IUFE Annual Conference 2025

AI for a Better World:
Conflict Prevention and Peacekeeping

Monday, June 23rd 2025 | cowerk, Gonzagagasse 1, 1010 Wien

Live-Stream:
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81160035000?pwd=gQZW6qAjfuy6PFa3A24hEwRubCEtLb.1

Background & Objectives

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is playing an increasingly significant role in global efforts for peace and security, offering transformative potential for conflict prevention, peacekeeping, and the protection of human rights. However, the growing integration of AI into international security and political frameworks raises complex questions about its ethical use, transparency, and regulation.

Europe plays a crucial role in this discussion. With the European AI Act, the EU has established the world's first legal framework for AI, aiming to set standards for the safe and responsible use of AI. At the same time, AI, in addition to its economic relevance, has become a geopolitical factor. Managing this new technology is a delicate balancing act: while the continuous development of AI necessitates regulations, innovations must also be enabled, particularly in peacekeeping and crisis management.

This year's IUFE conference will explore the tension between AI, peace, European politics, and the potential role of Austria, addressing the following topics:

- The role of AI in conflict prevention and peacekeeping
- Ethical and regulatory challenges of AI in humanitarian and governance contexts
- Opportunities for politics and business to use AI-supported information gathering in crisis regions

This event aims to provide a platform for experts from various fields to share their insights on the role of AI in peacekeeping, as well as the Austrian and European implications.

The conference will be held in English.
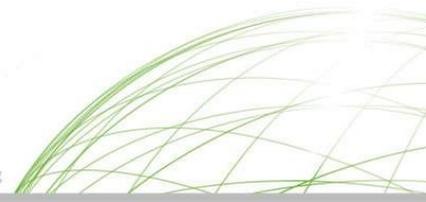
Programme

9:00   Registration & Welcome

9:30   Opening

9:45   Keynote

Is AI coming in peace?

Branka Panic
Founding Director of AI for Peace; political scientist and expert in international security, international development policy, and peacebuilding

10:45   Keynote

Tech Diplomacy in the 21st Century: Navigating Geopolitics, Innovation, Governance, and Ethics

Claudia Reinprecht
Coordinator for TechDiplomacy; Head of Division for Transport, Telecommunications, Digital, Technology, and Innovation Diplomacy at the Austrian Foreign Ministry

11:45   Coffee Break

12:00   Panel

Information is Key: AI & Data in Conflict Zones and Opportunities for Society, Policymaking and Business

Andreas Papp
Managing Director of PeaceEye; consultant, humanitarian aid and disaster management expert

Nathan Coyle
Senior PeaceTech Advisor, speaker and author of the book "Open Data for Everybody: Using Open Data for Social Good"

Branka Panic
Founding Director of AI for Peace; political scientist and expert in international security, international development policy, and peacebuilding

Andreas Lederer (Moderator)
Founder of the AI agency ADVANTAGE AI

13:15   Lunch

campus TIVOLI

Österreichische
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Branka Panic

Branka Panic is the Founding Director of AI for Peace, a US based think tank ensuring artificial intelligence benefits peace, security, and sustainable development and where diverse voices influence the development of AI and related technologies.

Branka is also a Non-Resident Fellow at the Center on International Cooperation at New York University, where she focuses on researching the utilization of data-driven approaches to conflict prevention and peacebuilding. She is the host of "Data for Peace" online series. Branka is also a Stimson-Microsoft Responsible AI Fellow, a member of UNESCO Women4Ethical AI, and a member of IEEE Global Initiative on Ethics of Autonomous and Intelligent Systems and a Senior Advisor on AI to the German Federal Foreign Office. A passionate advocate for positive peace with 15 years of global experience in the humanitarian, peace, and development fields, Branka's current emphasis is researching the benefits, risks, and ethical implications of emerging technologies. Her insights and expertise in this field have earned her recognition as one of the 100 Brilliant Women in AI Ethics in 2022, and one of the top 33 leaders around the globe in responsible AI for impact as part of the "She Shapes AI 2024/25".

Branka holds a M.A. in International Development Policy from Duke University, Sanford School of Public Policy, USA and a M.S. in International Security from the University of Belgrade, Serbia. She is a Rotary Peace Fellow Alumna, Paul Harris Fellow, and ambassador at the Institute for Economics and Peace. Currently, she works as a Professor of Practice at the University of North Carolina, USA. She is a co-author of a book "AI for Peace", published in April 2024, by Routledge.

Claudia Reinprecht

Claudia Reinprecht has served in the Austrian Foreign Ministry since March 2004. After diplomatic postings in Vienna, Brussels, Amman/Jordan, Hong Kong/China and Paris, Ms Reinprecht has been appointed chief of unit for transport, telecommunication, digital, tech and innovation diplomacy, serving as the Austrian Foreign Ministry's focal point for digital and tech diplomacy and Global Gateway.

Having studied in Salzburg/Austria and Salamanca/Spain, Ms Reinprecht acquired a masters and PhD degree in law with a focus on international public law, international criminal law and refugee law. In addition, she acquired a General Executive MBA-post-graduate degree from the Austrian Business School LIMAK in Linz in 2013. During her diplomatic career, she has worked on a broad range of issues in multilateral and bilateral foreign policy, in particular emerging and disruptive Technologies, human rights, communication and media, cultural and science diplomacy, foreign economic relations, international justice and home affairs, including terrorism.

Ms Reinprecht served as ambassador of Austria to UNESCO in Paris and Consul General of Austria in Hong Kong and Macao. Prior to, that she had served as policy adviser to the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Austria Dr. Michael Spindelegger advising him in matters relating to international law and human rights, foreign cultural diplomacy as well as development policy.

Andreas Papp

In 2004 Andreas Papp started as a humanitarian aid worker for the NGO "Médecins Sans Frontières" (MSF) and served in a dozen countries as a coordinator at project or country level, followed by the Program Director position at MSF-Austria in 2008. From 2015 until 2019, Andreas worked as Director of Emergency Response at SOS Children´s Villages International (SOS-CVI), where he supported and contributed to the development and set-up of SOS-CVI Emergency Preparedness and Relief programs in 28 countries around the globe. Since 2013, Andreas Papp has been a regular lecturer at Webster University, Vienna Campus, and at the beginning of 2020, Andreas founded his own company, Andreas Papp Consulting e.U., working self-employed with companies, universities, NGO´s and governmental institutions. He is founder and managing director of PeaceEye, a venture developing a state-of-the-art technology-conflict-peace interface to better analyse, understand and respond to security challenges.

Nathan Coyle

Nathan Coyle is the Senior PeaceTech Advisor at the Austrian Institute for Technology who is responsible to support the AIT to set up the PeaceTech Alliance, a human centric global looking PeaceTech Hub for Austria, working with government and peacebuilding partners across the country. Nathan, who also leads on PeaceTech at the Austrian Centre for Peace, has partnered with governments across the globe to enhance their digital outreach efforts. He is a Fellow at The Royal Society of Arts in his native Britain and a writer, contributing to publications such as The Guardian, The Huffington Post and more. He has also authored a book called 'Open Data for Everybody: Using Open Data for Social Good' which is available via Routledge, and has conducted various talks on social tech across Europe, including the European Union, UN Cyber Hub, OSCE and he is also a TEDx speaker.

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Andreas Lederer

Dr. Andreas Lederer, MBA, is the founder of the Viennese AI agency ADVANTAGE AI, and a frequent keynote speaker and host.

He lectures and conducts research on various AI topics at institutions such as WU Wien and FH WKW, and runs the AI literacy platform lerne-ki.at. He recently co-authored the book KI.Recht.Einfach – Was bei der Verwendung von ChatGPT & Co. zu beachten ist (Linde Verlag).

He holds a doctorate in Political Science and is a trained Data Scientist. Prior to founding his company, he worked in public administration for ten years. From 2015 to 2017, he worked as a policy advisor for Development Cooperation and SDGs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.