



***When AI meets science:
opportunities, risks and ethics for research communities***

Royal Library of Belgium, Mont des Arts 28, Brussels - 18 March 2026, 2pm-4.15pm CET



Marc Vanholsbeeck

MODERATOR



Marc is the head of the Department of federal, interfederal and international coordination at Belspo. Marc is also a lecturer in science communication and research methodologies at the Université Libre de Bruxelles. He is the author or co-author of several publications that relate to SSH impact, research evaluation and Open Science.

Andres Algaba

SPEAKER



Andres is assistant professor at the Data Analytics Lab (Vrije Universiteit Brussel). His research is on how LLMs accelerate scientific discovery and innovation, and how to make them more aligned with human and scientific values. He is also a member of the Jonge Academie.

Mathilde Thiery

SPEAKER



Mathilde works on the implementation of the EU Strategy for AI in Science within the DG for Research and Innovation of the European Commission as a policy officer. She is a Quantum Technology Engineer, who graduated from CentraleSupélec, University Paris-Saclay. Mathilde conducted research in Quantum Deep Learning at the Security in Telecommunications Lab of the Technische Universität Berlin and worked on the development of Machine Learning Interatomic Potentials for Software for Chemistry and Materials' AMS Suite in Amsterdam. She holds experience in strategic analysis from her stay at ENGIE's strategy directorate in Paris.



Ine van Zeeland

SPEAKER



Ine is a postdoctoral researcher at imec-SMIT, and affiliated with the Flemish Knowledge Center Data & Society and the Brussels-based FARI - Institute for the Common Good. Her research focuses on the practical protection of personal data and fundamental rights in our technology-mediated society.

Justin Janquart

SPEAKER



Justin has been a professor at UCLouvain and a researcher at the Royal Observatory of Belgium since 2024. His research interests cover gravitational wave data analysis, with a particular focus on tests of fundamental physics, the development of analysis solutions for next-generation detectors such as the Einstein Telescope, and the use of artificial intelligence for some data analysis challenges. He is an active member of several related international collaborations, such as the LIGO-Virgo-KAGRA Scientific Collaboration and the Einstein Telescope Collaboration, where he occupies technical working group chair positions.



Julie Birkholz

SPEAKER



Julie is Associate Professor Digital Humanities in the Department of History of Ghent University & member of the Ghent Centre for Digital Humanities. She is also the Lead of the KBR - Royal Library of Belgium's Digital Research Lab. Her expertise is in digital humanities, and specifically in research infrastructure and extracting information from diverse historical documents to better understand the social networks of the past.

Julie is the National Coordinator of DARIAH-BE. Among others, she is the principal investigator of the KBR's BELSPO ESFRI-DARIAH Virtual Lab (2022-2027) to develop a data-on-demand service & of CLARIN CultuR-AI (2026-2029) to investigate the use of AI in the cultural heritage sector.



Event Programme

| Time | Session | Speaker |
|--------------------------|---|--|
| Introduction (5min) | | |
| 14.00-14.05 | Welcome and scene setter | Marc Vanholsbeeck, Director of the Federal, Interfederal and International Coordination Department, Belgian Science Policy Office (BELSPO) |
| Presentations (50min) | | |
| 14.05-14.15 | Flattery and Pitfalls of AI in Science : LLMs in Science, the elephant in the room | Andres Algaba, Professor at the Data Analytics Lab of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel |
| 14:15-14:25 | A European Strategy for AI in Science & RAISE | Mathilde Thiery, Policy Officer, DG RTD, European Commission |
| 14:25-14:35 | Transparency for what and whom: open access, open source, OpenAI? | Ine Van Zeeland, Senior researcher at imec-SMIT, Vrije Universiteit Brussel |
| 14:35-14:45 | Use case 1: The potential use of AI in gravitational waves research and the future Einstein Telescope | Justin Janquart, Professor at UCLouvain and Researcher at the Royal Observatory of Belgium |
| 14:45-14:55 | Use case 2: The use of AI in cultural heritage research | Julie Birkholz, Associate Professor Digital Humanities at UGent and Lead of the Royal Library of Belgium's Digital Research Lab |
| Coffee break (30min) | | |
| Panel discussion (40min) | | |
| 15:25-16:05 | Panel discussion around guiding questions asked by the moderator | Marc Vanholsbeeck (moderator) and all speakers |
| Q&A (10min) | | |
| 16:05-16:15 | Questions and answers session with the audience | Marc Vanholsbeeck, BELSPO (moderator) and all speakers |



This event is organised by the Belgian Science Policy Office (Belspo).

For any questions, please contact:

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