post-2022 Iran*
- Daniele Bailo (Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia), *Can We Be Held Responsible Without Control? Scientific AI and Technological Sovereignty*
- Irene D'Antimo (University of Macerata), *From Facilitation to Mediation: Generative AI, Political Narratives, and Human Agency in Divided Societies*

Aula 3

- Bernardo Notarangelo, *Hypernudging the City: A Polanyian Critique of Algorithmic Choice Architecture in Urban Mobility*
- Ermelinda Rodilosso (University of Rome Tor Vergata), *"High Demand in Your Area": Worker's Autonomy and the Illusion of Empowerment in Algorithm-Driven Cities*
- Niccolò Covoni (Sophia University Institute) *The AI Oath: A Brief Introduction*

Parallel Session 7 – Generative AI, epistemic trust and knowledge

13 November: 11:15 – 12:15

Aula 1

- Vincenzo Ambriola (University of Pisa), *Epistemic Status in Neural Network Interpretability*
- Massimo Dell'Utri (Università di Sassari) & Paolo Artuso (independent researcher), *Too Fast to Verify: Epistemic Dependence, Trustworthiness, and Public Knowledge in the Algorithmic City*
- Paolo Giuliodori (Indipendent Researcher), *How AI Can Undermine Political Agency by Eroding Epistemic Capacity*

Aula 2

- Michael A. Hanson (Emerson College, European Institute of Innovation for Sustainability, Rome), *Io Sono Docile: An Architectural Falsification of Intrinsic AI Reliability*
- Massimo Leone (University of Turin), *Manierismo di massa (Mass Mannerism)*
- Gillian Diebold (Donald P. Bellisario College of Communications, Pennsylvania State University), *Infrastructures of Interpretation: Generative AI, Epistemic Dispossession, and the Device Paradigm*

Aula 3

- Leonardo Santa Maria (Centre for Philosophy and AI Research, PAIR, Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, FAU, Germany), *Why Reliability Is Not Enough: Reliable AI Sources, Unreliable Digital Environments*
- Francesca Barbarancia Eusebi (Uninettuno), *Generative AI-Mediated Learning in Secondary Education: Pedagogical Conditions for Preserving Epistemic Agency. A Systematic Review and Expert Interview Study*
- *TBD*

Parallel Session 8 – Ethics and politics of AI

13 November: 16:15 – 17:35

Aula 1

- Raffaele Giovanni Caravella (University of Italian Switzerland, Lugano), *Against the current debate on digital suffering*
- Lavinia Cerci (Roma Tre University), *Umanesimo algoritmico e giudizio delegato: dalla reificazione all'ipseità artificiale*
- Mirko Daniel Garasic (Roma Tre University), *The Futures We Fund- Hyperstition, Financialized Truth, and the Ethics of Prediction*
- Paolo Cramarossa (University of Salerno), *The Statistical Production of Sense: Generative AI and the Epistemological Limits of Plausibility*

Aula 2

- Gabriele Giacomini (University of Udine), *The Principle of Habeas Mentem to Limit Authoritarian Temptations in the Age of AI*
- Cristina D'Onofrio (University of Naples "Federico II"), *Legal Design as Interface: Rethinking the Constitutional Functions of Law for Algorithmic*
- Alessandro Negri (analyst for the geopolitical magazine Praesidium – Global Affairs and Security), *Blind delegation: Do we have time to know what we want?*
- Andrea Pedicini (Indipendent researcher), *The Wage Trap: Artificial Intelligence and the Route from Work to Ownership*

Aula 3

- Martina Piantoni (European University of Rome), *Can AI Be Educated to Phronesis? Experience, Learning, and Practical Wisdom in Artificial Agents*
- Rita Carmela Fabiola Imperatrice (Pegaso University), *Language education as a democratic response to generative AI*
- Stefania Scrivani (AiMAZE Studio, Italy Co-Founder and Creative Intelligence Director), *From Cross-Domain Expertise to Industrial AI: Knowledge Transfer, Judgment, and Responsibility*
- Giordana Truscelli (University of Teramo), *Phronesis come rimedio alla manipolazione algoritmica nella sfera pubblica*