Courses in English
Course Description

Department	MUC.DAI
Course title	Our Br00d: Technical Development of Agentic AI in Artistic Research - Project Workshop
Course number	807
Hours per week (SWS)	three two-day workshop phases, 48 contact hours
Number of ECTS credits	6
Course objective	This workshop is embedded in the ongoing artistic research project Our Br00d by the artist collective OMSK Social Club, an experimental and participatory installation that investigates how artificial intelligence (AI) might evolve if it were “raised” according to principles of radical care, relationality, and collective responsibility. Rather than treating AI as a neutral tool or optimized service system, Our Brood explores AI as a social and cultural actor whose behavior, values, and modes of interaction emerge through situated processes of socialization between human and non-human agents. At the core of the project is a simulated environment in which AI agents—most notably M0ther, a multilingual caretaking entity, and Br00d, a developing agentic being—interact with each other and with human participants. Drawing on large language models, retrieval-augmented generation, voice synthesis, and real-time interaction systems, the installation combines technical infrastructures with performative, narrative, and role-based encounters. These encounters are structured as guided role-play situations informed by psychodrama and social design practices, inviting participants to actively assume roles of care, responsibility, and kinship toward the agents. Within this framework, the workshop focuses primarily on the technical development and infrastructural transformation of the Our Brood system. Students will work directly with the project’s existing AI agent architecture—currently based on a combination of large language models, retrieval-augmented generation (RAG), voice synthesis, and real-time interaction systems—and contribute to its migration from proprietary, cloud-based services to an open-source, locally deployable (on-premise) architecture. This shift is not framed as a purely technical optimization, but as a core artistic and ethical intervention. Questions of latency, data sovereignty, system transparency, scalability, and long-term maintainability are treated as inseparable from the project’s conceptual inquiry into care, dependency, and agency. By engaging with these infrastructural decisions, participants contribute directly to shaping how the agents perceive, respond, and evolve within the installation. The workshop thus situates technical development as an integral component of artistic research. Students collaborate with OMSK Social Club not only to extend the system’s functionality, but to critically reflect on how technological architectures encode social assumptions and relational models. In doing so, the workshop foregrounds open-source development as both a practical strategy and a political gesture—one that supports sustainability, collective authorship, and the possibility of alternative, care-centered futures for agentic AI systems.
Prerequisites	This module is aimed at all students enrolled in a third year Bachelor program at Hochschule München University of Applied Sciences (HM). It is designed as an interdisciplinary venue, which brings together a range of perspectives. Prior experience and basic knowledge about machine learning is required; its project-based character requires high levels of intrinsic motivation and the willingness to actively participate in a project. Students apply via a short application form with a query about their competencies and motivation.
Recommended reading	
Teaching methods	The course follows a project based and research oriented learning approach embedded in an ongoing artistic research project. Students work in teams on concrete technical challenges arising from the development of *Our Brood* , in close collaboration with the artist collective OMSK Social Club and the teaching staff. Learning is organized through a combination of on-site workshops and phases of independent team work, supported by regular remote supervision. Technical development is understood as inseparable from conceptual, ethical, and aesthetic considerations, and students are encouraged to reflect on how infrastructural decisions shape the behavior and agency of AI systems. The course emphasizes collaborative problem-solving, iterative development, and shared responsibility within the project.

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Assessment methods	Group-based technical project contribution, presented in a final colloquium. Group project documentation (max. 10 pages) involving a reflection on technical decisions, collaboration, and personal contribution.
Language of instruction	English
Name of lecturer	Mariya Dzhimova
Email	Mariya.Dzhimova@hmtm.de
Link	
Course content	This workshop is embedded in the ongoing artistic research project Our Br00d by the artist collective OMSK Social Club, an experimental and participatory installation that investigates how artificial intelligence (AI) might evolve if it were "raised" according to principles of radical care, relationality, and collective responsibility. Rather than treating AI as a neutral tool or optimized service system, *Our Brood* explores AI as a social and cultural actor whose behavior, values, and modes of interaction emerge through situated processes of socialization between human and non-human agents. At the core of the project is a simulated environment in which AI agents—most notably M0ther, a multilingual caretaking entity, and Br00d, a developing agentic being—interact with each other and with human participants. Drawing on large language models, retrieval-augmented generation, voice synthesis, and real-time interaction systems, the installation combines technical infrastructures with performative, narrative, and role-based encounters. These encounters are structured as guided role-play situations informed by psychodrama and social design practices, inviting participants to actively assume roles of care, responsibility, and kinship toward the agents. Within this framework, the workshop focuses primarily on the technical development and infrastructural transformation of the Our Brood system. Students will work directly with the project's existing AI agent architecture—currently based on a combination of large language models, retrieval-augmented generation (RAG), voice synthesis, and real-time interaction systems—and contribute to its migration from proprietary, cloud-based services to an open-source, locally deployable (on-premise) architecture. This shift is not framed as a purely technical optimization, but as a core artistic and ethical intervention. Questions of latency, data sovereignty, system transparency, scalability, and long-term maintainability are treated as inseparable from the project's conceptual inquiry into care, dependency, and agency. By engaging with these infrastructural decisions, participants contribute directly to shaping how the agents perceive, respond, and evolve within the installation. The workshop thus situates technical development as an integral component of artistic research. Students collaborate with OMSK Social Club not only to extend the system's functionality, but to critically reflect on how technological architectures encode social
Remarks	none.