

Kurt Lewin Institute Conference 2026

May 11-12, 2026
Conference Centre Woudschoten, Zeist



Conference program

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Conference program at a glance

Monday, May 11

09.15 - 10.00	Registration and coffee/tea	Foyer, ground floor
10.15 - 10.30	Opening by Scientific Director of KLI: Belle Derks	Plenary Room (27+28)
10.30 - 11.30	Keynote Dr. Honorata Mazepus (University of Amsterdam)	Plenary Room (27+28)
11.30 - 12:00	Coffee/tea break	Foyer, ground floor
12:00 - 13:00	Parallel themes: Two 30 min presentations	Session I
13:00 - 14.00	Lunch	Restaurant Atrium
14.00 - 15.00	Parallel themes: Two 30 min presentations	Session II
15.00 - 15.30	Coffee/tea break	Foyer, ground floor
15.30 - 16.30	Keynote Dr. Carey K. Morewedge (Boston University)	Plenary Room (27+28)
16.30 - 17.30	Poster session	Foyer, ground floor
17.30 - 18.30	Drinks	Restaurant C
18.30	Dinner	Diner Restaurant
21:00	Drinks and pubquiz	Sociëteit

Tuesday, May 12

07.15 - 08.00	Morning group run	Entrance Woudschouten
08.00 - 09.30	Breakfast and check-out hotel room	Woudschoten
09.30 - 10.30	Parallel themes: Two 30 min presentations	Session III
10.30 - 11.00	Coffee/tea break	Foyer, ground floor
11.00 - 12:30	Best Paper Award and presentations	Plenary Room (27+28)
12:30 - 13.30	Lunch	Restaurant Atrium
13.30 - 14.30	Parallel themes: Two 30 min presentations	Session IV
14.30 - 15.00	Coffee/tea break	Foyer, ground floor
15.00 - 15.15	Poster awards	Plenary Room (27+28)
15:15 - 16:15	Keynote Dr. Michiel van Elk (Leiden University)	Plenary Room (27+28)
16.15 - 16.30	Closing	Plenary Room (27+28)

Overview parallel theme sessions

Theme 1: Bridging Science and Society: Collaborative Research <i>Chairs: Michelle Bal, Coen Wirtz & Olaf Simonse</i>	Theme 2: Engagement of citizens in sustainability transitions <i>Chairs: Goda Perlaviciute & Lise Jans</i>	Theme 3: Work and Organizational Psychology <i>Chairs: Antje Schmitt & Bram Fleuren</i>	Theme 4: Economic Decision Making <i>Chairs: Giuliana Spadaro & Leon Hilbert</i>
Kirsten Vegt	Janna de Graaf: Understanding (un)sustainable action: Examining the dynamics of resistance and motivation in the sustainability transition	Fred Zijlstra: Towards a Sustainable Work & Organizational Psychology	Amarins Jansma: Recovery after the childcare benefits scandal: Experienced justice, trust, and financial outcome satisfaction
Namkje Koudenburg	Anna Sach: The psychology of collective climate action	Eleni Giannakoudi: Not just where you work: Toward a more comprehensive understanding of hybrid work	Wilco van Dijk: The Effects of Audit Risk, Administrative Design, and Rebates
Hannah de Boer & Alien van der Vliet	Gonzalo Palomo Velez: Social-psychological underpinnings of Public acceptability	Eleni Georganta: Have You Heard Who Our New Colleague Is? Trust and Challenges in Human-AI Teams	Leticia Micheli: Moving up: The impact of economic mobility on prosocial behaviour
Gonneke Ton	Lise Jans: The role of citizen collectives in motivating sustainable transitions	Welmer Molenmaker: Cooperation Under Productivity Uncertainty	Magarita Leib: Women's Inclusion in Coalition Formation: A Cross-cultural Registered Report
Lonneke Jansen	Anne Eichholtzer: The group dynamics around citizen assemblies.	Kyriaki Fousiani & Sanne Feenstra: When Conflict Becomes Personal: How Impostorism and Gender Shape Employees' Conflict Management with Supervisors?	Keke Zhu: The meaning and influence of economic inequality for low-income populations
	Ivar Maas: Effects of a University Climate Assemblies on participants and broad policy acceptance: A mixed methods study at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam.	Miriam Schilbach: Dynamic in Theory, Static in Application: Aligning Theory and Methods in Employee Resilience Research	Dianna Amasino: Fairness in the face of shifting inequality
	Marc Dijk: The potential of Living Labs as spaces for joint learning in Climate Transitions	Reinout de Vries: Advances in Personality Psychology	Terence Dores Cruz: Training and oversight of algorithms in social decision-making: Algorithms with prescribed selfish defaults breed selfish decisions
	Lara Engelbert: Understanding Public Acceptability of Green Hydrogen: Identifying Leverage Points via Psychological Network analyses	Veerle Brenninkmeijer: Well-being across the transition from studies to work: The role of personal demands in health-impairment processes among master students	Sarah Vahed: Large-scale community study reveals information sampling drives fairness decisions

Keynote speakers

Dr. Honorata Mazepus

Department of Political Science of the University of Amsterdam

Are we letting democracy slip away? Using political psychology to explain support for democratic institutions

Abstract:

Although citizens endorse democracy and many of its components, they also often (re)elect leaders who violate democratic rules and expand their own power. As the world becomes increasingly authoritarian, we need to better understand the attitudes of citizens towards democratic institutions and towards the elites that undermine democratic norms. In my talk, I will discuss several studies in which I investigate why citizens do not stand up for democracy and how they reason about transgressions of democratic norms. I will present results of experiments with samples from different countries (USA, Netherlands, Poland, and Ukraine) testing different explanations of support for authoritarian leaders and for breaking of democratic rules. I will focus on the trade-offs citizens make between democracy and policy, the role of intergroup conflict, and the mechanisms of motivated reasoning and epistemic vigilance.

Dr. Carey K. Morewedge

Marketing Department at Boston University's Questrom School of Business

Algorithm Aversion—or Favoritism Toward People?

Social Comparisons and Trust in AI

Abstract:

As artificial intelligence becomes embedded in domains ranging from medicine to consumer choice, people often hesitate to rely on algorithmic advice. Their reluctance is often attributed to algorithm aversion—a generalized prejudice against machine decision-makers, analogous to an outgroup bias. Yet people frequently prefer algorithms to humans in other contexts, suggesting that distrust of AI cannot be explained by a broad negative attitude toward algorithms.

I argue that what appears to be algorithm aversion instead reflects self-serving bias in social comparison. When evaluating human and algorithmic decision-makers, people compare machines to themselves or to valued human experts in ways that privilege human judgment. Resistance to AI arises not from prejudice against algorithms, but from favoritism toward people, particularly when algorithms threaten core motives tied to autonomy, competence, and social relationships.

This perspective reframes the literature on algorithm aversion and identifies when people will trust or resist AI, offering guidance for increasing adoption in professional and private life.

Dr. Michiel van Elk

Unit Cognitive Psychology of Leiden University

The past, present and future of psychedelic science

Abstract:

Psychedelic substances, including LSD and psilocybin, can induce profound altered states of consciousness and are increasingly used for therapeutic and spiritual purposes. However, next to an initial wave of enthusiasm about their therapeutic potential, we currently also witness concerns about their safety and efficacy. In this talk I will look back at the early controlled trials on psychedelic therapy from the 1960s and 70s and discuss the lessons learned. Next, I will take stock of current psychedelic science and reflect on the state-of-the-art regarding efficacy, mechanisms of action and how

to address common methodological problems. I will present recent research that we conducted in the PRSM lab, including lab-based studies with ketamine and psilocybin, field studies in collaboration with psychedelic retreats, festivals and smartshops, scale development studies and open-science projects. I will discuss the prospects for psychedelic science and therapy, with a call for embracing complexity and the entanglement of 'substance, set and setting'.