

# HEROES

European University Alliance

*"The Human Factor  
in the Age of AI"*

**Future Skills Alumni  
CONFERENCE**

**17 - 19 September 2026**

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CONFERENCE 2026  
17 - 19 September**

## *"The Human Factor in the Age of AI"*

The rapid development of artificial intelligence is changing many aspects of our society, economy and everyday lives. At the same time, it highlights the importance of human perspectives, creativity, collaboration and responsibility in shaping the future.

This conference brings together alumni as experts from different

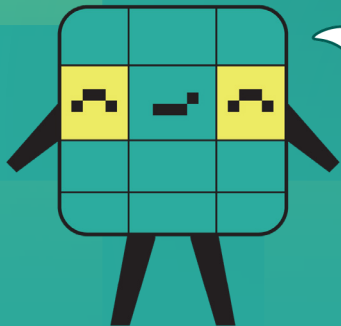
fields to exchange ideas, discuss emerging trends and reflect on the opportunities and challenges of the AI age. Through inspiring talks and interdisciplinary dialogue, the conference aims to encourage new perspectives on the evolving relationship between technology and people.

- **Speaker: 20 Alumni of the HEROES Alliance**
- **Place: Deggendorf Institute of Technology**
- **Duration: 3 days, 17 - 19 September 2026**
- **Language: English**
- **Lecture duration: approx. 45 - 60 minutes per lecture**
- **MOOCs/online lectures are accessible to everyone**

# Programme

## DAY 1: THURSDAY, 17 SEPTEMBER

<b>Start: 13.00h</b>	Registration & Coffee	I-Building, Foyer 1st floor
13.15h	Welcome and Introduction to DIT / HEROES Ulrike Sauckel, Head of Project HEROES and EUN & a representative of the university board	I-Building, Room I108
13.30h	Keynote	I-Building, Room I108
14.30h	Coffee Break	I-Building, Foyer 1st floor
14.45h	Presentations - discussions	I-Building
16.00h	End of Presentations	
18.00h	Opening Dinner	Landgasthof Beim Krahwirt



Behind every intelligent system are people with ideas, values and visions. Let's explore the human factor in the age of AI.

## DAY 2: FRIDAY, 18 SEPTEMBER

09.15h	Welcome & Coffee	I-Building, Foyer 1st floor
09.30h	Presentations - discussions	I-Building
10.45h	Coffee Break	I-Building, Foyer 1st floor
11.00h	Presentations - discussions	I-Building
12.15h	Lunch	Mensa of DIT
13.30h	Presentations - discussions	I-Building
14.45-16.30h	Networking	I-Building, Foyer 1st floor
17.30h	Dinner	Mensa of DIT

## DAY 3: SATURDAY, 19 SEPTEMBER

09.00h	Welcome & Coffee	I-Building, Foyer 1st floor
09.15h	Presentations	I-Building
10.15h	Coffee Break	I-Building, Foyer 1st floor
10.30h	Panel Talk Roundtable & Feedback	I-Building, Room I108
12.00h	End of conference	I-Building, Foyer 1st floor

For more information see below

# Human-Centered Engineering: Designing Systems for a Hybrid Human-AI World.

Thu, 17.09.2026  
14.45h

## **Dr. Nnaemeka Igbonachor**



Beyond Human-in-the-Loop: Engineering Trust in AI-Driven Healthcare Systems. Moving beyond “human-in-the-loop” towards a more robust paradigm of “human-in-control” as the role of humans is shifting from primary decision-makers to supervisors in the integration of AI into healthcare. Practical, engineering-focused principles for building trust worthy human-AI systems which are safe for patients.

### About the Speaker:

Medical doctor and digital health expert with experience spanning from Clinical practice, medical product innovation and development to quality and regulatory affairs of medical devices. Bridging clinical insight and product strategy to develop safe clinical products. Currently advocating ethical use of AI in Healthcare and simple digital health solutions for low resource settings. Lives in Düren, Germany and enjoys having family time with his wife and daughter

Alumnus Deggendorf Institute of Technology - Master Medical Informatics, 2022

Fri, 18.09.2026  
21.30h

## Markus Kammermeier

AI Will Assimilate Your Workforce  
– The Question Is When, Not If.  
AI is already embedding itself into every workflow and decision making point. This talk explores what job transformation means when AI becomes the new user interface. Using real-world examples, it shows how roles are fundamentally redesigning around AI-augmented capabilities. The key insight: adoption resistance isn't about technology - it's about identity and professional role redesign.

About the Speaker:

Markus Kammermeier is Principal Business Advisor at Workday with 25+ years at the intersection of HR and enterprise technology. He has led change and transformation projects as a consultant and founder, and advises organisations across EMEA on AI-driven workforce strategy. Markus has taught at Deggendorf Institute of Technology for over 16 years and authored the career framework IKIG-AI. Alumnus Deggendorf Institute of Technology - Master Business Informatics, 2010



Fri, 19.09.2026  
11.00h

## Juho Pirttilahti

AI-Assisted Machine Safety Risk Evaluation: Keeping Humans in the Loop with Data.  
This presentation examines how digital twin data — spatial geometry, motion data, and structured hazard taxonomies — can improve AI-assisted machine safety risk evaluation per ISO 12100. A robotic cell case study showed that combining swept-volume geometry with LLM analysis can identify collision, pinch, and crush hazards with traceable evidence. The findings argue that AI's value lies in supporting engineers during design, not replacing expert judgement.

About the Speaker:

Juho Pirttilahti is an RDI Expert at Seinäjoki University of Applied Sciences (SEAMK), working on EU-funded projects focused on manufacturing technology development for SMEs. His current work covers robotic welding and manufacturing process optimization. He is also developing funding applications to advance machine safety in the SME sector, including research into AI-assisted safety analysis methods. Alumnus Seinäjoki University of Applied Sciences, Finland - Bachelor of Engineering - Machine automation, 2016 / Master of Engineering - Technology Competence Management, 2023 / Master of Business Administration - Business Competence, 2025



Fri, 18.09.2026  
13.30h

## **Johanna Ritt**

Will engineers still be needed in five years? AI is not replacing engineers it is redefining their role. As implementation becomes automated, engineering shifts toward system-level thinking, decision architecture, and responsibility for complex, non-deterministic systems. The real challenge is not building systems but understanding and governing them. This raises a critical question: are we training and assigning engineers to design responsible systems or merely to operate tools?

About the Speaker:

Johanna Ritt is Head of Development at FotoFinder Group, leading advanced imaging and AI-driven innovation. She combines technical expertise with strategic thinking to drive product evolution, streamline development processes, and deliver high-impact solutions in medical imaging technology with her team. Her focus lies in scaling intelligent systems and translating complex challenges into practical, market-ready applications.

Alumna Deggendorf Institute of Technology - Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering, 2015 & MBA General Management, 2018



Sat, 19.09.2026  
9.15h

## **Olivia Adaugo Okoro**

Data Governance & Trust: The Human Factor in Data-Driven Systems.

Most AI systems do not fail because of being inaccurate, but rather because people do not trust them. This lecture explains how data governance, and responsible feature engineering combine to create systems that are trustworthy and reliable for all stakeholders.

About the Speaker:

Olivia Okoro is a digital health strategist dedicated to driving digital transformation and turning complex challenges into scalable digital outcomes. With a background in Data Science and Health Informatics, she specializes in building innovative, data-driven healthcare solutions that bridge clinical needs with cutting-edge technology.

Alumna Deggendorf Institute of Technology - Bachelor Health Informatics, 2025



# AI-Ready IT: Architecting, Securing & Scaling Intelligent Systems.

Thu, 17.09.2026  
14.45h

## **Abdallah Aburumman**



AI-driven architectures: How IT teams build scalable AI ecosystems.

Real-world AI integration in DevOps workflows, including AI-assisted development, code review agents, meeting intelligence, and predictive maintenance. It demonstrates how AI systems are embedded, scaled, and governed in production environments while maintaining human oversight and delivering measurable operational efficiency.

About the Speaker:

Abdallah Aburumman is a DevOps Engineer and team lead at DE software & control GmbH. He specializes in Kubernetes, automation, and AI-driven system optimization. His work focuses on integrating AI into enterprise environments to improve scalability, reliability, and operational decision-making.

Alumnus Deggendorf Institute of Technology - Master Applied Computer Science, 2023 & Bachelor Industrial Engineering, 2020

Fri, 18.09.2026  
9.30h

## **Yash Bachhav**

MLOps & Automation: The Future of Software Development.

Building AI models is only the beginning. Deploying them reliably is the real challenge. Drawing on experience from Bosch and Harvard Medical School, this talk explores practical MLOps, robust data handling, and reproducible workflows. It also highlights impactful automation tools that streamline pipelines, reduce errors, and support scalable, maintainable machine learning systems in real world settings.

About the Speaker:

Yash Bachhav is an M.Sc. Data Science student at the University of Regensburg with a background in Artificial Intelligence. He completed his bachelor's thesis in collaboration with the Schepens Eye Research Institute of Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital, USA, and undertook an internship at Bosch ASEAN Headquarters in Singapore, focusing on AI driven automation.

Alumnus Deggendorf Institute of Technology - Bachelor Artificial Intelligence, 2025



Fri, 18.09.2026  
11.00h

## **Enver Bastanoglu**

AI-Ready IT: Flexible Architectures and Processes for Value-Driven AI Projects.

Why fail 80-95% of AI projects on ROI? Wrong order: hype before capabilities. Get it right with a pragmatic framework for AI-ready IT—capability-driven (Discover-Design-Deploy-Scale), modular API-first/microservices architectures, hybrid scalability, and embedded security (Zero Trust, IAM, MLSecOps). Leaders: actionable steps for compliant 90-day pilots (NIS2/GDPR).

About the Speaker:

Enver Bastanoglu, M.Sc. in Business Informatics, is a seasoned IT leader and Interim Manager with 20+ years in project management, team building, and transformations. Expert in IT-security (ISO 27001, KRITIS), process management, data mining, agile methods, and infrastructure builds—from Spacetech (DLR Galileo) to automotive (BMW, Audi), Dehner, G&D, AS24, and more. Drives digital innovation with strong AI and process focus.

Alumnus Deggendorf Institute of Technology - Bachelor Business Informatics, 2007 & Master Business Informatics, 2019



Fri, 18.09.2026  
13.30h

## **Sanne Femling**

AI – Our friend or our future cyber security enemy? This talk explores how trusted AI solutions can be turned against us. What if they reveal infrastructure details to intruders, exposing sensitive data and organizational weaknesses? We examine how AI is being weaponized, from manipulating humans to acting as autonomous agents in coordinated cyber attacks. As AI reshapes the threat landscape, are we unintentionally creating the next generation of cyber weapons—and how do we defend against them?

About the Speaker:

Sanne is an IT Security Officer at Norion Bank from southern Sweden. She has worked in the financial industry for four years, focusing on penetration testing, vulnerability management, threat intelligence, governance, and cybersecurity awareness. She bridges management and operations, supporting teams in developing secure solutions. A tech enthusiast, she is passionate about cybersecurity, hacking, speaking, and gaming.

Alumna Halmstad University, Sweden - IT forensics and information security, 2018



Sat, 19.09.2026  
9.15h

## **Frank Soboczanski**

(Quantum) Machine Learning for Earth and Space Science with NASA. This talk highlights NASA projects in the field of artificial intelligence including transformer models in medicine, uncertainty quantification for finding new life on extra solar planets, generative machine learning for astronaut monitoring, causal inference to model cancer progression, finding resources on the lunar surface, federated learning with the international space station, global Ionosphere modelling and quantum ML for earth observation.

About the Speaker:

Associate Professor in AI/ML University of York with affiliations at King's College London and the UK Cabinet Office. Fellow of the Alan Turing Institute, ELLIS member, NASA TechLeap Prize winner, NASA GeneLab AWG Scientist, NASA Roman Spacecraft Science Group, STEM Scientist for NASA's & NOAA's GLOBE Program, IBM Quantum Researchers Program Scientist, supported by NVIDIA's GPU program, HuggingFace BigScience, Science Advisor EU Commission.

Alumnus Deggendorf Institute of Technology - Business Informatics, 2010



# Human Intelligence Unlocked: Cognitive & Creative Skills in the AI Age.

Thu, 17.09.2026  
14.45h

## Ibrahim Jubril



WHEN THE ALGORITHM MEETS THE WARD - What AI Deployment Failures in Nigerian Healthcare Reveal About the Future of Global Health Technology. AI health tools are quietly failing in Africa. Not because hospitals lack smartphones or clinicians lack curiosity, but because they arrive pre-loaded with assumptions. I will be discussing my findings from a study of Nigerians healthcare professionals evaluating diabetes prediction tools. Using UTAUT2, the study reveals a striking pattern that healthcare professionals are not the obstacle. The design assumptions baked into the tools are.

About the Speaker:

Ibrahim Lekan Jubril holds an MSc in Global Public Health from DIT and an MBA in Marketing from Bayero University, Kano. He has spent over a decade managing clinical operations at PSC Specialist Hospital, Kano. His research and public writing published through his Substack newsletter Kano Health Dispatch.

Alumnus Deggendorf Institute of Technology - Master Global Public Health, 2024

Fri, 18.09.2026  
9.30h

## **Itzel Ochoa**

Cognitive ergonomics: How AI helps us think better.

This lecture explores cognitive ergonomics and the role of artificial intelligence in supporting human thinking. It examines how AI can reduce cognitive load, enhance decision-making, and stimulate creativity by acting as a cognitive partner. The session also reflects on the challenges of AI reliance and highlights the importance of maintaining critical thinking in the AI age.

About the Speaker:

Itzel Ochoa is a logistics professional with seven years of experience as a Logistics Coordinator. She holds a degree in International Management from the Deggendorf Institute of Technology (Germany) and a degree in International Trade at the University of Colima (Mexico). Her interests focus on global logistics, international trade operations, and the evolving relationship between human capabilities and emerging technologies.

Alumna Deggendorf Institute of Technology - Bachelor International Management, 2018



Fri, 18.09.2026  
11.00h

## **Aleksandra Pajonk**

From AI Overload to Real Impact: How to Stay Focused in a World of Infinite Tools.

AI promises efficiency, innovation, and growth - yet many initiatives fail to deliver real impact. This talk takes a step back from tools and trends to explore a more fundamental question: what truly makes AI effective? It offers a different perspective on how impact is created in an increasingly complex, AI-driven world.

About the Speaker:

Aleksandra Pajonk works at the intersection of business, decision-making, and personal development. She develops frameworks that help entrepreneurs gain clarity, set priorities, and translate complex challenges into focused, actionable strategies.

Alumna Deggendorf Institute of Technology - Master Strategic and International Management, 2024



Fri, 18.09.2026  
13.30h

## Pauline Rößle

The Human Edge: What Makes Us Irreplaceable in the Age of AI.

What makes a professional role valuable when AI can already execute the task? This session explores how AI is reshaping roles from execution to contextual problem framing, stakeholder translation, and decision enablement. Drawing on economic psychology, it reveals why ambiguity management, systems thinking, and human sensemaking are becoming the defining capabilities for creating sustainable value in increasingly AI-enabled organizations today.

About the Speaker:

As Team Lead Pre-Sales EMEA and Pre-Sales Engineer EMEA at TrueCommerce, she operates at the intersection of business, technology, and human collaboration. With a background in business informatics and economic psychology, she helps organizations translate complex requirements into scalable solutions while shaping the future of pre-sales roles, cross-functional collaboration, and human value creation in AI-enabled work environments.

Alumna Deggendorf Institute of Technology - Master Business Psychology, 2025



Sat, 19.09.2026  
9.15h

## Anna Petersson

Collective Intelligence in the Age of AI: How Human-Centred Innovation Strengthens

Judgement, Learning and Better Decision-Making. Moving beyond the key question about AI is not the technology, but where it makes a meaningful difference. Drawing on AI.m, a human-centred innovation process from HighFive and Halmstad University with close to 100 companies, I will share how interdisciplinary teams build stronger judgement, why the human in the loop gives direction and responsibility, and how lifelong learning grows through real innovation.

About the Speaker: Anna Petersson is Head of Innovation at HighFive Innovationsarena and Lead of AI Halland, where she has built one of Sweden's most active regional platforms for human-centered AI. Through AI.m, an interdisciplinary innovation process developed together with Halmstad University, she has worked with close to 100 companies. She shares what she learned from this work on collective intelligence, human responsibility, and AI in practice.

Alumna Halmstad University, Sweden - Media and Communication, 2003



# Future-Proof Workforce: Skills, Learning & Employability 2030.

Thu, 17.09.2026  
14.45h

## Jakub Malhocký



From Artificial Intelligence to Hybrid Intelligence: Leading Organizations in the Age of AI.

This session explores Hybrid Intelligence, where humans and AI team up to solve problems and make decisions. Moving beyond just tools, we look at how AI changes how we think, work, and lead. It's a practical guide for anyone navigating this new era, focusing on the human side of working alongside AI.

About the Speaker:

After nine years and five different roles within the corporate world, I transitioned to a freelance career focused on human potential. I now help individuals and leaders grow and navigate change by embracing Hybrid Intelligence. My mission is to make AI an accessible partner for better thinking, decision-making, and everyday work.

Alumnus Mendel University, Czech Republic - International Development Studies, 2016

Fri, 18.09.2026  
9.30h

## Susanne Martin

Future Journey: Meet Your Future Self. This keynote invites participants on a thought-provoking journey into the future of work. Inspired by the World Economic Forum's Future of Jobs Report and selected Future Persona Cards, it explores how roles, responsibilities and required skills may change by 2050. The session does not aim to predict the future. Instead, it uses future personas as mirrors to reflect on one central question: What would my future self tell me today about my role and the skills I should develop? Participants gain new perspectives on future skills, employability and organisational readiness – and are encouraged to think about how individuals and organisations can prepare for a future that cannot be predicted, but can be prepared for.

About the Speaker: Susanne Martin is a Learning & Development Partner at Human Skills. Her work focuses on future skills, leadership, and the design of learning journeys that prepare people and organisations for change. Alongside her client work, she contributes to the strategic development of Human Skills as a thought leader for future ready organizations. Alumna Deggendorf Institute of Technology - Business Administration, 2008



Fri, 18.09.2026  
11.00h

## Sarah McKean

New Work, New Roles: How Technology is Changing Jobs and Why Human Leadership Still Matters. Technology is reshaping jobs through AI, ERP, automation, and data-driven work, but human leadership remains essential. This session explores employability by 2030, showing how communication, adaptability, continuous learning, and strong project leadership help people and organizations succeed in a rapidly changing global workplace.

About the Speaker:

Sarah McKean is a globally experienced Project Manager with an MBA whose career spans ERP implementation, banking, resort operations, retail, and international education. With PMP certification, multilingual skills, and a strong background in process improvement and cross-functional leadership, she brings a practical, international perspective on how technology and human leadership shape the future of work.

Alumna Deggendorf Institute of Technology - Bachelor International Management, 2019



Fri, 18.09.2026  
13.30h

## **Toni-Steven Rikala**

Why Human Situational Awareness Remains Critical in High-Risk Systems Despite Increasing Automation and AI. Artificial intelligence and automation are transforming decision-making in high-risk environments such as healthcare and crisis management. However, safe performance still depends on human situational awareness. This presentation explores why situational awareness remains critical in increasingly automated systems and how future AI-supported socio-technical systems should be designed to support, rather than undermine, human decision-making and resilience.

About the Speaker:

Toni Rikala is a doctoral researcher at the University of Eastern Finland focusing on situational awareness in high-risk healthcare environments. With a background in emergency medical services and crisis management, he works on preparedness, resilience, and situational awareness in complex socio-technical systems. His work connects operational experience with research on decision-making under pressure in safety-critical environments.

Alumnus Seinäjoki University of Applied Sciences, Finland - Master of Healthcare, 2022



Sat, 19.09.2026  
9.15h

## **Shari Roosens**

Future-Proof Workforce: Skills, Learning & Resilience in an AI-Driven World. This session explores how employability towards 2030 is shaped by the interaction between skills, lifelong learning, and resilience. It highlights the shift towards skill-based organizations, the role of AI in transforming work and learning, and the importance of adaptability and self-management in navigating continuous change in an evolving labor market.

About the Speaker:

Shari Roosens is a lecturer in Applied Psychology at Thomas More University of Applied Sciences. She is currently involved in research on student success, focusing on learning, motivation, and resilience. With a background in communication sciences and experience as a career coach, she explores how individuals develop adaptability and employable skills in a changing world.

Alumna Thomas More University of Applied Sciences, Belgium  
- Applied Psychology, 2013 & (University of Antwerp, Master of Science: Communication, 2017  
University of Antwerp, Teacher's degree, 2018)



# Alumni Conference 2025



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## Legal notice

### Editors:

Technische Hochschule Deggendorf | THD-Alumni & Project team HEROES/EUN  
Stefanie Denk & Stefanie Lex  
Dieter-Görlitz-Platz 1  
94469 Deggendorf  
Tel.: +49 (0)991 3615-306 | E-Mail: [alumni@th-deg.de](mailto:alumni@th-deg.de)

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João Rio De Lima Lübeck

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### Note:

The content relating to the talk and the speaker has been written by the individuals concerned. The respective authors are responsible for its accuracy and content.