

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 (at Simula Research Laboratory, Kristian Augusts gate 23), concluding with a conference hike in Oslomarka. Thursday features an Industry Focus track (hosted at REBEL Oslo, Universitetsgata 2), 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			

Time	Session/Activity	Speaker & Affiliation	Topic & Details
13:00 – 13:30	Research Talk 1	Atoosa Kasirzadeh Carnegie Mellon University (CMU)	How could AI in science go wrong & how can we prevent it?
13:30 – 14:00	Research Talk 2	Henrik Skaug Sætra & Enya Rogerson University of Oslo	Apex Risk: survival, destruction, and the politics of AI evolution
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)	Machine Learning on Graphs: Combining Local and Global Information
17:00 – 17:30	Research Talk 7	Kostas Slavakis Institute of Science Tokyo	Gaussian Mixture Models for Q-Functions in Reinforcement Learning

Time	Session/Activity	Speaker & Affiliation	Topic & Details
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 Thüerer & 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

Time	Session/Activity	Speaker & Affiliation	Topic & Details
12:00 – 13:30	Lunch		
Young Researcher Session			
13:30 – 14:30	Young Researchers Blitz	Preben Monteiro Ness 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	Rapid-fire presentations 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	Shorter status presentations from regional AI nodes

Time	Session/Activity	Speaker & Affiliation	Topic & Details
		NCEI – Norwegian Centre for Embodied AI	
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	Rough Path theory and AI
09:30 – 10:00	Research Talk 14	Hao Ni University College London (UCL)	Diffusion distillation via signatures and parallelisation
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

Time	Session/Activity	Speaker & Affiliation	Topic & Details
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch		
13:00 – 13:25	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
13:30 – 13:55	Research Talk 18 (Online talk)	Harbir Antil George Mason University (GMU)	Reliable Digital Twins for Biomedical and Engineering Systems: A PDE-Constrained Optimization Perspective
13:55 – 14:00	Closing Remarks Day 3	SURE-AI Management Team	
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 – 09:00	Registration, light breakfast & coffee		REBEL, Auditorium 0010
09:00 – 09:15	Welcome	Holger Hussmann Director of Innovation, SURE-AI Claudia Battistin	

Time	Session	Speaker & Affiliation	Topic & Details
		Simula Research Laboratory	
09:15 – 09:55	Keynote	Liv Dingsør Digital Norway	How AI changes the industrial landscape and the challenges it brings along
09:55 – 10:20	Break		
10:20 – 10:45	SURE-AI Partner presentation	REMA 1000 Signe Moe Insight Analyst	AI in Retail: Use cases and ongoing work at REMA 1000
10:45 – 11:10	Research Perspective	Fabian Nøst Harang Director of Research, SURE-AI	How today's research can impact the industry "Sustainable, Risk-averse and Ethical"
11:10 – 12:10	Lunch		
12:10 – 12:35	SURE-AI Partner presentation	Rystad Energy Erik Wold Senior Partner & CTO	Introducing AI-consumption of data in a Data-as-a-Service company
12:35 – 13:00	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
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

Time	Session	Speaker & Affiliation	Topic & Details
13:30 – 13:50	Break		
13:50 – 14:15	SURE-AI Partner presentation	Norges Bank Thomas Gregersen Special Adviser	AI in payment solutions
14:15 – 14:40	SURE-AI Partner presentation	Telenor Jeriek Van den Abeele Research Scientist	AI for a safer and smarter tomorrow
14:40 – 15:05	AI in Industry	Sigma2's KI fabrikk Roger Kvam Project leader	Infrastructure and services for research, but for the benefit of industry
15:05 – 15:15	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.