

# The Answering Machine: Symposium

Deutsches Hygiene-Museum, Dresden

25 – 26 March 2026

## Full Program

Tuesday, 24 March 2026

Time	Program	Description	Venue
20:00 - 22:00	Public Performance in German	Participants arriving on Tuesday are warmly invited to attend the performance “ <b>Humanize Me</b> ” free of charge (guest list entry). <a href="#">Click here</a> for performance details.  The performance lasts approximately 1.5 hours including an intermission. Doors open at <b>19:00</b> and drinks will be available for purchase.	Projekttheater Dresden e.V Louisenstraße 47 01099 Dresden
from 22:00	Get-Together	To conclude the evening, we invite everyone to stay for a drink and enjoy informal conversations in a relaxed atmosphere.	

Wednesday, 25 March 2026

Time	Program	Description	Venue
9:00 – 14:00	Registration & Test Playground Setup	Upon arrival, all participants will receive a name badge, can store their luggage, and will be informed where to place their poster or/and Playground setup. During this time, participants can also perform a technical test of their Playground installation.	Deutsches Hygiene-Museum Dresden Lingnerplatz 1 01060 Dresden  <b>Room:</b> Marta-Fraenkel-Saal
10:00 – 14:00	Exhibition Mental Health	All participants are warmly invited to visit the special exhibition on “ <b>Mental Health</b> ” free of charge before the start. Access is granted via your name badge.	
14:00 – 14:15	Welcome		
14:15 – 14:45	Setting the Scene	Speaker: PI “ <b>The Answering Machine</b> ”	

14:45 – 15:00	Break	Coffee, tea, water, and fruit juice are provided free of charge.
15:00 – 16:00	Keynote Computational Linguistics & Discussion	Speaker: <b>Max van Duijn</b> Title: <b>Why (Some) Large Language Models Are Such Good Mindreaders</b>
16:00 – 16:15	Break	Coffee, tea, water, and fruit juice are provided free of charge.
16:15 – 17:15	Keynote Theater Studies & Discussion	Speaker: <b>Ulf Otto</b> Title: <b>Machine Phenomenology: Theatre Photography, Computer Vision, and the Epistemic Potentials of Statistical Models</b>
17:15 – 17:45	Break	Coffee, tea, water, and fruit juice are provided free of charge. In addition, alcoholic beverages and soft drinks can be purchased.
17:45 – 18:30	Performance <b>in English</b>	As a homage to our first performance in the project, we will present a short version of “ <b>The day my computer thought it had more personality than I did</b> ” to set the mood for the Playground. <a href="#">Click here</a> for more performance details.
18:30 – 20:30	Human-AI-Interaction Playground with finger food	An open, experimental space to explore ideas, test prototypes, experience interactive contributions and discuss projects over finger food and drinks.

Thursday, 26 March 2026

Time	Program	Description	Venue
9:00 – 9:15	Welcome		Deutsches Hygiene-Museum Dresden Lingnerplatz 1 01060 Dresden  <b>Room:</b> Marta-Fraenkel-Saal
9:15 – 10:15	Keynote Psychology & Discussion	Speaker: <b>Ute Schmid</b> Title: <b>Requirements for Human AI Alignment in Joint Decision Making and Problem Solving</b>	
10:15 – 10:30	Break	Coffee, tea, water, and fruit juice are provided free of charge.	

10:30 – 11:30	Poster Session Slot 1	Poster presenters will be divided into Slot 1 and Slot 2 to ensure a steady audience for all posters.	Room: Hörsaal
11:30 – 12:30	Keynote Media Studies & Discussion	Speaker: <b>Minha Lee</b> Title: <b>Mind over matter? Conversational futures with speculative minds</b>	
12:30 – 13:45	Lunch Break	A vegetarian and a vegan dish, along with bread, coffee, tea, water, and fruit juice, are provided free of charge.	
13:45 – 14:45	Poster Session Slot 2	Poster presenters will be divided into Slot 1 and Slot 2 to ensure a steady audience for all posters.	
14:45 – 15:30	Keynote Transdisciplinary	Speaker: <b>Eva Wolfangel</b> Title: <b>The World According to Words</b>	
15:30 – 15:45	Break	Coffee, tea, water, and fruit juice are provided free of charge.	
15:45 – 17:00	Fishbowl	To conclude our symposium, we will hold a fishbowl discussion based on our guiding question: In what ways can generative AI, appearing as social agents, help shape a shared future that strengthens rather than diminishes human capabilities?	
17:00 – 17:15	Wrap up		
17:15 – 19:30	Break	Free time to relax, return to the hotel, or grab something to eat.	
19:30 – 20:45	Public Performance in German	Together with the general public, you are warmly invited to attend the performance “ <b>Memory of my Time as a Human</b> ” free of charge (name badge entry). <a href="#">Click here</a> for performance details. The performance lasts approx. 1 hour. Doors open at 19:00 and drinks will be available for purchase.	
From 20:45	Public Panel Discussion in German	Following the performance, we will revisit the symposium’s guiding question	

		and open the floor for thoughts and questions from the general public.	
--	--	--	--

Friday, 27 March 2026

Time	Program	Description	Venue
19:30 - 20:30	Public Performance <b>in German</b>	Participants staying in Dresden and still wanting more are warmly invited to attend the performance “ <b>From Cadle to Grave – Chatbots, Agents, Avatars</b> ” free of charge (name badge entry). <a href="#">Click here</a> for performance details. The performance lasts approximately one hour. Doors open at 18:30 and drinks will be available for purchase.	Kulturhafen Dresden Leisinger Str. 53 01127 Dresden