

Emergent Properties in Large Language Models

SPEAKER: PROF. MICHAL KOSINSKI
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, STANFORD UNIVERSITY

Date : 25 February 2026 (Wednesday)

Time : 10:30am-11:30am

Zoom Link : <https://cityu.zoom.us/j/84005878250?pwd=ZXp4OzdL6E4v20Fz8aXmS5H27jgaZR.1>

Meeting ID: 840 0587 8250 Passcode: 127090

Moderator : Prof. Ben Li

Language : English

Abstract

Large Language Models (LLMs) trained to predict the next word in a sentence have surprised their creators by displaying emergent properties, ranging from biases to the ability to write computer code and solve mathematical problems. This talk presents results from a series of studies evaluating LLMs on tasks traditionally used to study psychological processes in humans. As LLMs increase in size and linguistic competence, they increasingly succeed at false-belief reasoning, avoid semantic illusions, and perform well on cognitive reflection tasks. I argue that these findings suggest LLMs do not merely model language, but also capture psychological processes embedded in human linguistic behavior.

Biography

Michal Kosinski is an Associate Professor of Organizational Behavior at Stanford Graduate School of Business. His research bridges artificial intelligence and psychology, using AI to study human behavior and psychological theory to understand and evaluate AI systems. He received his Ph.D. in psychology from the University of Cambridge, where he pioneered methods for inferring psychological traits from digital footprints.

He has published over 80 peer-reviewed articles in leading journals, including PNAS, Nature Computational Science, Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, and American Psychologist. His work has received more than 27,000 citations (h-index: 62), placing him among the top 1% of highly cited researchers worldwide. He is a co-author of the textbook Modern Psychometrics and a contributor to the Handbook of Social Psychology.

His research has been recognized with multiple awards, including the SPSP Diener Award in Personality Psychology (2025), the ARP Early Career Award (2025), the SPSP Distinguished Fellowship (2024), the EAPP Early Achievement Award (2023), and the APS Rising Star Award (2016). Beyond academia, he has advised organizations such as the U.S. Federal Trade Commission, the U.S. Department of Justice, and the European Parliament.

ALL ARE WELCOME