# Newsletter 2026#1

## Center for Data Science in Business and Society

### In this issue




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## Innovation Ahead: Newest Projects

### EUNOMIA AI: Building a Secure, Sovereign GenAI Framework for European Public Administration

In July 2026, the new three-year EU project EUNOMIA.AI will launch at the BANDAS Center. Carried out in collaboration with Univ.-Prof. Dr. Stefan Storr from the Law Faculty, the project is embedded within the Field of Excellence: Smart Regulation and is supported by the Digital Europe Programme (DIGITAL). The project brings together 35 organizations from 13 EU Member States and Norway, including 30 public administrations. EUNOMIA.AI will examine the usage of GenAI in public organizations across Europe, with a strong focus on technological sovereignty. The goal is to define GenAI use cases for public administration and to develop a scalable framework. Austrian partners include the City of Graz, the City of Wels, and the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Climate and Environmental Protection, Regions and Water Management (BMLUK). The BANDAS Center will lead Work Package 6, focusing on the impact assessment of GenAI in public administration.

### „D3SRefurb“ Project Launched: Advancing Circular Economy with AI

In March 2026, BANDAS, in collaboration with byeagain GmbH, launched the FFG-funded project „Data-Driven Decision Support for Multicomponent Refurbishment: Developing and Assessing a Data-Driven Decision-Support Tool for the Refurbishment Process (D3SRefurb)“. Byeagain is a Graz-based start-up specializing in the refurbishment of multicomponent products such as strollers, furniture, and garden equipment. A significant challenge in this sector is that products purchased online and returned to major platform providers like Amazon are often disposed of in bulk, rather than being resold to other customers, primarily because these platforms lack the capacity to inspect returned items. While standardized products (e.g., smartphones) can be easily refurbished, the diversity and complexity of multicomponent products make refurbishment far more challenging. To address this issue, the D3SRefurb project aims to collaboratively develop and evaluate a prototype decision-support tool that assists in the manual inspection of products, helping to determine their suitability for resale. Importantly, research has shown that simply deploying advanced AI solutions in specific work environments does not automatically yield positive results. Therefore, the project will also explore how the development process of such a tool can be tailored to ensure its features are effectively adapted to the unique context of multicomponent product refurbishment. The overarching goal is to make the refurbishment process for these products scalable, paving the way for a more sustainable business model. Additionally, the project wants to lower barriers for employment in the refurbishment sector. By leveraging the decision-support system, employees can be guided step-by-step through the refurbishment of various multicomponent products, resulting in faster onboarding and increased job satisfaction.

Back to Contents

# Spotlight on Our New Colleagues

## Emre Tütüncüler

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## Fabian Schaider

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## Alexandra Seyi

© Gerfried Reis

## Fiona Leiter

© Privat

## Yelyzaveta Vishnevetska

© Zsolt Marton

## Jiamin Shen

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## Tong Li

© Privat

## Johannes Woschizka

© Privat

## Serxho Voci

© Privat

## Laurène Cheilan

© Laura Kunz

## Ren Aldridge

© Bernhard Schindler

## Pia Grumeth-Zechner

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Back to Contents

## Spotlight on Our New Colleagues

We are delighted to welcome the newest members of our team and are proud to highlight their backgrounds, expertise, and the unique perspectives they bring to our organisation. We look forward to the contributions they will make as part of our team.

**Alexandra Seyi**

Alexandra Seyi joined the BANDAS Center as a student assistant in March 2026 to support our Computational Social Systems (CSS) Master's students. She is currently studying Sociology at the University of Graz and spent a semester abroad at the University of Antwerp, where she deepened her interests in political science and cultural studies. Her passion for digital societies was sparked by a one-year research project as part of her Bachelor's degree, during which she explored anticipated futures in the context of AI in the workplace.

**Emre Tütüncüler**

Emre Tütüncüler began his PhD studies at the BANDAS Center in October 2025. In his research on SMEs' AI adoption challenges, he examines the barriers organizations face when implementing artificial intelligence technologies, with a particular focus on regulatory compliance requirements and governance issues. His work aims to identify ways to reduce compliance-related obstacles for small and medium-sized enterprises while supporting AI innovation. Emre completed his MSc in Business Analytics at the University of Colorado Boulder.

**Fabian Schaider**

Fabian Schaider is a master's student in Computational Social Systems at the University of Graz. His work focuses on the intersection of sociology, digital technologies, and data-driven systems. His research interests include the integration of AI into work processes, human-AI interaction, and accessibility in digital systems. He is currently involved in the „D3SRefurb project", in cooperation with the refurbishment start-up „byeagain", where he contributes to the development and evaluation of an AI system for refurbishment processes. In this context, he examines how such systems can be effectively integrated into existing workflows.

**Fiona Leiter**

Fiona Leiter holds a Bachelor's degree in Innovation Management and began her position at the BANDAS Center in May 2026. In the research project „TXT – Sprache als Spur" she analyzes process-oriented requirements elicitation for AI systems in law enforcement contexts, with a particular focus on the methodological question of whether business process modeling can serve as a valid instrument for capturing requirements for AI systems in highly regulated organizations. Fiona is currently completing her master's degree in Computational Social Systems at the University of Graz, where her thesis empirically investigates this question within the Austrian Bundeskriminalamt.

**Jiamin Shen**

Jiamin Shen began her position as a student assistant at the BANDAS Center in March 2026. In addition to supporting CSS Master's students, she is developing an LLM-based university Q&A assistant using a multi-agent architecture. Jiamin is currently pursuing her Master's degree in Computational Social Systems at the University of Graz, where her thesis investigates how automated guardrails and student verification practices reshape institutional accountability within human–AI ecologies. Her research interests include accountability in human–AI interaction and multi-agent systems.

**Johannes Woschizka**

Johannes Woschizka holds a Master's degree in Psychology and a Bachelor's degree in Sociology from the University of Graz. He began his position as a research assistant at the BANDAS Center in January 2026. In the research project "TXT – Sprache als Spur," he is responsible for evaluating the ethical aspects of a specific artificial intelligence system in law enforcement. The aim of this project is to develop a forensic-linguistic, AI-supported analysis tool that examines texts to assist the criminal intelligence service in determining whether in-depth analyses by experts are feasible and valuable.

Back to Contents

**Laurène Cheilan**

Laurène Cheilan joined the team in March 2026. Prior to their academic career, they worked in France, facilitating collaborations between the arts and sciences and organizing public events in the scientific culture sector. Laurène holds a PhD in Education from the University of Bristol (UK), where their thesis was an auto/ethnography of public engagement institutionalisation in a science research network. Following their doctoral studies, Laurène worked at the Centre for Sociodigital Futures at the University of Bristol, conducting participatory research on sociodigital futures with communities and curating methodological explorations for interdisciplinary and cross-sector research in this field.

**Pia Grumeth-Zechner**

Pia Grumeth-Zechner is a master's student in Sociology (Uni Graz), graphic designer, heading her own studio (founded in 2012), and a student project assistant for the „Health through ComAI" project. She is contributing to both content and design and focusing on participatory and future-oriented research—particularly anticipation, or how groups interact with new technologies within their social and cultural contexts. Her aim is to identify participants' hopes and fears while fostering agency. Through her studies, she is developing the theoretical foundation for her practical work and operates at the intersection of research and graphic design to develop customized methods for participatory social research.

**Ren Aldridge**

Ren Aldridge is an artist and arts-based researcher who joined the BANDAS Center in September 2025 as part of the Elisabeth-List Fellowship project, „Feminist Ageing Futures in Datafied Worlds". She holds a Master of Research in Creative Practice from the Glasgow School of Art and is currently pursuing a PhD in Sociology at the University of Graz, where she explores the possibilities of arts-based methods for disrupting disciplinary regimes of anticipation, particularly in relation to ageing technologies and gender-based violence. Ren has delivered a TEDx talk on creative resistance to feminicide and leads her own arts initiative, „The Resistance Quilt", which seeks to build bridges between art, activism, and research.

**Serxho Voci**

Serxho Voci began his work as a student project assistant at the BANDAS Center in March 2026. As part of the „AIMQA" research project, he is dedicated to developing workflow-based AI quality assurance systems, with a particular focus on KNIME workflows, model evaluation, and AI-driven support systems. A key objective of the project is the creation of an intelligent chatbot designed to analyze and support machine learning workflows, as well as to assess model quality and performance metrics. Serxho is currently pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration at the University of Graz, and has a strong interest in artificial intelligence, data analytics, and digital technologies.

**Tong Li**

Tong Li began his position as a postdoctoral researcher at the BANDAS Center in October 2025. His research examines the intersections of information systems, business ethics, and accounting, with a particular focus on how digital technologies are reshaping organizational practices, accountability, and ethical decision-making. Tong holds a PhD from the University of Warwick, where his doctoral thesis investigated informal financial markets and their market practices under conditions of regulatory-driven digital transformation.

**Yelyzaveta Vishnevetska**

Yelyzaveta Vishnevetska joined the BANDAS Centre in March 2026. As part of the research project „D3S Refurbishment", she investigates how customer feedback and online product reviews can be used to enhance refurbishment processes through data-driven decision-making. Her research focuses on extracting and structuring defect-related information from user-generated content, and on integrating this data into a prototype decision-support tool designed for workers with limited experience in refurbishment environments. Yelyzaveta holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the University of Graz. Her thesis, completed at the Institute of Marketing, examined the effect of customer education and training on environmentally friendly behaviour.

Back to Contents

## Prototype Picks

**AIMQA - the AI Model Quality Assessment Tool**

Benjamin Gigerl and Stefan Thalmann, together with Claris Chung from the University of Canterbury (NZ), recently published a prototype paper at the *21st International Conference on Design Science Research in Information Systems and Technology (DESRIST 2026)*. In this work, they introduce „AIMQA — the AI Model Quality Assessment Tool" (see link). AIMQA is an extension of the low-code data analytics platform KNIME and serves as an LLM-based decision companion. It supports domain experts in assessing AI model quality of KNIME outcomes. The artifact focuses on contextualized interpretability by translating technical evaluation metrics into domain-specific explanations.Through a structured conversational "what" and "why" approach, AIMQA helps users understand model behavior, particularly through confusion matrix analysis. This supports informed decision-making without requiring deep technical expertise.

**RepAID - the Reproducible AI Documentation Tool**

Armin Haberl and Stefan Thalmann recently presented a prototype paper at the *21st International Conference on Design Science Research in Information Systems and Technology (DESRIST 2026)*. In their work, they introduce „RepAID, the Reproducible AI Documentation Tool"—an innovative extension for the low-code data analytics platform KNIME (see link). RepAID enables researchers to automatically document their machine learning research.The tool features two custom KNIME components that extract workflow metadata and use Large Language Models to generate tailored reproducibility reports. This system is designed to enhance documentation practices, helping researchers meet the increasingly comprehensive standards required by scientific journals and conferences. Initial evaluations indicate that RepAID generates accurate workflow documentation and can be easily adapted to a variety of reporting guidelines and requirements. The development of RepAID contributes to the ongoing discussion about supporting reproducible research with low-code machine learning tools.

Back to Contents

## Guest researcher


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Since April 2026, Vedant Sharma has been working with the BANDAS Center as a visiting researcher, contributing his expertise and commitment to our research agenda. In the research project „Enhancing SME Business Models Through Financial and Operational Data Analysis", he investigates how small and medium-sized enterprises can strengthen their resilience during economic crises, with a particular focus on business model adaptation and data-driven decision-making. Vedant is a PhD candidate at Wrocław University of Science and Technology, where he also completed an M.Sc. in Business Intelligence funded by the prestigious NAWA Scholarship. He holds a B.E. in Electronics and Communication Engineering from Gujarat Technological University, where he graduated as a Gold Medalist. His research interests include entrepreneurship, innovation, business models, and organizational resilience. He also serves as a reviewer for the *Journal of the Knowledge Economy* and is the founder of „Skolarify", a start-up that aims to bridge fragmented academic communities by bringing them together on a single, unified platform.

Back to Contents

## School Workshops on AI & Democracy

© Pia Grumeth-Zechner & Alexandra Seyi

As part of the travelling exhibition „Unsere Demokratie hat's nicht leicht!", Pia Grumeth-Zechner and Alexandra Seyi held two participatory workshops with pupils on possible futures. The exhibition illustrates how digital technologies shape our political communication, from recommendation algorithms and platform logics to new forms of political participation, while also asking what kind of future we envision for ourselves as a democratic digital society. Within this framework, the workshops began with a discussion about individual agency and the possibilities of influencing the future, and asked participants to reflect on how positively or negatively they currently anticipate the future. Using cards drawn from the participatory card deck „The Thing from the Future" as a starting point, the pupils were invited to imagine objects that could exist in a possible future. Subsequently, these objects were built using everyday materials. This process provided time and space to engage with the future scenarios, both practically and imaginatively. During the final presentations, the participants explained their imagined futures and their own possible positions and places within them. Further workshops have been arranged with AHS Reininghaus Graz and BG/BRG Klusemannstraße on 13 October and 17 November 2026. The exhibition was curated by Akademie Graz and developed on behalf of the University of Graz, in cooperation with the Austrian Center of Philosophy with Children and Youth and several schools.

Back to Contents

## Feminist Ageing Futures Workshops

© Pia Grumeth-Zechner

From February to June 2026, the project team from „Feminist Ageing Futures in Datafied Worlds", funded by the Elisabeth-List-Fellowship-Program and Smart Regulation, conducted 7 creative workshops with a group of local women over the age of 60. The project uses participatory arts-based methods to explore participants' experiences of ageing, gender, technology and futures, with an emphasis on embodied knowledge and affective experiences. The project has also mobilised the figure of the monster to expose and trouble the boundaries that characterise participants' lived experiences of ageing. Six workshops took place at *< rotor > gallery* and one at *Leichter Leben Raum*. After a series of warm-up exercises to ground them in their bodies, participants co-created life size body maps with a variety of materials to explore how they related to the exhibited technologies with their bodies. Methods have included collage-making, interactive poster design, monster image elicitation, movement, screaming and participatory futuring. In the final workshop, participants were invited to engage in a creative analysis process using erasure poetry and zine-making techniques to engage with the transcripts and visual material generated by previous workshops. Through this process a collective text was created and read as a monstrous chorus to close the final workshop. Moving forwards this project will co-create a creative publication with interested participants, to be presented at an academic symposium hosted by the project at the GraSP Futures Studio in March 2027.

Back to Contents

# Recent Publications

## Contributions to Edited Volumes

Moore, P. V./Barnard, G. (2025). „Affective computing, algorithmic affect management, and the quantified worker". In: *The Sage Handbook of Digital Labour*. Ed. by E. Bulut/J. Yujie Chen/R. Grohmann/K. Jarrett. London: SAGE Publications Ltd., pp. 203–213.

Zeiringer, J. P./Thalmann, S./Zollner, J./Stöckl, S. K. W. (2025). „Risiken der Digital Economy: Industriespionage in datenbasierten Wertschöpfungsketten". In: *Digital Economy: Die neuen Spielregeln für Unternehmen. Interdisziplinäre Einblicke und Praxisstrategien für Marketing, Sales und Management*. Ed. by U. Haas-Kotzegger. Wiesbaden: Springer Gabler, pp. 399–417. DOI: 10.1007/978-3-658-47828-5_20.

## Conference Papers

Forster, A./Kopeinik, S./Helic, D./Thalmann, S./Kowald, D. (Sept. 2025). „Exploring the Effect of Context-Awareness and Popularity Calibration on Popularity Bias in POI Recommendations". In: *RecSys '25: Proceedings of the Nineteenth ACM Conference on Recommender Systems*. Prague, Czech Republic. Ed. by M. Bielikova/P. Kordik/M. Schedl/M. De Gemmis/S. Pera/R. Alves/O. Jeunen/V. Ostuni. New York, NY: Association for Computing Machinery, pp. 593–598. DOI: 10.1145/3705328.3748017.

Gigerl, B./Chung, C./Thalmann, S. (June 2026). „Contextualized Interpretability for AI Model Quality Assessment: Designing an LLM-Based Decision Companion for Domain Experts in LCNC Environments". In: *Design for Better Futures: Beyond the Science of the Artificial. Prototypes and Research-in-Progress. 21st International Conference on Design Science Research in Information Systems and Technology, DESRIST 2026, Münster, Germany, June 8–10, 2026, Proceedings, Part III*. Ed. by S. Chatterjee/S. Gregor/G. Kipping/G. Mansingh. Vol. 16607. Lecture Notes in Computer Science. Cham: Springer Nature, pp. 323–328. DOI: 10.1007/978-3-032-28570-6_26.

Gigerl, B./Thalmann, S. (June 2026). „Challenges In Assessing AI Model Quality In Low-Code / No-Code Platforms: A Literature Review". In: *ECIS 2026 Proceedings*. 34th European Conference on Information Systems (ECIS 2026). 1. Milan, Italy. Atlanta, GA: Association for Information Systems, pp. 1–17. URL: https://aisel.aisnet.org/ecis2026/litrev/litrev/1.

Haberl, A./Thalmann, S. (June 2026). „Automated Documentation for Reproducible Research: The Reproducible AI Documentation (RepAID) Tool". In: *Design for Better Futures: Beyond the Science of the Artificial. Prototypes and Research-in-Progress. 21st International Conference on Design Science Research in Information Systems and Technology, DESRIST 2026, Münster, Germany, June 8–10, 2026, Proceedings, Part III*. Ed. by S. Chatterjee/S. Gregor/G. Kipping/G. Mansingh. Vol. 16607. Lecture Notes in Computer Science. Cham: Springer Nature, pp. 329–336. DOI: 10.1007/978-3-032-28570-6_27.

Hunter, D./Jarke, J./Mayer, K./Amelang, K./Leithinger, D./Yi-Luen Do, E. (Oct. 2025). „Data Walking: Designing Tools to Build Critical Data Literacy". In: *Mindtrek '25: Proceedings of the 28th International Academic Mindtrek Conference*. Tampere, Finland. Ed. by M. Bujić/T. Olsson/V. Spors/M. Thibault. New York, NY: Association for Computing Machinery, pp. 200–214. DOI: 10.1145/3757980.3757998. 🏆 **Best Paper Award**.

Vuković, M./Mutlu, B./Kristan, T./Krahwinkler, P./Tauber, C./Thalmann, S. (Oct. 2025). „Leveraging Causal Discovery to Tackle Complexity in Model-Based Anomaly Detection: Case-Study from Blast Furnace Operation". In: *2025 IEEE 12th International Conference on Data Science and Advanced Analytics (DSAA 2025)*. Birmingham, United Kingdom. New York, NY: Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), pp. 1–10. DOI: 10.1109/DSAA65442.2025.11248001.

## Journal Articles

Fleiß, J./Bäck, E./Thalmann, S. (Feb. 2024). „Mitigating Algorithm Aversion in Recruiting: A Study on Explainable AI for Conversational Agents". In: *ACM SIGMIS Database: the DATABASE for Advances in Information Systems* Vol. 55, Issue 1, pp. 56–87. DOI: 10.1145/3645057.3645062. 🏆 **Best Paper Award**.

Greubel, C./López Gómez, D./Van Hees, S./Moors, E. H. M./Peine, A. (Dec. 2025). „When technology non-use troubles good ageing". In: *Journal of Aging Studies* Vol. 75, pp. 1–11. DOI: 10.1016/j.jaging.2025.101324.

Malin, C./Fleiß, J./Ortlieb, R./Thalmann, S. (Nov. 2025). „Rejected by an AI? Comparing applicants' fairness perceptions of artificial intelligence and humans in personnel selection". In: *Frontiers in Artificial Intelligence. Sec. AI in Business* Vol. 8, pp. 1–12. DOI: 10.3389/frai.2025.1671997.

Malin, C./Fleiß, J./Thalmann, S. (May 2025). „Stakeholder-specific adoption of AI in HRM: workers' representatives' perspective on concerns, requirements, and measures". In: *Frontiers in Artificial Intelligence. Sec. Technology and Law* Vol. 8, pp. 1–17. DOI: 10.3389/frai.2025.1561322.

Semmelrock, H./Ross-Hellauer, T./Kopeinik, S./Theiler, D./Haberl, A./Thalmann, S./Kowald, D. (Apr. 2025). „Reproducibility in machine-learning-based research: Overview, barriers, and drivers". In: *AI Magazine* Vol. 46, Issue 2, pp. 1–19. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1002/aaai.70002.

Back to Contents