

Dresden, May 2025

Call for Contributions for a Symposium on:
**"Unpacking Generativity:
 Epistemology, Politics, and Aesthetics of Generative AI Systems"**
 (07.10.2025, Dresden)

Contemporary AI systems are increasingly characterized as *generative*, defined by their ability to produce media outputs — such as text, images, audio, and video. Rather than merely focusing on the technical definition of generativity in Deep Learning, our aim is to shift attention towards the epistemological, political and aesthetic dimensions of generativity and ask about its societal implications. What is revealed, obscured, or excluded in this transformation? What are the broader implications for society, culture, and politics?

To answer these questions, we invite scholars, practitioners, and thinkers to a symposium with the title: "Unpacking Generativity: Epistemology, Politics, and Aesthetics of Generative AI Systems". The symposium is a one-day on-site event in Dresden, which is dated for October 7th, 2025.

Drawing from a diverse range of disciplines—including STS, digital cultures, political science, arts, computer science, and media studies—this symposium aims to foster critical dialogue on contemporary digital infrastructures. Participants will engage with scholars, practitioners, and thinkers to unpack the complexities of generative AI and its far-reaching impact on society.

We envision three thematic blocks (Epistemology, Politics and Aesthetics) each with an invited keynote, two lightning talks and a joint Q+A. Following these three blocks, there will be a closing discussion with the three keynote speakers. The call for contributions is aimed for the lightning talks in these three thematic blocks that will take place after the keynotes. To increase our reach, this on-site event will be streamed for an outside audience and guests.

We welcome both disciplinary and interdisciplinary contributions. Join us as we explore contemporary questions, challenges and opportunities surrounding generative AI, exploring its technical, political, and cultural dimensions to gain a deeper understanding of its role in shaping our contemporary world.

Guiding questions and topics could include, but are not limited to:

The Epistemology of Generativity: How are AI systems envisioned and constructed as generative? What epistemological frameworks and assumptions shape the development of Generative AI? What is the impact of AI's generative power on society, knowledge systems and cultural norms?

The Politics of Generativity: What are political economical forces shaping the development and implementation of generative AI systems? How do we need to rethink normativity and existing forms, concepts, orders and subjects of politics in light of these emerging digital infrastructures? What are forms of critique of data extractivism, neo-coloniality, and neoliberal governance led by AI systems?

The Aesthetics of Generativity: What are emerging contemporary aesthetic forms of generative AI systems and to what extent can these be traced back to technological conditions and our visual culture? What political, epistemic and ethical dimensions do they entail? How do these developments reconfigure the boundaries and methods of disciplines and creative practices?

Submission

The call for contributions for the lightning talks is open to all career levels. We strongly support early career researcher with heterogeneous and transdisciplinary academic backgrounds.

Deadline for abstracts is **July 27, 2025**. We expect a short abstract (max. 500 words) that resonate with our observations and guiding questions and go beyond them. We invite critical contributions on generative AI-Systems. The committee will select the submissions for the lightning talks.

Please send your abstracts to: **generativity-slab@mailbox.tu-dresden.de**

Members of the committee

Niklas Egberts (Cultural Studies), Schaufler Lab@ TU Dresden

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Further information about the Schaufler Lab@TU Dresden can be found on our website: [Schaufler Lab@ TU Dresden](#).