

Laboratorio (3 CFU)

Visual Generative AI and Society

April 13 and April 14 2026, University of Milan

This is a two-day initiative that will provide students with the opportunity to learn about the relationship between AI-generated images and the social construction of identities, politics and truth from a variety of perspectives, including hands-on data collection and analysis, an art exhibition, academic research, and cross-cultural collaboration.

Students from the Laurea Magistrale in Comunicazione Pubblica e d'Impresa (COM) are eligible to participate in this two-day initiative in order to obtain 3 CFU as part of their 'Laboratorio' curriculum. In order to obtain the 3 CFU, students will need to do the following:

1. Get in touch with the organizer, Professor Giorgia Aiello (giorgia.aiello@unimi.it), no later than Friday March 6 to ask to be considered for this opportunity;
2. Participate in the laboratorio in its entirety on both days, i.e. April 13 and April 14;
3. Take an active role in all planned activities;
4. Write a 1000-word reflection in English on the data collection workshop on Day 1, following the guidelines that will be provided on the first day (deadline to send the reflection to Professor Aiello: Tuesday April 21).

There are only 15 places available for this opportunity, and they will be assigned on a first come first served basis.

Schedule

DAY 1: Monday April 13 2026

10:30 – 12:30 (please arrive 5-10 minutes early), Sala Lauree, Via Conservatorio 7:
Hands-on data collection and analysis workshop on the relationship between gender and visual generative AI.

14 – 16 (please arrive 5-10 minutes early), Fondazione Prada, Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II:
Guided visit to the exhibition [THE ISLAND by Hito Steyerl](#) (funded by COM).

DAY 2: Tuesday April 14 2026

13:30-17:30, Aula B, NASP, Via Pace 10 (please see program for this event below):
Participation in the event « Political Photomontage and AI-generated Images: Manipulating the Real » (in collaboration with the University of Paris Nanterre) as an active part of the audience and the student jury.

Political Photomontage and AI-Generated Images: Manipulating the Real

April 14 2026, 13:30-17:30, Università degli Studi di Milano

Organizers:

Giorgia Aiello (University of Milan) and Marta Severo (University of Paris Nanterre)

On April 14, 2026, the [Department of Social and Political Sciences](#) will host an event exploring the intersection of photomontage, visual generative AI and political communication.

This event builds on the research-creation process behind the *Couper, Coller, Imprimer : Le Photomontage Politique Au XXe Siècle* exhibition, organized in collaboration with the [Master's program in Information and Communication](#) at the University of Paris Nanterre, the graduate school [ArTec \(Arts, Technologies, Mediations\)](#) and [La Contemporaine](#). As part of this initiative, students engaged with historical posters from La Contemporaine's collection, analyzing the ways in which the war and political struggles have been visually communicated through photomontage techniques. By reinterpreting these materials, they produced new posters that reflect contemporary issues, utilizing techniques such as digital design, collage, and visual generative AI. These works aim to challenge, update, and expand the conversation the manipulation of political discourse through visual media.

The event will be structured into two key sections. The first part will feature discussions with researchers from the Milan School of Media and Communication and from Politecnico di Milano, who will share their insights on visual generative AI and society. This will provide a theoretical and practical framework for understanding how political reality is constructed and perceived in visual media. In the second part, a contest will take place where Paris Nanterre students' posters will be evaluated by two juries: one composed by the experts and another one made up of students from the University of Milan and the University of Paris Nanterre. This interactive format will encourage dialogue between students and researchers, highlighting the significance of visual language in shaping public discourse.

Program

- **13:30 – 15:30 | Panel Discussion with researchers: Visual generative AI and the manipulation of reality**
 - With contributions from : Giorgia Aiello (Milan School of Media and Communication, Università di Milano), Giulia Giorgi and Ilir Rama (Milan School of Media and Communication, Università di Milano), Gabriele Colombo (Density Design, Politecnico di Milano)
- **15:30 – 17:30 | Student poster contest**
 - Presentation and review of student posters
 - Jury evaluations and feedback
 - Announcement of contest results

Location:

Aula B, NASP (Network for the Advancement of Social and Political Studies), Via Pace 10.