Call for abstracts 11th NKL conference 27th-28th of May 2027 Tromsø, Norway

With or without a human touch? On life, knowledge, intelligence, AI and society

Abstracts: 250- 400 words are to be sent to Ketil Lenert Hansen ketil.lenert.hansen@uit.no and with cc to Anna Lydia Svalastog als@hiof.no

Deadline: March 1st 2027

For the 2027 NKL conference, *With or without a human touch? On life, knowledge, intelligence, AI and society,* we welcome presentations that analyze and discuss examples and theories that concern:

- What is the relation between offline and online in the life of the individual?
- How does AI affect ownership, governance and access to natural resources?
- What are the risks generated by digitalization and how can these risks be met or countered?
- How is knowledge affected by digitalization and AI, and how can we protect and secure knowledge in a digitalized and AI run society?
- In what sense is digitalization exclusionary or inclusive? Do traditionally marginalized groups benefit or gain from digitalization?
- Dead internet (where activity online is primarily composed by bots and AI)

Questions concerning AI, automation, and digitalization are increasingly central to public, political and academic debates. Is AI a solution, a threat, or both—and to whom, why and in what ways?

Current discussions range from specific applications, such as AI-generated target lists, autonomous weapons and AI-assisted research into toxins and biological weapons, to broader concerns about responsibility, accountability and human control. Other debates focus on the possible consequences of algorithmic optimization, including the risk that human beings may be treated as variables in systems whose goals and operations are difficult to understand or contain.

AI is also frequently described as possessing superhuman capacities to collect, organize, combine and analyze information. Less attention is given to the nature and limits of machine knowledge, and to questions concerning embodied knowledge, experience, situatedness, perspective and reflexivity.

As digital and non-digital aspects of life become increasingly intertwined, the consequences of digitalization extend far beyond the screen. AI systems collect and analyze information about individuals and groups; critical infrastructures are vulnerable to cyberattacks; and communication, policymaking and decision-making are being transformed. Digital systems also depend on material resources, including rare earth minerals, land, energy and water. This raises the question of whether the digital can meaningfully be understood as separate from contemporary social, political and material life.

We invite abstracts that engage with these issues through theoretical, empirical, historical, ethical or practice-based approaches. Contributions on other topics related to the conference theme and/or knowledge landscapes are also very welcome!

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