



Responsible Artificial Intelligence Network-Africa

Building a network of scholars
working on the responsible development
and use of AI in Africa

As the year wraps up,
we would like to reflect
on our work in 2023

Among this year's achievements,
we can highlight the successful
co-organization of the
**Responsible AI Conference at
KNUST in Ghana**



CONFERENCE '23

THEME

Responsible AI and Ethics – A Panacea to Digital Transformation in Sub-Saharan Africa

HOST

PROF. JERRY JOHN KPONYO
Executive Director
Scientific Director, RAIL

GUEST OF HONOUR

PROF. MRS. RITA AKOSUA DICKSON
Vice-Chancellor
KNUST

GUEST OF HONOUR

PROF. KWABENA BIRITHWUM NYARKO
Provost
CoE, KNUST

SPECIAL GUEST OF HONOUR

DR. CAITLIN CORRIGAN
Executive Director
IEAI/TUM

TOPICS TO COVER

- AI IN AGRICULTURE
- AI APPLICATIONS AND RESPONSIBLE USE
- AI AND HEALTHCARE
- THE ROLE OF "AFROCENTRIC" DATASETS IN PROMOTING RESPONSIBLE AI IN AFRICA
- AI AND DIGITAL/HUMAN RIGHTS

13th - 14th
March, 2023

9AM
GMT

Great Hall
KNUST

Responsible AI and Ethics A Panacea to Digital Transformation in Sub-Saharan Africa

Organizers

The Responsible Artificial Intelligence Lab
The Responsible Artificial Intelligence Network Africa





Our two-day conference garnered significant attendance, with around 500 participants over the course of the event.





RAIL & RAIN

CONFERENCE '23

Rail & Rain - A Panacea for Digital Transformation in Sub-Saharan Africa

KNUST
KWAME NINSIN UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE
AND TECHNOLOGY



March 2023, Ghana





RAIN AFRICA

presents

MODERATOR



DR. CAITLIN CORRIGAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
IEAI/TUM

GUEST SPEAKER



RENÉE CUMMINGS
AI STRATEGIST
USA

GUEST SPEAKER



DARLINGTON AKOGO
AI CONSULTANT
RAIL - KNUST

GUEST SPEAKER



LAVINA RAMKISSOON
AI PIONEER
SOUTH AFRICA

WEBINAR

Generative AI OPPORTUNITIES & RESPONSIBLE USE

REGISTER
[HTTPS://SHORTURL.AT/OLOZ4](https://shorturl.at/oloz4)

26th July 01:00PM (GMT) Online

www.rainafrica.org [in](#) Responsible AI Network - Africa - TUM/KNUST [f](#) Responsible AI Africa Network [t](#) @AIAfricaNetwork [i](#) rain.africa

Generative AI: Opportunities and Responsible Use

On July 26th, 2023, RAIN-Africa hosted a highly successful edition of our esteemed workshop series.

The event provided an exceptional platform for a lineup of accomplished panelists who graciously shared their invaluable insights on the subject.

Generative AI: Opportunities and Responsible Use



The workshop featured engaging and enlightening presentations delivered by three distinguished experts: **Renée Cummings**, **Darlington Akogo** and **Lavina Ramkissoon**.

Notably, our co-founders played an integral role in the event. **Jerry John Kponyo** inaugurated the workshop, setting the stage for the insightful discussions that followed, while **Caitlin Corrigan** took on the role of discussion moderator.



Jerry John Kponyo

“

I am excited that we have assembled the best of the best regarding the topic. We want to reflect on generative AI opportunities and responsible use. I've had the chance of interacting with them, and I'm confident that this session will be one that we will remember for a very long time.

Renée Cummings

“
Data is suffused with cultural meaning independent from its computational meaning. So, data is cultural. Data is political. And we have to pay attention.”



Darlington Akogo

“

The possibilities are endless with the use of AI technologies. For example, in healthcare agriculture education.



Lavina Ramkissoon

“

There are many ways actually to look at anything. I will be looking into three major aspects: the perspective of tech, human and social.





Caitlin Corrigan

“

The interest in AI ethics has gradually gained momentum since our institute's inception in 2019. Now, the interest has surged, not only in terms of research and university engagement, but also in corporate and public spheres. Since the introduction of ChatGPT, the interest has exponentially grown.

Ghana September 2023



Deep Learning
Indaba Conference

Jerry John Kponyo
RAIN-Africa Co-founder

Laetitia Nneka Onyejebu
RAIN-Africa Country Representative-Nigeria

Atlee Ganundani
RAIN-Africa Country Representative-Namibia



TRAI F Program

3 Days

5 Topical Tracks

70+ Speakers

Check it out!

 TUM Main Campus

 13-15 Sep 2023

#TRAIF2023

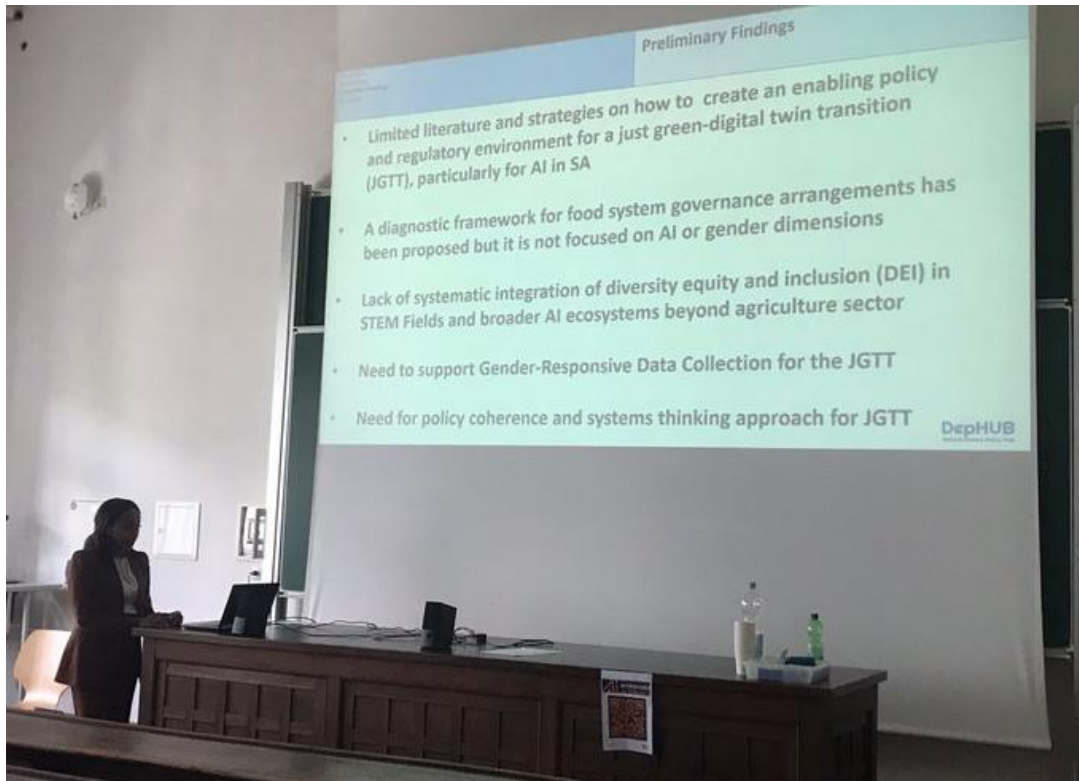


#TRAIF2023

In September, RAIN-Africa actively participated in **The Responsible AI Forum** held in Munich, reaffirming our steadfast commitment to responsible AI practices.

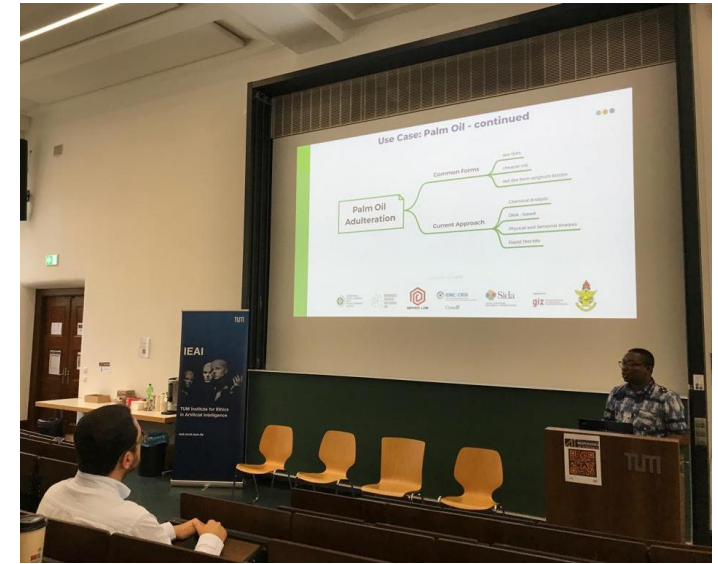


On Thursday, September 14th,
our team made significant contributions to the dialogue centered around
"Exploring sustainable AI in the industry - Examples from Africa and beyond."



"In the South African context, responsible AI governance in food systems needs to consider not only the causes of food insecurity and food waste but also the challenges women face in accessing AI-driven innovative solutions to promote inclusivity and gender equality."
Shamira Ahmed





On Friday, September 15th, RAIN-Africa played a key role in the session "Responsible AI for Sustainability in Africa - Use cases and challenges"



REACHING OUT

The Technical University of Munich's scientific magazine, "**Faszination Forschung**", provides insights into the world of science and research at TUM.

The September 2023 issue shed light on five research projects in the Global South.

We are proud that RAIN-Africa was among them.



Gesamter Artikel (PDF, DE): www.tum.de/faszination-forschung-30

Künstliche Intelligenz und Ethik zusammenbringen

D

Künstliche Intelligenz kann afrikanische Länder entscheidend voranbringen, zum Beispiel in der Landwirtschaft, im Gesundheitswesen oder in der Stadtplanung. Auch die TUM ist über ihr Partnernetzwerk in Afrika an vielen KI-Projekten beteiligt. Dort spielen nachhaltige und ethische Aspekte in der KI-Entwicklung eine viel stärkere Rolle als in Europa oder den USA. Ein Team des TUM Institute of Ethics in Artificial Intelligence (IEAI) hat eine Plattform mitgegründet, die afrikanische KI-Experten vernetzt und eine ethische und nachhaltige KI-Entwicklung fördert. □

Graphics: edlundsapp

more so than in Europe or the USA.

consideration when developing AI applications, frequently confronted with similar ethical AI, all around the world," explains Lütge. "We want we tackle these problems not only by local level but also through networking."



Resolving Conflicts Between Artificial Intelligence and Ethics

...amendous potential for African countries, its ... different ethical and social c...

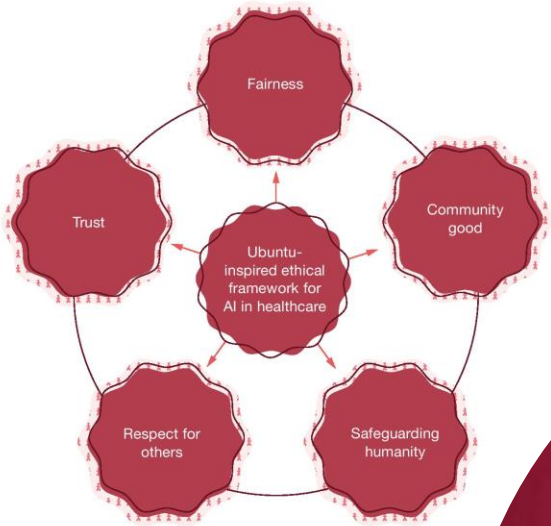


Professor Mrs. Rita Akosua Dickson, Vice-Chancellor, KNUST speaking at the Responsible AI and Ethics Conference in Kumasi, Ghana.

Putting community benefits first
Fairness is a perennial ethical challenge at the conferences and workshops hosted by the RAIN-Africa platform. "For many people, the central question is whether the benefits of this technology are distributed fairly, justly, or whether only a select few stand to profit," explains Corrigan. "This aspect is decidedly crucial in Africa." People in the south of the continent in particular draw on a special ethical approach: Ubuntu ethics. Unlike Western ethical concepts, which often have an individualistic focus – such as Kantianism, utilitarianism and virtue ethics



Members of TUM IEAI participate in a conference on "Responsible AI and Ethics – A Panacea for Transformation in African Countries" at RAIN-Africa in Kumasi, Ghana.



Ubuntu ethics, which emphasizes the interconnectedness and interdependence of all people addressing ethical concerns in AI for healthcare. Researchers at the IEAI, along with partners in

In some cases, speed is also given priority over individual data protection – especially in critical situations. "A discussion point at the latest RAIN-Africa conference was about the 'responsibility' of launching an AI-enabled app in society as quickly as possible, even if it isn't perfect," says Corrigan. Developers from African countries want to reach people who might live too far from a hospital or don't have access to a smartphone nearby. It can therefore be important to launch an app as quickly as possible and then iterate

These examples are AI-related ethical challenges. RAIN-Africa Network Africa is a variety of challenges. In all probability, there are benefits in other regions. Discussions of AI ethics are ongoing.



Dr. Caitlin Corrigan has been engaging with AI in Africa since 2010 and has been a key figure in AI (IEAI) since its founding in 2020. She has been an active member in Africa since 2010 and has been a key figure in AI (IEAI) since its founding in 2020.

AI experts
IEAI has established several networks to discuss ethical challenges related to AI. One such network, the AI Network Africa (RAIN-Africa), focuses on African countries. It was founded in 2020 in a partnership between the IEAI and the Faculty of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology in Ghana (KNUST) in Ghana. In addition to Lütge, the other co-founders of RAIN are his colleague Dr. Caitlin Corrigan, TUM doctoral student Laud Ammah, and Prof. Jerry Kponyo from KNUST.

"In RAIN-Africa, we are bringing African AI experts together," explains Caitlin Corrigan, Executive Director at the IEAI. "The platform enables users to jointly discuss and develop projects related to the ethical and social challenges at the interface of technology and human values – and

Zusammenhang

Künstliche Intelligenz kann afrikanische Länder zum Beispiel in der Landwirtschaft, im Gesundheitswesen und in der Stadtplanung. Auch die TUM ist über ihr Partnernetzwerk an KI-Projekten beteiligt. Dort spielen nachhaltige und ethische KI-Entwicklung eine viel stärkere Rolle als in Europa oder Asien. Das TUM Institute of Ethics in Artificial Intelligence (IEAI) hat ebenfalls mitgegründet, die afrikanische KI-Experten vernetzt und eine ethische und nachhaltige KI-Entwicklung fördert. □

We thank the RAIN-Africa community for their support in 2023 and look forward to even more fruitful collaborations in 2024!

