



## UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO

### DIPARTIMENTO DI FILOSOFIA “PIERO MARTINETTI”

PHILTECH

RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PHILOSOPHY OF TECHNOLOGY

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY, UNIVERSITY OF MILAN

<https://philtech.unimi.it/>

### REPORT OF ACTIVITIES

2025

PHILTECH – the Research Center for the Philosophy of Technology at the University of Milan – is an interdisciplinary research hub dedicated to the philosophical investigation of technology in its theoretical, ethical, social, and practical dimensions. The Center brings together scholars from philosophy, ethics, logic, computer science, social sciences, and related disciplines to address foundational and contemporary challenges posed by digital and emerging technologies. The center operates under the broader departmental excellence framework of the *Techne* project (2023–2028).

The mission of PHILTECH is to advance high-quality research on the conceptual, normative, and epistemic foundations of technology, fostering critical reflection on its role in shaping human practices, social institutions, and forms of knowledge. Through interdisciplinary collaboration, PHILTECH aims to connect philosophical analysis with empirical research, computational methods, and applied experimentation.

The objectives of the Center include:

- (i) promoting research on the philosophy of technology, logic, artificial intelligence, and digital media;
- (ii) supporting interdisciplinary and international collaboration across academia and industry;
- (iii) developing ethical and socially responsible approaches to technological innovation;
- (iv) contributing to public and policy-oriented debates on technology and society; and
- (v) training early-career researchers through seminars, visiting programs, and applied research activities.

Through these activities, PHILTECH seeks to strengthen the role of philosophy in understanding, guiding, and critically shaping technological development at both local and global levels.

This synthetic report overviews the third year of Activities

## MEMBERS

The list of full members, researchers and affiliated member is listed at

<https://philtech.unimi.it/the-center/>

## ADVISORY BOARD

The Center has formed an International Advisory Board with members from Academia and Industry.

<https://philtech.unimi.it/the-center/advisory-board/>

## PT LAB

<https://philtech.unimi.it/ptlab/>

PTLab, the applied research laboratory of PHILTECH, continued to advance interdisciplinary projects that explore the philosophical and societal implications of technology through experimental and computational methods. In 2025, PTLab's portfolio included collaborative work on

- **Ludwig / Tract(AI)tus / Promptatus Logico-Philosophicus (in collaboration with Wazabit)** – A philosophical and computational project exploring logic, visual reasoning, and AI interaction through multiple interlinked frameworks. [PHILTECH](#)
- **Simulation of Random Boolean Networks and Their Properties** – A computational study developed as part of an MA thesis (Elena Bastia), focusing on formal properties of Boolean networks. [PHILTECH](#)
- **Disinformation and Hate Speech (Laura Caponetto & Francesca Doneda)** – A project addressing issues of online disinformation and the dynamics of hate speech (with available video episodes). [PHILTECH](#)
- **BRIO (production by MIRAI)** – A multimedia research-oriented project, with associated video content produced in collaboration with MIRAI. [PHILTECH](#)
- **Impact of AI (Marco Innocenti & Alessandro G. Buda)** – An empirical and analytical investigation into the societal effects of artificial intelligence technologies.

With these activities, PTLab bridges theoretical inquiry and applied investigation, fostering innovative research at the intersection of philosophy, computation, and socio-technological systems.

## COLLABORATIONS

Collaborations with PhilTech are structured around two main groups:

1. Academic and Industrial Partners  
<https://philtech.unimi.it/collaboration/partners/>
2. Affiliated UNIMI Labs  
<https://philtech.unimi.it/collaboration/affiliated-labsunimi/>

## ACTIVITIES

In 2025, PHILTECH organized and contributed to a broad range of academic seminars, workshops, presentations, and external talks, involving both internal members and international researchers.

<https://philtech.unimi.it/news-and-events/>

Seminars & Talks Hosted at PHILTECH

- **Visiting Junior Researcher – Melissa Antonelli.**  
In 2025, PHILTECH hosted **Melissa Antonelli (University of Helsinki)** as a visiting junior researcher. During her visit, she delivered a series of invited talks focusing on logical approaches to quantitative computation, including topics in circuit complexity, probabilistic and counting computation, and complexity hierarchies. The visit strengthened PHILTECH's international research network and fostered interdisciplinary exchange between philosophy of computation, logic, and theoretical computer science.
- **Proof Systems and Causal Labels (Parts I & II)** – Presented by Leonardo Ceragioli (LUCI Lab, UNIMI) in September 2025. These talks focused on fairness, intersectionality, and counterfactual reasoning in proof systems.
- **Towards a Decolonized Artificial Intelligence – Online Seminar Series.** In 2025, PHILTECH organized a comprehensive online seminar series titled *Towards a Decolonized Artificial Intelligence*, curated by Diletta Huyskes, Maria Sapignoli, and Giuseppe Primiero. The series critically examined how digital technologies and artificial intelligence systems often embed and perpetuate structural discrimination, biased design practices, unequal power dynamics, and colonial logics, thereby reinforcing global inequities and limiting community agency. Across five online

sessions held between March and July 2025, internationally-renowned scholars presented on topics such as technocolonialism in humanitarian AI, de-Westernizing critical data studies, exploitative practices in global AI supply chains, algorithmic governance in migration contexts, and reconceptualizing AI ethics and governance from perspectives rooted in the Global South. This seminar series fostered interdisciplinary dialogue on reimagining AI design, governance, and ethical frameworks beyond dominant Western paradigms and contributed to ongoing research in decolonial approaches to technology.

<https://philtech.unimi.it/2025/03/09/towards-a-decolonized-artificial-intelligence-online-seminar-series/>

#### Collaborative & External Presentations

PHILTECH members participated in a series of external events, bringing philosophical perspectives on technology to broader academic venues:

- “The Natures of Time” Symposium – Organized on February 10, 2025, featuring invited international speakers exploring temporal metaphysics and related debates.

<https://philtech.unimi.it/2025/01/24/the-natures-of-time/>

- Presentations by Giuliano Torrengo including:
  - “*Attention and Temporal Awareness*” at the *Perceiving Time* workshop, University of Turin (May 2025). [PHILTECH](#)
  - “*Consciousness, Multiverse and Multirealization*” at the METIS Seminar, UNED Madrid (May 2025).

<https://philtech.unimi.it/2025/02/19/giuliano-torrengo-connect-workshop-on-logic-and-metaphysics-19th-of-february-2025-university-of-eastern-piedmont-vercelli-italy/>

- “One Experience After Another” – A talk at the Lugano Philosophy Colloquia, University of Italian Switzerland (March 14, 2025).

<https://philtech.unimi.it/2025/03/14/one-experience-after-another/>

- “The passage of time, processes, and fragmentalism” at the *Process Metaphysics Workshop*, University of Torino (2025 17-19 September)

<https://philtech.unimi.it/2025/04/17/the-passage-of-time-processes-and-fragmentalism/>

- “Time, consciousness, and possibility” at the *10th Annual International Association for Philosophy of Time Conference*, Universidad de Santiago de Chile (2025 7-11 July)

<https://philtech.unimi.it/2025/04/17/time-consciousness-and-possibility/>

- Invited Colloquium by Laura Caponetto – “*Refusing—and Refusing to Obey*” at the University of Konstanz (February 2025).

<https://philtech.unimi.it/2025/02/01/refusing-and-refusing-to-obey/>

- Participation by Giuseppe Primiero at the **Trust & AI: Philosophical Perspectives**.  
**10 April 2025 – Trust & AI: Philosophical Perspectives**  
The Linguistics & Philosophy Center at the School of Advanced Studies IUSS Pavia

<https://philtech.unimi.it/2025/03/13/iuss-philosophy-workshop/>

## FUNDED PROJECTS

In 2025, PhilTech Members participated in and/or coordinated the following research Projects:

- **The Pragmatics of Sexual Communication and FIS Starting Grant Award (2025).**  
In December 2025, PHILTECH member Laura Caponetto was awarded a FIS Starting Grant for her project *The Pragmatics of Sexual Communication and Its Ethical Implications*. The grant recognizes innovative research at the intersection of pragmatic linguistics, sexual norms, and ethical theory, supporting an investigation into how communicative practices shape interpersonal and institutional dynamics. This achievement highlights PHILTECH’s commitment to advancing cutting-edge research that bridges philosophical analysis and real-world ethical issues, strengthening the Center’s profile in both national and international research landscapes.

- **RELISH – What Are Recipes**

The RELISH consortium — a unique partnership, bringing together expertise, excellence, and experience — has been awarded EU funding to examine and innovate culinary recipes as drivers of cultural and environmental change.

Local Coordinator: Andrea Borghini

<https://philtech.unimi.it/2026/01/07/relish-what-are-recipes-a-project-funded-by-the-eu-andrea-borghini-serving-as-project-leader/>

- **The Technological Mediation of the Human. Faces and gestures in the forms of digital self-representation**  
PI: Federica Villa (UNIPV)  
Local Coordinator: Barbara Grespi  
Funding Agency: MUR  
<https://philtech.unimi.it/2023/09/21/the-technological-mediation-of-the-human-faces-and-gestures-in-the-forms-of-digital-self-representation/>
- **SMARTEST: Simulation of Probabilistic Systems for the Age of the Digital Twin**  
PI: Giuseppe Primiero  
Funding Agency: MUR  
<https://philtech.unimi.it/2023/09/19/smarest-simulation-of-probabilistic-systems-for-the-age-of-the-digital-twin/>
- **Varieties of Grounding**  
Local Coordinator: Elisa Paganini  
Funding Agency: MUR  
<https://philtech.unimi.it/2023/09/19/varieties-of-grounding/>
- **Conceptual Negotiation for a Better Future: An Ethical and Conceptual Investigation**  
Local Coordinator: Elisa Paganini  
Funding Agency: MUR  
<https://philtech.unimi.it/2023/09/19/conceptual-negotiation-for-a-better-future-an-ethical-and-conceptual-investigation/>
- **BRIO – Bias, Risk and Opacity in AI (ended in 2025)**  
PI: Giuseppe Primiero  
Funding Agency: MUR  
<https://philtech.unimi.it/2023/09/18/brio-bias-risk-and-opacity-in-ai/>
- **Foundations of Fair and Trustworthy AI**  
PI: Giuseppe Primiero  
Funding Agency: Department of Philosophy, University of Milan  
<https://philtech.unimi.it/2023/09/18/fair-trustworthy-ai/>

## PUBLICATIONS

<https://philtech.unimi.it/publications/>