



Politecnico  
di Torino

**Nexa Center**  
*for Internet & Society*

*Per il ciclo di incontri "i Nexa Lunch Seminar" (ogni 4° mercoledì del mese)*

**120° Nexa Lunch Seminar**

## **Beyond the Machine: Imagining war with AI: Teenagers, Generative AI, Social Media and the Representation of War**

**ILARIA INGRAO** (*Università di Torino*), **MAEDE MIRSONBOL**  
(*Università di Torino*) **ANTONIO SANTANGELO** (*Senior Research Fellow  
del Centro Nexa, Università di Torino*)

**Mercoledì 26 febbraio 2025, ore 13.00** (termine: ore 14.00)

**L'incontro si terrà IN PRESENZA e ONLINE**

**SEDE FISICA:** Centro Nexa su Internet e Società, Politecnico di Torino, Via Boggio 65/a, Torino (1° piano). Per accedere alla sala si raccomanda di suonare al citofono **Portineria** e di seguire le indicazioni segnalate lungo il percorso. [QUI](#) maggiori informazioni su come raggiungerci.

**STANZA VIRTUALE:** <https://didattica.polito.it/VClass/NexaEvent>

URL dell'incontro: <https://nexa.polito.it/lunch-120>

Can **generative AI** be used in **education** to contrast the spread of ideological narratives, instead of favoring it?

To answer this question, Antonio Santangelo, Iliaria Ingrao and Maede Mirsonbol will talk about a study they conducted with **two groups of Italian and Iranian teenagers**, reflecting with them on **the way the last Israeli-Palestinian conflict was visually portrayed by the mass media of their countries on Instagram**. After analyzing hundreds of images and reflecting on what was shown and what was not, the most meaningful pictures were displayed to the students, who were asked to **recur to generative AI to create new images that expressed their own perspectives on the war**. Watching what they produced and analyzing their reflections on this experience, the conclusion is that, with the help of **visual semiotic techniques** that activate critical thinking, AI can be employed in educational processes to help young people be aware of the cultural context they live in and express themselves. Sometimes it can also be used to say what has not been said by the mass media. But the fear to say something strong and maybe different must be faced and defeated.



### Biografie:



**Ilenia Ingraio** graduated in *Communication and Media Cultures* from the University of Turin with a Master's thesis focused on exploring representations of the human being in Artificial Intelligence narratives. She is currently a second-year PhD student in the *Semiotics and Media* program at the same university, conducting research on Artificial Intelligence and responsibility.



**Maede Mirsonbol** is a PhD student in *Semiotics and Media* at the University of Turin. Her research is about a multimodal study to understand the impact of Generative AI images on communication skills in a foreign language learning environment with attention to the edusemiotics perspective. She is continuing her research as a visiting student at Lancaster University, England where the quantitative part of her study is collected. She is interested not only in educational research and its connection to the semiotic model of learning, but her goal is to use the innovative approaches in applied practices in teaching and learning contexts.



**Antonio Santangelo** is a professor of *Semiotics and Philosophy of Language* at the University of Turin, where he teaches *Semiotics*, *Semiotics of Digital Cultures*, and *Multimedia Design and Management for Communication*. His main research interests are focused on the development of semiotics as a social science of meaning and on narrative theory, which he applies in various fields: from media and cultural studies to bioethics, from investigations into the significance of digital tools in our society to futures studies.

### Letture consigliate e link utili:

- Alam S., Hameed A., Madej M. and A. Kobylarek (2024). "Perception and practice of using artificial intelligence in education: An opinion-based study". In *XLinguae*, 17 (1), 216-233 | [LINK](#)
- Ardelean T. K. and E. Veres (2023). "Students' Perceptions of Artificial Intelligence in Higher Education". In *10th SWS International Scientific Conferences on SOCIAL SCIENCES – ISCSS* | [LINK](#)
- D'Armenio E., Deliège A. and M. G. Dondero (2024). "A semiotic methodology for assessing the compositional effectiveness of generative text-to-image models (Midjourney and DALL• E)". In *European Conference on Computer Vision Workshops: 1st workshop on critical evaluation of generative models and their impact on society. At: MiCO – Milan Convention Centre* | [LINK](#)



- Lacković N. and A. Olteanu (2024). *Relational and Multimodal Higher Education: Digital, Social and Environmental Perspectives*. Abingdon: Taylor & Francis
- Noelle-Neumann E. (1974). "The spiral of silence: a theory of public opinion". In *Journal of communication*, 24(2), 43-51
- Santangelo A., Ingrao I. e M. Mirsonbol, "Imagining War with AI: an Experiment in Educational Semiotics". In Spasić, A. & Stojanović, D. (Eds) (2025). *1st International Scientific Conference "Education and Artificial Intelligence (EDAI 2024)"*, Book of Proceedings, Vranje: Pedagogical Faculty in Vranje, University of Niš, Serbia
- Semetsky I. (2015). "Edusemiotics and the Language of Images". In *International handbook of semiotics*, edit. by Peter P. Trifonas. Cham: Springer, 1169-1183
- Semetsky I. and A. Stables, eds. (2014). *Pedagogy and edusemiotics: Theoretical challenges/practical opportunities (Vol. 62)*. Cham: Springer

#### **Che cosa sono il Centro Nexa e i cicli di incontri "Mercoledì di Nexa" e "Nexa Lunch Seminar"**

Il Centro Nexa su Internet & Società del Politecnico di Torino (Dipartimento di Automatica e Informatica), fondato nel 2006, è un centro di ricerca interdisciplinare che, in collaborazione con l'Università di Torino (in particolare i Dipartimenti di Giurisprudenza e di Filosofia e Scienze dell'Educazione), studia le tecnologie digitali e il loro rapporto con la società.

Maggiori informazioni all'indirizzo: <http://nexa.polito.it/about>.

Durante i "Mercoledì di Nexa", che si tengono **ogni 2° mercoledì del mese alle ore 17 in punto**, il Centro Nexa su Internet e Società apre le sue porte non solo agli esperti e a tutti coloro i quali lavorano col digitale, ma anche a semplici appassionati e cittadini. Il ciclo di incontri intende approfondire, con un linguaggio preciso ma accessibile, i temi legati alla Rete: "intelligenza artificiale", reti sociali, software libero, capitalismo della sorveglianza, neutralità della rete, libertà di espressione, privacy, "big data" e "open data", "smart cities", e molto altro.

Al centro della maggior parte degli incontri un ospite pronto a dialogare con i direttori del Centro Nexa, il Prof. Juan Carlos De Martin del Politecnico di Torino e i Proff. Marco Ricolfi e Maurizio Borghi dell'Università di Torino, oltre che lo staff, i Fellows del Centro Nexa e tutti i presenti.

Maggiori informazioni sui Mercoledì di Nexa, incluso un elenco di tutti i "Mercoledì" passati, sono disponibili all'indirizzo: <https://nexa.polito.it/events/mercoledi-di-nexa>. Le registrazioni degli incontri sono disponibili qui: <http://www.youtube.com/@NexaCenter>.

Per restare aggiornati sulle attività del Centro Nexa su Internet & Società, seguitemi su:

- Twitter: [@nexacenter](https://twitter.com/nexacenter) - Facebook: [@nexa.center](https://www.facebook.com/nexa.center) - LinkedIn: [Nexa Center for Internet & Society](https://www.linkedin.com/company/nexa-center-for-internet-society) - Instagram: [nexa\\_center](https://www.instagram.com/nexa_center) - Mailing list degli annunci Nexa: [nexa-announce@server-nexa.polito.it](mailto:nexa-announce@server-nexa.polito.it)

È anche disponibile una mailing list pubblica Nexa di discussione (oltre 850 iscritti): <https://server-nexa.polito.it/cgi-bin/mailman/listinfo/nexa>

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