Monday afternoon Track E, Monday, Sep 22 2025, 12:00-13:30 Location: Seminar 3 Session: Workshops

WS-02

The Future is Now: AI, Academic Ethics and the Science Communication

Reda Cimmperman, Rima Sinickė, Kristina Puzarienė

Office of the Ombudsperson for Academic Ethics and Procedures, Lithuania

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is no longer something we're waiting for - it's already here, changing how we teach, learn, and communicate science. In university classrooms, students are using AI tools to write, summarize, brainstorm and create visuals. These technologies can support learning and creativity, they also raise difficult questions: What does academic ethics look like when AI is involved? How can we fairly assess student work? And how do we prepare students to use these tools responsibly? What does responsible authorship look like when AI is involved? How do we evaluate originality and critical thinking? And how do we teach future communicators to use AI tools ethically and transparently?

This workshop brings together students, academic staff and experts in ethics and science communication for an open and important conversation. We will begin with a brief introduction and reflections on the key challenges we are facing. Then, in the World Café format, participants will move into small group discussions focused on three key questions:

- 1. Where is AI taking us? What changes are we seeing in teaching and science communication and how can we adapt?
- 2. How can we keep assessment fair? In an academic environment where AI tools are widely accessible, how do we understand original work?
- 3. What should we be teaching students about AI? What skills, values and ethical understanding do students need to use AI responsibly?

After the group discussions, we'll come back together to share ideas, questions and good practices. If you are already using AI in your teaching or just starting to think about it, this is a space to learn from each other, compare experiences and explore practical solutions.

The workshop is hosted by the Office of the Ombudsperson for Academic Ethics and Procedures of the Republic of Lithuania, which works to support fairness, responsibility and trust in academic life. In 2024, the Office became a national and regional hub in the EU-funded COALESCE project, joining a European network of institutions working to strengthen science communication through collaboration, training, and community building. This session is part of our broader commitment to helping universities respond to new ethical challenges in a fast-changing world.

If you care about academic integrity, responsible teaching or the future of science communication - we warmly invite you to join us.