

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 " Humanize Me " (guest list entry). The performance lasts approximately 1.5 hours including an intermission. Doors open at 19:00 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 Room: Marta-Fraenkel-Saal
10:00 – 14:00	Exhibition Mental Health	All participants are warmly invited to visit the special exhibition on " Mental Health " before the start. Access is granted via guest list.	
14:00 – 14:15	Welcome		
14:15 – 14:45	Setting the Scene	Speaker: PI "The Answering Machine"	

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: Max van Duijn Title: Why (Some) Large Language Models Are Such Good Mindreaders
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: Ulf Otto Title: Machine Phenomenology: Theatre Photography, Computer Vision, and the Epistemic Potentials of Statistical Models
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 in English	As a homage to our first performance in the project, we will present a short version of “ The day my computer thought it had more personality than I did ” to set the mood for the Playground.
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 Room: Marta-Fraenkel-Saal
9:15 – 10:15	Keynote Psychology & Discussion	Speaker: Ute Schmid Title: Requirements for Human AI Alignment in Joint Decision Making and Problem Solving	
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.	
11:30 – 12:30	Keynote Media Studies & Discussion	Speaker: Minha Lee Title: Mind over matter? Conversational futures with speculative minds	
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: Eva Wolfangel Title: The World According to Words	
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 “ Memory of my Time as a Human ” (guest list entry). The performance lasts approx. 1 hour. Doors open at 19:00 and drinks will be available for purchase.	Room: Hörsaal
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 in German	Participants staying in Dresden and still wanting more are warmly invited to attend the performance “From Cadle to Grave – Chatbots, Agents, Avatars” Click here for performance details and ticket purchase. The performance lasts approximately one hour. Doors open at 19:00 and drinks will be available for purchase.	Kulturhafen Dresden Leisinger Str. 53 01127 Dresden