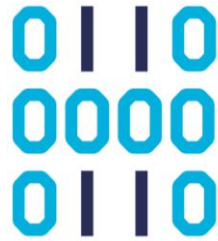


Issue 50
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HEIBRIDS

HELMHOLTZ International Berlin
Research School in Data Science

NEWS

"In data science, as in snowflakes, even the smallest details reveal patterns of great complexity."



Highlights

Thesis Advisory Meetings

Our new cohort is actively preparing for their first TAC meeting, which takes place 12 months after the start of the PhD project.

HEIBRiDS PhD Seminar

For our first 2026 PhD Seminar on 21 January, **Abhay Mehta (DESY/HU)** presented his work titled "Deep Learning for Ground-based Gamma-ray Astronomy". You can read Abhay's interview [here](#).

On 11 February, **Jonas Schaible (HZB/FU)** presented his work "Data-driven performance optimization of coloured and textured solar modules".

New HEIBRiDS-associated doctoral researcher

On 26 January, **Ilias Koulalis (MDC)** joined as a new associated HEIBRiDS doctoral researcher. His project is titled "A new computational framework to reconstruct cell differentiation trajectories by integration of multimodal, spatiotemporal data", he is supervised by Dr. Markus Mittnenzweig (MDC - BIMS) and Prof. Dr. Jana Wolf (FU Berlin, MDC). Profiles of our associated doctoral researchers can be found [here](#).

Welcome to HEIBRiDS, Ilias!

Student Outreach & Collaboration

- **Carl Stadie (AWI/TU)** presented his doctoral research at a conference: [C. C. Stadie, M. Brandt, G. Grosse, A. Kariryaa, S. Li, S. Liu, I. Nitze, F. Reiner, T. Rettelbach, and X. Tong. Large Driftwood Accumulations along Arctic Coastlines and Rivers](#) (Oral presentation), *16th DACH Permafrost Conference, Seddiner See, Germany, 21–24 Jan 2026.*

Zixin Hu (GFZ/TU) has applied for the HIDA Mobility Program and is currently spending a two-month research stay at UFZ Leipzig, where she is working with Dr. Mariana Madruga de Brito and Dr. Taís Maria Nunes Carvalho. Her research explores the use of large language models for the comparative analysis of national flood and drought adaptation plans, linking AI methods with climate risk and policy studies.

Editorial Appointment

Prof. Dr. Nadja Klein, co-supervisor of two of our doctoral researchers (Ekin Celikkan and Emma Winson), has been invited to join the Statistical and Methodological Review Committee as part of the Editorial Board of the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America (PNAS)* - a recognition of her expertise in statistical methodology and data science.

Postdoctoral Opportunity

A Postdoctoral Researcher (f/m/d) position in probabilistic deep learning is currently open at KleinLab – Methods for Big Data, led by Prof. Dr. Nadja Klein at the Scientific Computing Center (SCC) of the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT). More information can be found on the group website (<https://www.kleinlab.de/jobs.html>).

Announcements

Helmholtz AI Conference 2026 (8-11 June 2026 in Munich)

The abstract submission period is open from 2 February to 8 March 2026.

More information: <https://haicon.cc/>

As part of HAICON 2026, the **HIDA PhD Exchange** will be held on **9 June 2026** during the Workshop Day at Helmholtz Munich. *More details will follow soon.*



Steering Committee Meeting

A Steering Committee meeting is being organized in late February 2026 to align on the upcoming HEIBRiDS PhD recruitment, including strategy, outreach, evaluation procedures, and the overall timeline.

Key Dates 2026 HEIBRiDS Recruitment:

- **13 - 20 April:** Call for project proposals
- **mid-May - end June:** Applications phase
- **End August – mid-September:** Interviews
- **1 January 2027:** Earliest start date

Program Committee Meeting

Our PhD representatives, **Jonas Schaible (HZB/HU)** and **Karen Schmieder (MDC/FU)**, are actively contributing to shaping the HEIBRiDS training program to reflect the needs of our doctoral researchers. A Program Committee meeting will be scheduled in March to discuss the 2026 training portfolio and ensure alignment with student priorities and strategic goals.

HEIBRiDS Lecture Series Relaunch

We are currently exploring a revised lecture concept and will share details soon.