

SURE-AI Annual Conference Program 2026

Welcome to the official schedule and program guide for the SURE-AI Annual Conference. This comprehensive program brings together senior and junior researchers from leading international institutions to discuss the mathematical foundations, algorithm designs, ethical implications, socio-economic networks, and applied systems of Artificial Intelligence.

The research portion spans from Monday through Wednesday lunch, concluding with a conference hike. Thursday features an Industry Focus track, and Friday concludes with a policy meeting for invited stakeholders.

Program Overview & Thematic Sessions

- **Ethics, Philosophy, & Socio-Economics:** Focusing on the conceptual and societal foundations of AI systems, algorithmic ethics, and complex human-economic network structures.
- **Graph and Topological Machine Learning & Networks:** Highlighting learning and inference on structured data through statistical dependencies, graph and topological network representations and optimization methods for complex systems.
- **Risk, Sustainability, & Energy Systems:** Investigating probabilistic simulations of risk, stochastic finance, spatio-temporal tracking for autonomous systems, and modern energy forecasting.
- **Mathematical Foundations & Optimization:** Exploring signature methods, deep learning theory, constrained AI and PDE-constrained optimization frameworks.

Monday August 17: Ethics, Socio-Economics & Graph Networks

Conceptual framework of AI ethics, text mining within applied social sciences, complex networks, and graph signal architectures.

Time	Session/Activity	Speaker & Affiliation	Topic & Details
11:00 - 12:30	Registration & Lunch from 11.30		Hosted at Simula Research Laboratory, HPL Lecture Hall
12:30 - 13:00	Opening Remarks	Baltasar Beferull-Lozano & Thomas Surowiec SURE-AI Management	
Ethics, Philosophy and Socio-Economics of AI Part I			
13:00 - 13:30	Research Talk 1	Atoosa Kasirzadeh Carnegie Mellon University (CMU)	Ethical and safety challenges of automating science

Time	Session/Activity	Speaker & Affiliation	Topic & Details
			and what we can do about them
13:30 - 14:00	Research Talk 2	Henrik Skaug Sætra University of Oslo	<i>Tbc:</i>
14:00 - 14:30	Break		
Ethics, Philosophy and Socio-Economics of AI Part II			
14:30 - 15:00	Research Talk 3	Loreta Isaraj Joint Research Centre, European Commission	Transformer Models as Tools for Economic Policy Discovery: Identifying Digital Sovereignty Regimes in OECD Countries
15:00 - 15:30	Research Talk 4	Massimo Riccaboni IMT Lucca (ISAC member)	Complex Economic Systems and Corporate Networks
15:30 - 16:00	Break		
Graph Neural Networks and Signal Processing			
16:00 - 16:30	Research Talk 5	Elvin Isufi TU Delft	Learning with Statistical Relations
16:30 - 17:00	Research Talk 6	Antonio Ortega University of Southern California (USC)	Graph Signal Processing Foundations and Video Compression
17:00 - 17:30	Research Talk 7	Kostas Slavakis Institute of Science Tokyo	Gaussian Mixture Models for Q- Functions in Reinforcement Learning
17:30 - 17:45	Closing Remarks Day 1	SURE-AI Management Team	

Tuesday August 18: Risk, Sustainability & Energy

Probabilistic modelling, sustainable transport ecosystems, fault detection in power infrastructure, followed by short format research blitz sessions.

Time	Session/Activity	Speaker & Affiliation	Topic & Details
Risk and Uncertainty			
09:00 - 09:30	Research Talk 8	Zenon Medina-Cetina Texas A&M University (TAMU)	Probabilistic Simulation of Risk Scenarios
09:30 - 10:00	Research Talk 9	Christa Cuchiero University of Vienna	Dynamic universal approximation and modeling with signature stochastic differential equations
10:00 - 10:30	Break		
Energy Systems, Forecasting, Spatio-Temporal Data			
10:30 - 11:00	Research Talk 10	Benjamin Thürrer & Andrew Richardson Rystad Energy	Vessel Destination Prediction as a Leading Indicator for Energy Markets
11:00 - 11:30	Research Talk 11	Erling Ween Eriksen Institute for Energy Technology	Solar Nowcasting: Prediction of rapid atmospheric fluctuations for energy production
11:30 - 12:00	Research Talk 12	Laura Ruotsalainen Finnish Center for AI (FCAI)	From Spatiotemporal Data to Sustainable Decision-Making
12:00 - 13:30	Lunch		
Young Researcher Session			
13:30 - 14:30	Young Researchers Blitz	Preben Monteiro Ness	Rapid-fire presentations

Time	Session/Activity	Speaker & Affiliation	Topic & Details
		Simula Research Laboratory Pere Díaz Lozano University of Oslo Julian Pachschwöll University of Vienna Hajg Jasa Simula Research Laboratory Emilio Ruiz Moreno Simula Metropolitan Center for Digital Engineering Øyvind Bugge Solheim Institute for Social Research	showcasing junior research (6 x 10 min)
14:30 - 15:00	Break		
Showcase of Norwegian National AI Centres			
15:00 - 16:00	Norwegian National AI Centres	Alexander Refsum-Jensenius MishMash - Centre for AI and Creativity Arnoldo Frigessi TRUST - Norwegian Centre for Trustworthy AI Barbara Wasson AI Learn – AI Centre for the Empowerment of Human Learning Vahid Hassani NCEI – Norwegian Centre for Embodied AI	Shorter status presentations from regional AI nodes
16:00 - 16:15	Closing Remarks Day 2	SURE-AI Management Team	
18:30+	Conference Dinner at Ekebergrestauranten		

Wednesday August 19: Mathematical Foundations & Optimization

Structural learning theory, signatures of path spaces, and rigorous high-dimensional system optimization.

Time	Session/Activity	Speaker & Affiliation	Topic & Details
Signature Methods in Machine Learning and Beyond			
09:00 - 09:30	Research Talk 13	Terry Lyons University of Oxford	<i>Tba</i>
09:30 - 10:00	Research Talk 14	Hao Ni University College London (UCL)	Enhancing generative models via Rough path theory
10:30 - 11:00	Break		
Methods and Applications of Mathematical Optimization in AI			
11:00 - 11:30	Research Talk 15	Cédric Richard National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS)	Listening to the City: Repurposing Telecom Fibers for Massive-Scale Traffic Sensing with AI
11:30 - 12:00	Research Talk 16	Mathieu Besançon INRIA/Multi institutional	Low-Budget Active Learning Through Entropic Optimal Transport
12:00 - 12:25	Research Talk 17 (Online talk)	Masashi Sugiyama RIKEN/The University of Tokyo	Unveiling the Limits of Machine Learning: Recent Advances in Direct Bayes Error Estimation without Classifier Training
12:30 – 12:55	Research Talk 18 (Online talk)	Harbir Antil George Mason University (GMU)	Digital Twins, Generative AI, and Beyond: A PDE–Constrained

Time	Session/Activity	Speaker & Affiliation	Topic & Details
			Optimization Perspective
12:55 - 13:00	Closing Remarks Day 3	SURE-AI Management Team	
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch		
Afternoon	Conference Hike in Oslomarka.		

Thursday August 20: Applied Focus Tracks

Beyond pure theoretical frameworks, the end of the week shifts to cross-sector transfer and regulatory outlooks.

[AI in Business & Industry](#) - Bridging the academic discussion with practical debate on implementation and innovation in business and industry

Hosted at **REBEL, Universitetsgata 2, Auditorium 0010**.

Time	Session	Speaker & Affiliation	Topic & Details
08:30 - 9.00	Registration & coffee		REBEL, Auditorium 0010
09:00 - 9:15	Welcome	Holger Hussmann Director of Innovation, SURE-AI Claudia Battistin Simula Research Laboratory	
9:15 - 10:00	Keynote	Liv Dingsør Digital Norway	How AI changes the industrial landscape and the challenges it brings along
10:00 - 10:20	Break		

Time	Session	Speaker & Affiliation	Topic & Details
10:20 - 11:00	SURE-AI Partner presentation	REMA 1000 Signe Moe Insight Analyst	AI in Retail: Use cases and ongoing work at REMA 1000
11:00 - 11:40	SURE-AI Partner presentation	Rystad Energy Erik Wold Senior Partner & CTO	Introducing AI-consumption of data in a Data-as-a-Service company
11:40 - 12:30	Lunch		
12:30 - 13:00	Research Perspective	Fabian Nøst Harang Director of Research, SURE-AI	How today's research can impact the industry "Sustainable, Risk-averse and Ethical"
13:00 - 13:30	Panel Discussion Industry & Research	Panel debate with industry & research representatives, led by Claudia Battistin	Importance of close collaboration between research and industry, and how to best utilize Norwegian data in this work
13:30 - 14:00	In- & Outside View	Olav Sindre Kriken CEO & Founder at Tana	From Meetings to Memory. Turning every discussion, decision, and signal into the organizational intelligence AI needs to do real work.
14:00 - 14:20	Break		
14:20 - 14:50	SURE-AI Partner presentation	Norges Bank Thomas Gregersen Special Adviser	AI in payment solutions
14:50 - 15:20	SURE-AI Partner presentation	Telenor Jeriek Van den Abeele Research Scientist	AI for a Safer and Smarter Tomorrow

Time	Session	Speaker & Affiliation	Topic & Details
15:20 - 15:50	AI in Industry	Sigma2's KI fabrikk Roger Kvam Project leader	Infrastructure and services for research, but for the benefit of industry
15:50 - 16:00	Closing		

Friday August 21: Policy meeting

Policy meeting for invited stakeholders and decision makers, hosted at Simula Research Laboratory. Discussion on structural funding, research governance, and ethics regulatory acts.