

## Patterns and Process: Steps towards a Post-Phenomenological Hermeneutics of AI

The use of AI in 'smart' technologies (e.g., voice assistants, search engines, curated newsfeeds and media playlists) indicate a new quality of technological mediation. The promise of a post-phenomenological framing is to detail and anticipate human-technology relations involving AI, discern what particular ethico-political stakes are brought forth, and propose how research and design may accordingly engage with them. However, I argue that AI technologies require a distinctly environmental and temporal, and therefore ultimately processual, hermeneutics in order to relate to their particular capacities. In this contribution, I will outline what a post-phenomenological hermeneutics of AI needs to address, and provide first results of my research for discussion. Contemporary AI is predominantly based on Machine Learning (ML) algorithms, which form and adapt probabilistic models based on patterns recognized in data. This indicates that AI, firstly, never comes alone: how a 'smart' artefact mediates human experience is always *itself* mediated by the processual relations of components within a technological environment (e.g., data preprocessing, data formats, scheduling routines for updates)—components that are not directly involved in the movements of perceptual experience. However, and secondly, AI is also not just another component: probabilistic models of e.g. the relevance of musical genres for a specific user, drive the environmental becoming-together of a specific artefact (e.g., an automated playlist). As such, my research takes on the hermeneutical challenge of interrogating the processual relations between AI's patterning of a 'future present' and its disclosure in the 'here and now' of human experience.