As a large research and education institution, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) is in permanent dialog with its stakeholders in politics, science, industry, and the public. KIT communicates science and its findings to citizens, but also receives impetus from society and integrates it in its work. Dialog with society, hence, is a central element of our mission as University of Excellence.

One of the measures taken by KIT to foster interaction with society is the **KIT Science Week**. This idea was born when writing the successful proposal for the University of Excellence. The event will take place for the first time from October 5 to 10, 2021. It will combine a high-ranking international scientific conference with dialog formats for the public. The KIT Science Week builds on and complements formats for communication with citizens previously and currently used by KIT. The first KIT Science Week will focus on artificial intelligence (AI). Its title will be “**Der Mensch im Zentrum Lernender Systeme**” (the human being in the center of learning systems).
Through extensive scientific exchange at a high-level conference of several days’ duration, the KIT Science Week will provide major impetus for research into AI. The dialog part will promote knowledge transfer and enhance dialog between citizens and KIT. In the long term, the KIT Science Week is to increase the society’s trust in science.

Diversity of the Science Week events is also reflected by the target groups: Parts of the program will address outstanding international scientists, while other parts target citizens from Karlsruhe and the region, expert professionals from industry and science, students, prospective students or pupils.
The different program elements will cover the complete scope of AI applications in production and work, mobility, healthcare, nursing care and households, weather and climate (in particular, data analysis) as well as communication. Together with representatives of politics and industry as well as citizens, we will discuss at the KIT Science Week the opportunities and risks of AI and how AI can be used for the benefit of our society.

During the KIT Science Week, keynote speeches, TEDx talks, panel discussions, a citizens’ dialog platform, or guided tours will provide citizens interested in science and cultural work with exclusive insight into research activities relating to learning systems.
The KIT Science Week will comprise a broad spectrum of events. It will be opened officially on October 5, 2021 with keynotes by well-known representatives of science, research, and politics on Campus South of KIT.

The scientific conference will be organized by Professor Tamim Asfour from the Institute for Anthropomatics and Robotics (IAR) of KIT’s Department of Informatics. From October 6 to 8, 2021, the conference will present keynote speeches by high-ranking scientists about AI research and topics, such as knowledge-based systems, pattern recognition and analysis, as well as robotics. The conference will also include a symposium of doctoral researchers. The conference will be complemented by parallel international massive open online courses (MOOCs) and guided tours on the campus of KIT.

Parallel to the conference, events for the public will be organized, in which artificial intelligence will be explained and critically analyzed and the relevance of AI to the future of our society will be highlighted. The program of the KIT Science Week will also include plenary presentations and panel discussions with top scientists, who will speak about the topics from various perspectives.
The TEDxKIT event will also be part of the Science Week 2021. Under the heading of “Ideas Worth Spreading,” many fascinating TEDx talks on AI will be presented on October 6, 2021. Every speaker will have 18 minutes to present his or her idea in a personal and appealing way. Among the speakers will be entrepreneurs, researchers, activists, creative artists, and designers.
Another highlight of the Science Week will be the **ZAK Talks** organized by ZAK I Centre for Cultural and General Studies on October 9 and 10, 2021. In dialog with citizens, AI will be presented in an intercultural and interdisciplinary context using a discursive, reflecting, and esthetic-artistic approach. In short presentations, statements, discussions, and talks, experts from science and the society will speak about current sociopolitical issues to an interested audience.

In addition to a **reading**, the **ARTE Film Night** will cinematically address the topic of learning systems and AI, thus showing that art and science belong together. In cooperation with ARTE, the audience will be invited to watch exciting films. The ZAK Talks will offer additional opportunities for discussion and exchange on AI.

How is artificial intelligence received by citizens? How vast is the knowledge about AI – how big are the concerns and associated fears? The KIT Science Week will also offer a **citizens dialog** organized by the Institute for Technology Assessment and Systems Analysis (ITAS) of KIT.

Dialog processes on different areas of learning systems will be organized for citizens to inform them about new research projects and key technologies. On this basis, participants can express their opinions and enter public dialog with politics, industry, and science.
Besides gaining scientific knowledge in this important area relevant to the future, the KIT Science Week 2021 is aimed at enhancing dialog between KIT and the public and strengthening relations between KIT and the city and region. For this reason, we will also integrate cultural institutions of the city of Karlsruhe.

Guided tours, workshops, and entertainment programs will complement the Science Week. In October 2021, the whole city of Karlsruhe will tackle the many controversial issues relating to artificial intelligence. More information on the program and all highlights of the first KIT Science Week will be provided soon at www.scienceweek.kit.edu.
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