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Societal Impacts of Language Technology: How to Work with Known Best Practices to Avoid Harm

Date/time: Thursday, 4 April 2024, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Location: ZHAW, School of Applied Linguistics, Room O4.01

In this talk I will explore the harms that can follow from language technologies, across a broad range (keyboards, spell-checkers, automatic transcription systems, machine translation, dialogue agents, and of course large language models), and talk about practices that developers and users of language technologies can use to mitigate these harms. These practices include fair treatment of research participants, dataset and model documentation, designing for transparency, working on specific use cases, and seeking input from those who will use and affected by the use of the technology.

Emily M. Bender is a Professor in the Department of Linguistics and an Adjunct Professor at the Information School and the Paul G. Allen School of Computer Science and Information at the University of Washington. She is the Faculty Director of the Professional Master's in Computational Linguistics and the Director of the Computational Linguistics Laboratory. Her research interests include technology for endangered language documentation, computational semantics, and methodologies for supporting consideration of impacts language technology in NLP research, development, and education. Her public scholarship is centered around supporting public understanding of language technology.

**PhD Masterclass
by Emily M. Bender**