

# Silvia Milano, *Curriculum Vitæ*

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## CONTACT INFORMATION

TUM School of Social Sciences and Technology  
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## RESEARCH PROFILE

I work at the intersection of formal epistemology, ethics of AI, and philosophy of technology. My research examines how algorithmic systems — particularly recommender systems and AI assistants — shape knowledge, values, and rational agency, and develops frameworks for evaluating and governing their effects. I draw on formal and social epistemology, applied ethics and political philosophy to build theoretically rigorous accounts with implications for policy and design.

## AREAS OF SPECIALISATION

Epistemology, Ethics of AI

## AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Philosophy of Technology, Decision and Rational Choice Theory, Philosophy of Economics

## CURRENT POSITION

(August 2025–*present*) **Akademische Rätin** (roughly equivalent to Senior Lecturer / Associate Professor in the US system), Chair of Philosophy and History of Science and Technology, Technical University of Munich.

**Head of Research**, *Ethical Data Initiative*, TUM Think Tank.

## PREVIOUS ACADEMIC POSITIONS

(July 2023–July 2025) **Senior Lecturer** in Philosophy, University of Exeter.

(November 2023–April 2025) **Humboldt Fellow** (Experienced Researchers), Munich Center for Mathematical Philosophy (MCMP), LMU Munich.

(January 2022–June 2023) **Lecturer** in Philosophy of Data and Data Ethics, University of Exeter.

(2020–2024) **Associate Researcher** in Governance of Emerging Technologies, Oxford Internet Institute (OII), University of Oxford.

(July 2020–January 2022) **Research Fellow**, Future of Humanity Institute, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Oxford.

(August 2019–January 2022) William Golding **Junior Research Fellow** in Philosophy, Brasenose College, University of Oxford.

(October 2018–June 2020) **Postdoctoral Researcher**, Digital Ethics Lab (DELab) and Governance of Emerging Technologies programme, Oxford Internet Institute, University of Oxford.

## EDUCATION

LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

**PhD in Philosophy**, 2018. Thesis: *De se beliefs and centred uncertainty*. Supervisors: Prof. Christian List and Prof. Anna Mahtani. Examiners: Prof. Luc Bovens (UNC Chapel Hill) and Prof. Robbie Williams (Leeds).

SCUOLA NORMALE SUPERIORE AND UNIVERSITY OF PISA | Italy  
SNS Licence Diploma, Philosophy, 2011.

M.A. (*summa cum laude*), Philosophy and Forms of Knowledge, 2009.

B.A. (*summa cum laude*), Philosophy, 2007.

## ARTICLES

1. Hajek, K. M., Trauttmansdorff, P., Leonelli, S., Guttinger, S., and **Milano, S.** ‘How to Foster Responsible and Resilient Data: The Ethical Data Initiative.’ *Computer*, 58(4), 95–99 (2025). doi:10.1109/MC.2024.3522696
2. **Milano, S.** and C. Prunkl. ‘Algorithmic profiling as a source of hermeneutical injustice.’ *Philosophical Studies*, 182(1), 185–203 (2025). doi:10.1007/s11098-023-02095-2
3. Deldjoo, Y., He, Z., McAuley, J., Korikov, A., Sanner, S., Ramisa, A., Vidal, R., Sathiamoorthy, M., Kasirzadeh, A., and **Milano, S.** ‘Tutorial on Recommendation with Generative Models (Gen-RecSys).’ *Proceedings of WSDM ’25*, ACM, 1002–1004 (2025). doi:10.1145/3701551.3703485
4. Deldjoo, Y., He, Z., McAuley, J., Korikov, A., Sanner, S., Ramisa, A., Vidal, R., Sathiamoorthy, M., Kasirzadeh, A., and **Milano, S.** ‘A review of modern recommender systems using generative models (Gen-RecSys).’ *Proceedings of the 30th ACM SIGKDD Conference*, 6448–6458 (2024). doi:10.1145/3637528.3671474
5. **Milano, S.** and S. Nyholm. ‘Advanced AI assistants that act on our behalf may not be ethically or legally feasible.’ *Nature Machine Intelligence*, 6(8), 846–847 (2024). doi:10.1038/s42256-024-00877-9
6. **Milano, S.** and A. Perea. ‘Rational Updating at the Crossroads.’ *Economics and Philosophy*, 40(1), 190–211 (2024). doi:10.1017/S0266267122000360
7. **Milano, S.**, McGrane, J., and Leonelli, S. ‘Large language models challenge the future of higher education.’ *Nature Machine Intelligence* (2023). doi:10.1038/s42256-023-00644-2
8. **Milano, S.** ‘Bayesian Beauty.’ *Erkenntnis*, 87, 657–676 (2022). (Winner of the LSE Philosophy Popper Prize 2017/18.) doi:10.1007/s10670-019-00212-4
9. **Milano, S.**, Mittelstadt, B., Wachter, S., and Russell, C. ‘Epistemic fragmentation poses a threat to the governance of online targeting.’ *Nature Machine Intelligence*, 3, 466–472 (2021). doi:10.1038/s42256-021-00358-3
10. **Milano, S.**, Taddeo, M., and Floridi, L. ‘Ethical Aspects of Multi-stakeholder Recommendation Systems.’ *The Information Society*, 37(1), 35–45 (2021). doi:10.1080/01972243.2020.1832636
11. **Milano, S.**, Taddeo, M., and Floridi, L. ‘Recommender Systems and their Ethical Challenges.’ *AI & Society*, 35, 957–967 (2020). doi:10.1007/s00146-020-00950-y

BOOK CHAPTERS  
AND EDITED  
VOLUMES

1. Kasirzadeh, A. and **Milano, S.** ‘Societal Harms and Risks.’ In Deldjoo et al., *Recommendation with Generative Models. Foundations and Trends in Information Retrieval*, 20(1–2), 1–176 (2026). arXiv | doi:10.1108/FTINR-06-2025-0109
2. **Milano, S.** ‘Recommended!’ In David Edmonds (ed.), *Living with AI: Moral Challenges*. Oxford University Press (2024).
3. **Milano, S.** ‘Personalizzazione, frammentazione: le piattaforme digitali e le nuove modalità di accesso all’informazione.’ In *Trasformazione Digitale e Intelligenza Artificiale*, RAI Ufficio Studi, RAI Libri (2024).
4. Burr, C. and **Milano, S.** (eds.). *The 2019 Yearbook of the Digital Ethics Lab*. Springer (2020). doi:10.1007/978-3-030-29145-7\_1

REPORTS AND  
OTHER WRITING

1. Jones, E., Miller, C., and **Milano, S.** *Inform, educate, entertain. . . and recommend? Exploring the use and ethics of recommendation systems in public service media*. Ada Lovelace Institute & BBC (2022). AHRC-funded.
2. Buckner, C., Miikkulainen, R., Forrest, S., **Milano, S.**, et al. ‘AI reflections in 2021.’ *Nature Machine Intelligence*, 4(1) (2022). doi:10.1038/s42256-021-00435-7
3. **Milano, S.** ‘Targeted ads isolate and divide us even when they’re not political.’ *The Conversation*, 13 July 2021. doi:10.64628/AB.5kenj3r4t

IN PREPARATION  
/ UNDER REVIEW

1. **Borrowed Reason (book manuscript)**. A philosophical account of how recommender systems and AI assistants reshape individual rational agency, asking whether and under what conditions AI could make us more rational.
2. 'AI and relationship norms': considers how AI involvement in social life challenges existing norms for relational autonomy, drawing on literature on epistemic injustice.
3. 'Recommender Systems Worsen Epistemic Polarisation' (with Lux Miranda): agent-based modelling of the evolution of beliefs in algorithmically mediated social networks.
4. 'Centred Probabilities can be Objective Chances.' (currently in hiatus)

HONOURS AND  
AWARDS

**Humboldt Fellowship for Experienced Researchers** (2023–2025), Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. Fully funded 18-month research stay at the MCMP, LMU Munich, sponsored by Prof. Stephan Hartmann.

**Popper Prize** (2017/18), awarded every two years by the LSE Department of Philosophy to the best graduate student paper, for 'Bayesian Beauty.'

**AHRC PhD Scholarship** (2013–2016), Managing Severe Uncertainty Project, Centre for the Philosophy of Natural and Social Sciences, LSE.

TEACHING  
EXPERIENCE

Teaching qualifications: **ASPIRE Fellowship** (June 2024) and **PGCertHE**, UK Higher Education Academy.

At TUM I currently teach advanced Masters modules on *Philosophy of Information*, *Social Epistemology*, and *Philosophy of Decision Making Systems*, available across the Science and Technology Studies and RESET Masters programmes.

At the University of Exeter I designed and coordinated the following modules:

- **Data Governance and Ethics** (Masters): cross-disciplinary module across Data Science, Statistics, Computer Science, Sociology, and Philosophy.
- **Introduction to Philosophy of Artificial Intelligence** (Undergraduate).
- **Social Epistemology** (Undergraduate).
- **Ethics of Emerging Technologies** (Masters).

Other teaching includes: Workshop on **Industrial Ethics** for doctoral students, Centre for Doctoral Training in Industrially Focused Mathematical Modelling, Oxford (2021); Formal Epistemology lecture stream, MCMP Summer School on Mathematical Philosophy for Female Students, LMU Munich (2019); MSc course *The Philosophy and Ethics of Information*, OII Oxford (2019, as Guest Lecturer and TA); undergraduate modules in *Logic*, *Moral and Political Philosophy*, and *Introduction to Analytic Philosophy*, LSE (2014-2018, as TA).

**Student supervision**: undergraduate dissertations in Philosophy (Oxford, Exeter); MSc theses in Social Sciences of the Internet (OII Oxford).

SELECTED  
TALKS

(\* indicates refereed paper or abstract.)

'A Dilemma for Preference-Based Representation,' [Philosophy of Science & Formal Epistemology Seminar](#), University of Technology Nuremberg, June 2026.

[**Keynote**] 'Borrowed Wisdom: AI-assisted learning and the temptation of easy knowledge,' [EUonAIR Symposium on the Ethics of Generative AI in Education and Research](#), Lugano, June 2026.

‘Recommender Systems and Epistemic Polarisation,’ BSPS Annual Conference, Glasgow, July 2025. \*

‘Phaedrus’ Error and Hayek’s Trap,’ Uehiro Workshop on *AI, Relationships and Influence*, Oxford, June 2025.

‘Algorithmic Recommendation: What’s the Problem?’ CDT ART-AI Seminar, Bath, June 2025.

**[Keynote]** ‘Accuracy of Prediction and Freedom of Choice,’ special session on AI in Society, German Society for Philosophy of Science (GWP) Congress, Erlangen, March 2025.

‘Tutorial on Recommendation with Generative Models (Gen-RecSys)’ (with Yashar Deldjoo *et al.*)

- WSDM 2025, Hannover. \*
- KDD Conference, Barcelona, August 2024. \*

‘Rational Updating at the Crossroads’

- First Paris Conference: Frontiers of Philosophy and Economics, Paris School of Economics, May 2024.
- Carnegie Mellon Philosophy Colloquium, April 2023.

‘AI and Epistemic Injustice,’ COGITO Epistemology Research Centre, Glasgow, March 2024.

‘Recommender Systems and Epistemic Polarisation’

- LSE Choice Group Seminar, March 2024.
- Research Seminar in Decision and Action Theory, MCMP, LMU Munich, November 2023.
- PhilML’23, Tübingen, September 2023. \*

‘Epistemic Injustice and Algorithmic Profiling,’ invited lecture for the MSt in Practical Ethics, Uehiro Centre, University of Oxford, March 2023.

‘Epistemic obstacles to the governance of algorithmic systems’

- **[Keynote]** EIS Workshop: *Intelligent Systems in Context*, Bayreuth, July 2022.
- Institute for Future Studies, Stockholm, May 2022.

‘Epistemic Injustice and Algorithmic Profiling’ (with Carina Prunkl)

- XI Braga Meetings on Ethics and Political Philosophy, June 2021. \*
- Oxford Epistemology Group, May 2021.

**[Keynote]** ‘Fair for whom? Towards an overarching account of fairness in recommendation,’ Recommender Systems: Legal and Ethical Issues, Bonn, December 2021.

‘Bayesian Beauty’

- Philosophy of Science Association (PSA) Biennial Meeting, Seattle, November 2018. \*
- British Society for the Philosophy of Science (BSPS) Annual Conference, Oxford, July 2018. \*

**RDA Webinar on Recommender Systems for Social Good**, June 2026.

**Big Open Science Podcast, S01E12: Inside the Ethical Data Initiative**, May 2026.

“*Wir brauchen Schutzmechanismen*”: interview on AI assistants, responsibility, and trust. **IPAI Impact Magazin**, December 2024.

**Public lecture** on Large Language Models in Teaching and Research, LMU Munich, June 2024.

**Expert consultant**, project ‘The ethics of recommendation systems in public service media,’ Ada Lovelace Institute & BBC (AHRC-funded). Co-authored **final report** (November 2022).

Invited expert discussant, Workshop on Technological Influence, **DeepMind**, December 2022.

Invited academic expert, round table on Ethics in Recommender Systems, **Meta** Policy team, October

2020.

Invited academic expert on regulating recommendation systems, ROVERA project, **European Commission**, July 2020.

**UK Parliamentary briefing** on algorithms and accountability, October 2019.

EVENT  
ORGANISATION

**EDI Workshop on Recommender Systems for Social Good**, TUM Think Tank, March 2026.

**Workshop on Recommender Systems and Digital Nudging**, MCMP Munich, May 2025.

Workshop on **Data, algorithms, and digital infrastructures: the question of trust in a digital world**, Hamburg, April 2022. Co-organised with Judith Simon (Hamburg) and Stephan Guttinger (Exeter).

Co-organiser, **Oxford Philosophy of Probability Group** (with Al Wilson and Kevin Dorst), 2020.

Co-organiser, Fifth Graduate Conference on the Philosophy of Probability, LSE, June 2017.

ACADEMIC  
SERVICE

Referee for: *AI & Society*; *Analysis*; *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*; *Dialectica*; *Ergo*; *Erkenntnis*; *Journal of Practical Ethics*; *Mind*; *Minds and Machines*; *Nature Machine Intelligence*; *Noûs*; *OUP*; *Philosophical Quarterly*; *Philosophy & Technology*; *Science and Engineering Ethics*; *Synthese*.

Program committee: AIES 2021; ACM FAccT 2022; TARK 2021 and 2023.

Member, Departmental Research Ethics Committee (DREC), Oxford Internet Institute (2019–2020).

LANGUAGES

Italian (native), English (fluent), French (C2), German (B1), Mandarin Chinese (HSK4).

REFERENCES

*Available upon request.*

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