MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE
FOR INTELLIGENT SYSTEMS

The Max Planck Institute for Intelligent Systems (MPI-IS) conducts research to understand the principles of perception, action, and learning in systems that successfully interact with complex environments.

The Research Group **Embodied Social Interaction** at MPI-IS in **Stuttgart** has an open position for

Master's thesis student (f/m/div) for Multimodal Authenticity Detection in CEO Communication

Despite recent corporate backlash against diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives, some CEOs continue to publicly voice their commitment to DEI. But is this commitment genuine, or is it strategic impression management? In this Master's thesis, you will develop a machine learning pipeline to distinguish authentic from performative CEO discourse on DEI, using public CEO interviews collected from YouTube. After transcribing these interviews, you will develop an NLP pipeline to assess the authenticity of the discourse. Beyond language, you can explore how non-verbal signals, such as speech patterns or gaze, can complement the analysis.

Roles & Responsibilities

- Reviewing relevant literature on authentic leadership, deception detection and LLM-based text annotation.
- Transcribing and preprocessing a large corpus of CEO interviews.
- Developing and evaluating an NLP pipeline to assess the authenticity of CEO discourse.
- Extracting and exploring non-verbal signals and integrating them into the analysis.
- Interpreting findings and writing a Master's thesis.

Education & Experience

- Master's student in Computer Science, Data Science, Computational Linguistics, Cognitive Science, or a related discipline.
- Strong programming skills in Python.
- Experience with NLP and machine learning, e.g., working with large language models.
- Experience with computer vision or audio/speech processing is an advantage.
- Interest in interdisciplinary research at the intersection of AI and organisational science.
- Good oral and written communication skills in English.

Our Offer

- An international, multidisciplinary, and highly motivating working environment.
- Extensive mentoring and supervision.
- Access to state-of-the-art lab facilities.

Application

Applications should include a **CV** and an informative **transcript** from your current academic program. **In your email, please describe what interests you in this project, and how your previous experiences have prepared you for it.**

Please send your application to Philipp Müller (phmueller@is.mpg.de) and Sonia Nicoletti (snicoletti@is.mpg.de). For any questions regarding the position, please also feel free to contact either of us.