



MINTLab
Machine Intelligence and Normative Theory



INSTITUTE FOR
Ethics in AI

Philosophy, AI and Society Doctoral Colloquium

Key Facts

Abstract submission deadline:	December 20, 2022 (GMT)
Outcome notification (expected):	January 15, 2023 (GMT)
Colloquium:	March 6-7, 2023
Location:	Corpus Christi College, Oxford
Submissions as pdf to:	mint@anu.edu.au

Overview

The Philosophy, AI and Society (PAIS) consortium of universities brings together philosophers at ANU, Harvard, Oxford, Princeton, Stanford and Toronto to support and inspire philosophical work on the moral and political questions raised by artificial intelligence.

One of the consortium's core activities is to mentor and support early career researchers, especially graduate students, working on these themes—connecting them with each other, with leading scholars in the field, and with intellectual partners in other disciplines. PAIS proposes to hold an annual doctoral colloquium, hosted by one of the six founding universities, to achieve this goal. Our first will be held at Corpus Christi College, Oxford, on March 6-7 2023. We invite applications from PhD students (eligibility conditions described below).

Colloquium Format

The goal of the workshop is to foster excellent philosophical research on AI, related digital technologies, and society. It will combine detailed engagement with successful applicants' research, as well as opportunities for disciplinary and interdisciplinary mentoring.

The workshop will be in-person. It will consist of up to seven 90-minute sections, divided evenly between a research presentation by the successful applicant, and Q&A led by a faculty mentor. Time will also be reserved for one-to-one discussion with each candidate's assigned mentor.

Suggested Topics

We do not prescribe topics, but we are focused on a particular approach. Submissions should aim to make progress on fundamental problems in philosophy, or to raise novel first-order philosophical questions, and to contribute to urgent practical questions about the role of data, AI and related technologies in contemporary society. They should be grounded in an empirically- and technically-informed understanding of the limitations and strengths of feasible data and AI systems and of their impacts on society.

Eligibility

We welcome submissions from those who meet one of the following criteria:

- Admitted for a PhD program in philosophy or a related discipline in the coming academic year.
- Currently enrolled in a PhD program in philosophy or a related discipline.
- Completed a PhD in philosophy or a related discipline after December 10 2021.

Application Process

Applicants should submit a 1,000 word abstract of their paper, a 2 page academic CV, and details of their expected travel costs to Oxford. Send applications as a single pdf to mint@anu.edu.au.

Travel

Successful applicants will benefit from a travel scholarship covering two nights' accommodation and up to £500 towards travel to Oxford. In exceptional cases, more may be awarded.

Those who are unable to attend due to visa or other constraints will have opportunities to participate in PAIS doctoral colloquia in 2024 and beyond.

Faculty Mentors

The faculty mentors will be selected, according to relevance and expertise, from a group including: Liam Bright (LSE), Linda Eggert (Oxford), Max Hayward (Sheffield), Atoosa Kasirzadeh (Edinburgh), Seth Lazar (ANU), Milo Philips-Brown (Oxford), John Tasioulas (Oxford), Charlotte Unruh (Oxford), Kate Vredenburg (LSE), John Zerilli (Edinburgh).

Sponsors

This edition of the PAIS doctoral colloquium is funded by the [Machine Intelligence and Normative Theory \(MINT\) Lab](#) at ANU with support from the [HMI project](#), and by the [Institute for Ethics in AI](#) at the University of Oxford. It is organised by Seth Lazar (ANU) and John Tasioulas (Oxford).