

## CIVIS BIP “Novel Research and Ethics: from Neuroscience to AI”

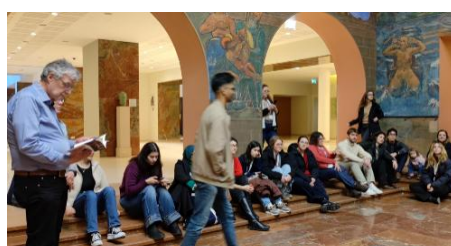
International, interdisciplinary, and challenging – these three words succinctly describe the CIVIS BIP event “Novel Research and Ethics: from Neuroscience to AI.” The aim of the week was to provide students with a broad spectrum of knowledge on current ethical issues as well as on the responsible use of cutting-edge technologies, particularly in the field of neuroscience and artificial intelligence. Silvia Traunwieser (Department of International Law, European Law, and Foundations of Law/RWW Faculty) coordinated and organized this CIVIS BIP event.

Out of over 200 applicants, 40 participants were selected to take part in the event held in Salzburg from February 23 to 27, 2026. In addition to students from Aix-Marseille University, the University of Tübingen, the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Sapienza University of Rome, the Autonomous University of Madrid, the University of Lausanne, the University of Sfax, the Université libre de Bruxelles, the University of Bucharest, and the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, participants from Paris Lodron University of Salzburg were also represented.

Engaging with the complex field of neuroscience must take place within the context of various disciplines. Only through this interdisciplinary approach can we gain the most comprehensive understanding of this field of research and enable well-founded analyses and critical reflections from medical, legal, technical, psychological, sociological, and ethical-philosophical perspectives. The diversity of these disciplines was reflected in both the participants and the speakers. Exciting discussions and questions about potentially disruptive applications ensured an active level of participation.

Research in neuroscience and cognitive psychology has shown that attention spans diminish and cognitive fatigue sets in during eight-hour teaching sessions. The central challenge was to structure the week so that diverse and innovative teaching formats were included, as well as sufficient breaks. Activities in the cultural capital of Salzburg further helped to boost the participants' mental receptivity, making it an unforgettable experience.

I would like to extend special thanks to Dr. Brigitta Pallauf, President of the Salzburg Government, for the guided tour of the Salzburg Parliament; to Mag.<sup>a</sup> Renate Schönmayr for the tour of the Landkartengalerie in the Toskanatrakt branch library and for the quill-pen-writing workshop; to Mag.<sup>a</sup> Stephanie Krenner for presenting the BBC documentary “Great Composers: Mozart” from the Mozart Ton- und Filmsammlung, the Salzburg Festival for the exciting tour both in front of and behind the scenes, and – last but not least – Jonathan Lucas Hauser for his impressive performance of “Peace for Ukraine” in the Karl Böhm Hall of the Festival Hall.



The “Best Picture Contest” on the final day created lasting visual memories of the week. More importantly, this event opened up a wide range of networking opportunities that can lead to new avenues and future collaborations. Many thanks to the participating students and lecturers, who not only helped shape this week but also made it an all-around successful and enriching experience!



Thank you,

Silvia Traunwieser