



Sociolinguistics and AI

University of Copenhagen

19–21 August 2026

Call for papers

Second circular · January 2026

As we write this, approximately three years after ChatGPT was made available to the general public, ‘AI’ seems to be everywhere. Strong in connotation, weak in denotation, and deeply entangled in contradictory discourses of desire and anxiety, profit and prejudice, power and injustice, capitalism and environmentalism, ‘AI’ has – for better and for worse – become a keyword of our times. A range of different technologies branded indiscriminately as ‘AI’ have acquired a discursive and material presence in the social world, affecting the lives of millions of people around the globe, in different ways and with different consequences.

Though not the only form of ‘AI’ around, large language models and their deployment as part of text-generative tools have come to be seen as prototypical exemplars of ‘AI’. Language plays a central role in ‘AI’ – not only as part of the discourses surrounding the technology, but also as part of the technology itself. It is therefore not surprising that sociolinguists have been keen to explore ‘AI’ from a range of different perspectives. Many important insights have started to emerge, but a seemingly endless list of questions concerning the interface between sociolinguistics and ‘AI’ nevertheless remains to be explored:

If ‘AI’ is indeed a keyword of our times, then what does sociolinguistics have to say about it? How can sociolinguistics as a discipline help us understand the ‘new’ technologies that are being introduced at breakneck speed? And what about the implications of the technologies for fundamental human concerns

such as identity, social relations and, indeed, humanity? Is ‘AI’ changing the way we use language, think about language or think about humans as a languaging species? Is it changing language itself? Do we need new ways of conceptualizing the relationship between language, technology and the environment? Do we need new methods and theories to bring sociolinguistics into the era of ‘AI’ – or will established approaches suffice?

Against this background, we are pleased to invite submissions for the conference *Sociolinguistics and AI*, hosted by the AI-UNI group at the University of Copenhagen, 19–21 August 2026. The conference is an in-person event. We welcome contributions from all research traditions associated with the field of sociolinguistics, including but not limited to (and in no particular order): sociocultural linguistics, interactional sociolinguistics, ethnomethodology and conversation analysis, linguistic ethnography, linguistic anthropology, (critical) discourse studies, language policy and planning, social semiotics, variationist sociolinguistics, educational linguistics, and ecolinguistics.

Contributions should address ‘AI’ in some respect while clearly relating it to themes and issues commonly addressed within sociolinguistics, including but not limited to: multilingualism, social interaction, language and power, agency, identity, language and education, (language) ideologies, minoritised languages, heritage languages, linguistic diversity, language policy and planning, language variation and change, (de)standardisation, (de)coloniality, language policy and planning, the Anthropocene, mediatisation and sociolinguistic change.

We particularly encourage submissions that report on empirical work, but we also welcome papers that are methodological or theoretical in nature.

Keynote speakers

Britta Schneider · Nicole Holliday ·

Rodney Jones · Details at www.ai-uni.dk.

Abstract submission

The deadline for abstract submission is **15 February 2026**. Abstracts must be submitted in English. Notifications of the outcome of submissions will be sent out within a month of the submission deadline. Further details concerning the submission procedure are available on the conference web page.

Paper abstracts

Abstracts for papers must not exceed 1,800 characters with spaces, including references (if any). Titles are counted separately and must not exceed 150 characters with spaces. Presentations will be organised in 30-minute slots (20-minute presentation; 5-minute Q&A and 5 minutes for change of presenters/rooms).

Poster abstracts

Abstracts for posters must not exceed 1,800 characters with spaces, including references (if any). Titles are counted separately and must not exceed 150 characters with spaces. *Conference delegates at all career stages are encouraged to submit poster abstracts*. Posters will be displayed for the duration of the conference and delegates will be invited to interact with the posters throughout. A dedicated session for discussing posters will be part of the conference programme. Presenters are responsible for printing their own posters (Size: A0).

Number of contributions

Contributors may submit a maximum of two abstracts (for papers/posters) and only be the first author and presenter of one of them. In addition to being an author/presenter of papers or posters, delegates may act as panel conveners and/or discussants.

Panel abstracts

Panel proposals must be submitted as packages consisting of an overall panel abstract plus abstracts for each individual paper in the

panel. Each abstract in the package, including the overall panel abstract, must not exceed 1,800 characters with spaces, including references (if any). Titles for each abstract are counted separately and must not exceed 150 characters with spaces. Panel conveners chair their own sessions and are encouraged to schedule the contributions in a way that follows the rhythm of regular paper sessions (allowing 5 minutes for changing rooms before the end of each 30-minute interval).

Regular panels will be allocated 90 minutes and must have at least three individual contributions. Individual contributions must not exceed 20 minutes each. Within the allocated timeframe, panel conveners may consider making a short introduction and inviting a discussant. A discussant slot may (but need not) count as one of the three required individual contributions.

Double panels will be allocated 180 minutes and must have at least six individual contributions. Individual contributions must not exceed 20 minutes each. Within the allocated timeframe, panel conveners may consider making a short introduction and inviting a discussant. A discussant slot may (but need not) count as one of the six required individual contributions.

Organising committee

The conference is organised by the [AI-UNI](http://ai-uni.dk) research group, based at the Centre for Internationalisation and Parallel Language Use (CIP), at the University of Copenhagen: Sam Goodchild, Kasper Engholm Jelby, Jens Christian Borup Green Jensen, Sanne Larsen, Rafael Lomeu Gomes and Janus Mortensen.

Further information

Please visit www.ai-uni.dk for future updates about keynote presentations, members of the scientific committee, conference fee and more. Questions for the organising committee can be sent to ai-uni@hum.ku.dk.