

Presentation of the dissertation topic (Independent Research I)

Study programme: Comparative studies of ideas and cultures

Module: Interdisciplinary study of institutions and society in the 21st century - politics, economics, technology, epistemology

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(working title): **The Epistemic Status of Artificial Intelligence - Simulation or Participation in Human Epistemic Practices**

Brief Short Summary

This dissertation investigates the epistemological status of AI-generated interpretation, asking under what philosophical conditions outputs produced by contemporary AI systems (particularly large language models and emerging agentic systems) can be regarded as genuine acts of interpretation. As AI increasingly performs activities traditionally associated with human interpreters, including textual analysis, explanation, argument construction, and hypothesis generation, important philosophical questions arise concerning the nature of interpretation itself. Rather than assuming that AI merely simulates interpretation, the dissertation critically examines the criteria by which interpretive practices are evaluated and whether AI satisfies those criteria. Drawing on hermeneutics, epistemology, and philosophy of science, the dissertation develops a philosophical framework for distinguishing different forms of interpretation and evaluating AI-generated outputs in relation to human interpretive practices. Building upon this analysis, the dissertation examines how the epistemological status of AI-generated interpretation influences epistemic authority in research and knowledge production, before considering broader implications for institutional decision-making and socio-technical systems. A limited comparative case study between AI-generated and human interpretations serves as a philosophical illustration of the conceptual argument rather than an empirical validation.