Chat Token Vector
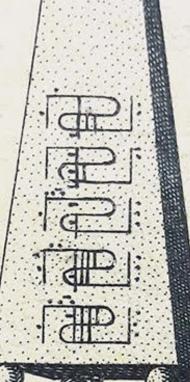
Questioning Models of Language and Neo-Structuralism in AI

11-13 June 2025
Aula Mario Baratto
Ca' Foscari, Dorsoduro
3246 - Venice

More info and registration
unive.it/chat-token-vector

Organised by
ERC Project AIMODELS
Department of Philosophy and
Cultural Heritage
Ca' Foscari University Venice
unive.it/aimodels

CHARAC TER

J. J. Becheri.

M.DC.LXI

Day 1 - 11 June

14.00 - 14.15
Matteo Pasquinelli (Ca' Foscari University)
and **Amira Moeding** (Cambridge University)
Introduction: Questioning language models before and after AI

SESSION 1: Language Models in History
Chair: **Amira Moeding**

14.15- 15.30
KEYNOTE
Lydia Liu (Columbia University)
Logos and Pathos in the Calculating Machine

15.30- 15.45 Coffee break

15.45.16.45
Xiaochang Li (Stanford University)
The Crude Force of Computers: Speech Recognition and the Data of Language

16.45- 17.45
PANEL
Ksenia Tatarchenko (Singapore Management University)
Another Collective: The Russian Language Machine Fund (RLMF), or The Last Act of the Soviet Literary Cybernetics

Justine Zhang (University of Michigan)
Fantasies and histories of effortless interaction

17.45- 18.45
Leonardo Impett (Cambridge University and Fabian Offert, UCSB)
Book pre-launch of "Vector Media: towards a materialist epistemology of Artificial Intelligence" (Meson Press, 2025) introduced by publisher Mercedes Bunz, King's College

19.00
SOCIAL DINNER
(open to all but not covered, Birraria La Corte, San Polo 2168)

Day 2 - 12 June

SESSION 2: Cartographies of the Vector Space
Chair: **Matteo Pasquinelli**

9.00- 10.00
Juan Luis (Gianni) Gastaldi (ETH Zurich)
Toward a Critical Formalism: Philosophical and Theoretical Effects of a Mathematical Critique of LLMs

10.00 - 11.00
Tobias Matzner (Paderborn University)
Vector Spaces, Embeddings and the Normalization of Meaning

11.00- 11.15
Coffee Break

11.15 - 12.00
Étienne Grenier (INRS Montreal)
Lost in Vectorization: Where Critical Hermeneutic Meets AI-powered Creative Sectors

12.00 - 13.00
Paolo Caffoni (University of Arts and Design Karlsruhe)
The Predictive Turn of Language: Reading the Future in the Vector Space

13.00 - 14.00
LUNCH

SESSION 3: The Political Economy of LLMs
Chair: **Matteo Pasquinelli**

14.00- 15.00
Tommaso Guariento (Ca' Foscari University Venice) *Ungrounded Speculations. The Vector-grounding Problem between Linguistics and Economics*

15.00- 16.00
Apolline Taillandier (Cambridge University)
The Politics of AI Models: Constructing Selves and Social Orders Through Programming

16.00- 16.15
Coffee Break

16.15- 17.45
PANEL
Nina Markl (University of Essex)
Managing Language, Work & Language Work

Marvin Tritschler (University of Stuttgart)
The Life of the Sign and Its Interchangeability Through Automation

Mikael Brunila (McGill University Montreal)
Cosine capital: Large language models and the embedding of all things

17.45- 18.45
Hannes Bajohr (Berkeley University)
The Latent Space of Meaning and the Novel: World Model in AI and Literature

Day 3 – 13 June

SESSION 4: The Philosophy of Language Automation
Chair: **Tommaso Guariento**

9.00 - 10.00
Jonnie Penn and **Yaqub Chaudhary** (Cambridge University)
New Parameters of Power: On LLM-based Manipulation and Control and the Specter of Strategic AI

10.00 - 10.15
Coffee Break

10.15 - 12.00
PANEL
Anna Luhn (Freie Universität Berlin)
A Matter of Disruption, a Case for Preservation: Literary Powerplay In/Against an AI Paradigm of Language

David Bering-Porter (The New School, New York)
Large Language and Models of the Other: A Semiotics of the Token

Alessandro Trevisan (Cambridge University)
Forms of Life: An Applied Investigation of LLMs through the Lens of Philosophy of Language

12.00 - 13.00 **Ann Copestake** (Cambridge University)
Meaning and Metaphor: Making sense of LLMs

13.00 - 14.00
LUNCH

SESSION 5: Humanities after Tokenization
Chair: **Amira Moeding**

14.00 -15.30
PANEL
Pierre Schwarzer (New York University)
Language, Liquidated

Aditya Nayak, **Aditi Vashistha**, **Aakash Gautam** (University of Pittsburgh)
The Birth of Synthetic Agents: From 'World as Language' to 'Agency as Language'

Luz Horne (Universidad de San Andrés)
What is not Language in Language. Literature as a Laboratory of Philosophical Anthropology in the context of LLMs

15.30 - 15.45
Coffee Break

15.45 - 16.45
Kameelah Janan Rasheed (Yale University)
Zombie Language: Reflections on Current Research in Deathbots, Griefbots, Digital Doppelgängers, and the Afterlives of Language

16.45 - 17.30
Final discussion

17.30-18.30
TOAST (free drinks and Venetian cicchetti, Archive hall)