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Institute for Advanced Study

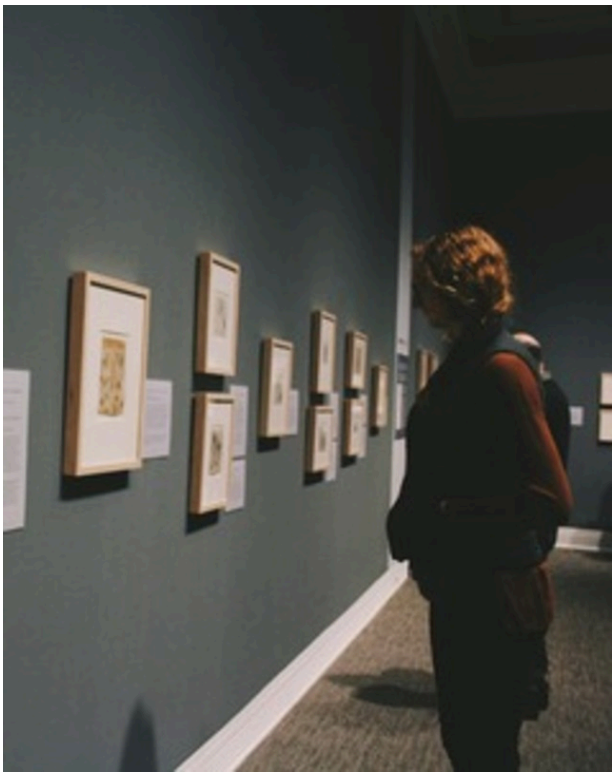


Institute for Advanced Study (IAS)

With this newsflash, we will inform subscribers to our newsflash and members of the UvA-IAS community of research findings, new projects, possibilities for cooperation and grants, events, and other relevant news of the IAS.

Here's what you missed

New RPA Bridges Science and Society



How do we align science and policy? The new Research Priority Area of UVA “Shaping Interfaces Between Science and the Public”, addresses this pressing question. Co-led by IAS director Huub Dijstelbloem, the initiative brings together experts to establish a Public Methodology Centre, advancing citizen science, addressing misinformation, and strengthening the role of science in society.

Learn more →



The challenges of our time

On March 25, the IAS hosted a workshop on “The Age of Existential Risk: Nuclear War, Planetary Boundaries, Authoritarianism”, led by Paul Edwards, External Faculty Member of IAS. Scholars explored how global dynamics and digital systems shape existential threats and discussed the academic responsibility to confront these challenges through civic engagement, interdisciplinary collaboration, and public dialogue.

Learn more →



Complex approaches to tackle climate change challenges

From April 28 to May 2, IAS hosted the Amsterdam Complexity School on Climate Change (ACSCC), uniting early-career researchers and non-academic stakeholders to tackle challenges around climate change through interdisciplinary projects and complexity-informed approaches. Participants aimed to find concrete solutions, ranging from highly abstract modelling to designing a specific intervention or campaign. Building on IAS's ongoing commitment to fostering interdisciplinary collaboration and societal impact the event created a space for meaningful dialogue, fostering long-term collaboration and climate action through inclusive, interdisciplinary exchange.

Read more →

What's new at IAS

Tuning into a changing world



In May 2025, IAS welcomes new Artist-in-Residence Harpo ‘t Hart. As a sound artist and director of the Embassy of the North Sea, he brings ecological insight and creative practice to the institute. During his residency he will raise questions about the ways we listen to our rapidly changing environments and open up space for non-human, ecological perspectives.

More information about Harpo 't Hart →



From Vlogs to Data: How AI Shapes Vulnerability in Digital Environments

What happens when our online lives become research data? How does AI not only observe but actively construct vulnerability? Paula Helm and Delfina Martinez Pandiani, joint fellows of IAS and the UvA Data Science Centre explore these questions through the lens of childfluencers in family vlogs. Their interdisciplinary project explores how AI-driven analysis shapes and reveals

digital vulnerabilities. Join the kick-off event on 21 May to learn more about their approach to responsible, ethics-informed AI research.

Register →



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The UvA Institute for Advanced Study is now on Bluesky! Follow our official profile to stay up to date with inspiring insights, news, events, and a continuous flow of fresh online content. Join the conversation and connect with our community in a new space dedicated to open interactions and interdisciplinary exchange.

Follow us! →

Save the date

may
15

The role of analogies in (artificial) intelligence

Mediamatic Biotoop Dijkspark (Dijkspark 6, 1019BS Amsterdam), 9:30-16:00

With machine learning models taking over more tasks from biological intelligences, there is a renewed interest in characterising fundamental properties of intelligence itself. In this DIEP workshop, we will investigate one such aspect: analogical thinking and reasoning. Melanie Mitchell (Professor at Santa Fe Institute), Jules Hedges (Researcher at the Institute for Categorical Cybernetics and University of Strathclyde), Martha Lewis (Assistant Professor at the University of Amsterdam) and Han van der Maas (Professor at the University of Amsterdam) will present their perspectives on analogies, intelligence, and explore the tension between symbolic and connectionist views, and more.

jun
6

SciSis Meet Prof. Jo Ellis-Monaghan
Institute for Advanced Study (Sweelinck, Oude Turfmarkt 145, 1012GC Amsterdam), 12:00-14:30

Join the Science Sisters on June 6 for the ninth session of SciSis Meet with Professor Jo Ellis-Monaghan. In this session, Prof. Ellis-Monaghan will share insights from her interdisciplinary academic journey, spanning mathematics, art, and international research, while reflecting on her experiences as a woman in science. Moderated by Lidwien Poorthuis, this conversation offers a unique chance to engage with her story and ask questions in an open, informal setting.

News from our network

Jolien Francken receives Woman in Science award



On April 17, four scientists received the 2025 For Women in Science Award at NEMO Science Museum. Among them was Jolien Francken, alumni fellow of IAS and research lead of the IAS theme "Measurement", who was honoured for her interdisciplinary research in neuroscience and philosophy. The awards, supported by NIAS, UNESCO, and L'Oréal, spotlight female talent in science and inspire young women to pursue scientific careers through recognition and role models.

Read more →



The role of the ‘hydrogen economy’ in creating sustainability

An international research team led by Prof. Bob van der Zwaan published a paper in Nature Communications exploring the future role of hydrogen in the energy transition. Their findings suggest that while direct hydrogen use may account for no more than 10% of Europe’s final energy consumption by 2050, it could still play a crucial role—particularly in sectors like heavy industry and transport.

Read more about the research →

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