



Machine Learning Tools to predict Violence in Psychiatry: Gendered Racism and Epistemic Oppression

Mirjam Faissner (Charité Universitätsmedizin Berlin)

When and where?

- Monday, 27th January 2025 from 14.30 - 16.00
- Seminar Room, 6th floor at Glanzstoffhaus, Kasinost. 19-21, 42103 Wuppertal

Online: <https://uni-wuppertal.zoom.us/j/62843755046?%20pwd=XuFuzghg23HeYNfpMPPu75kIch30QV.1>

Abstract

Violent behaviour of patients towards staff is common in inpatient psychiatry. Several recent studies have harnessed machine learning (ML) tools to predict the risk of aggressive events in psychiatry. The systematic implementation of such tools in routine practice could be used to systematically manage patients on psychiatric wards based on their risk scores, for instance via preventive allocation of staff or the preventive use of involuntary medication. We argue that this could lead to several harms to patients: it may lead to coercive measures that are difficult to explain or justify, negatively affecting patients' perception of procedural justice with detrimental consequences for the therapeutic relationship. We then demonstrate that these harms are likely to particularly affect members of socially marginalised groups based on gendered racism. Finally, we discuss ML-based risk assessment in psychiatry under consideration of epistemic oppression.

The talk is based on joint papers with Esther Braun, Christin Hempeler and Regina Müller