

# CURRENT AVENUES IN COMPARATIVE & INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY // SUMMER 2026

- 28.04.2026 // **Thomas Kalinowski** (Ewha Womans University)  
14-16 Uhr  
PEG 1G.191  
*Opportunities and Challenges of Central Bank Issued Digital Currencies (CBDCs) with a Focus on the Introduction of the Digital Euro*
- 11.05.2026 // **Daniel Mügge** (University of Amsterdam) & **Regine Paul** (Bergen University/MPIfG)  
12:30-14 Uhr  
SH 4.105  
*The AI Matrix: Profits, Power, Politics*
- 26.05.2026 // **Valentina Ausserladscheider** (University of Vienna)  
14-16 Uhr  
PEG 1G.191  
*Decoupling Climate Change: Winter Tourism and the Maintenance of Regional Growth*
- 23.06.2026 // **Pauline Kohlhasse** (MPIfG)  
14-16 Uhr  
PEG 1G.191  
*Gendering Growth Model Theory*

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*The AI Matrix: Profits, Power, Politics*

**Abstract:** Artificial intelligence (AI) is heralded as a revolutionary force in the global economy. But the transformation it brings is not simply about new technology as a driver of change. It is about who owns it, what they want to do with it, who can pay for it, and how other economic actors around the world – from legacy manufacturing firms in the Global North to farmers in the Global South – must adjust.

The AI Matrix explores AI systems as products of unequal and conflictual power relations. It exposes grand AI narratives as rhetorical ammunition in political fights over tech futures and socio-economic distribution. Tech giants leverage infrastructure and data to cement their global dominance.

Meanwhile, geopolitical competition between China and the United States increasingly dominates the AI economy, entrenching globe-spanning dependencies. In their book presentation, Regine Paul and Daniel Mügge make the case for reclaiming a genuine political-economy perspective on AI.

**Daniel Mügge** is Professor of Political Arithmetic at the University of Amsterdam (UvA). As leader of the NWO Vici project Regulaite, he investigates how the EU governs artificial intelligence and how these politics are shaped by global geopolitical and economic competition. At the UvA, he is also co-founder of the research platform and the research priority area AI & Politics. Before starting his work on AI, Daniel explored the political underbelly of macroeconomic statistics with his FickleFormulas project. A political economist by training, he has been a visiting researcher at Harvard's Center for European Studies, the London School of Economics and the Freie Universität Berlin, his alma mater.

**Regine Paul** is Professor at the Department of Government at Bergen University (Norway, on partial leave) and Research Group Leader at the Max-Planck-Institute for the Study of Societies in Cologne where she is building up a new group on "Technology and Statehood". The group explores state competitiveness projects vis-à-vis imperatives of global technology races comparatively across space, time and different technologies. Regine is co-editor of Critical Policy Studies and the Elgar Handbook on Public Policy and Artificial Intelligence (2024), and co-authored The AI Matrix: Profits, Power, Politics (2026, with Daniel Mügge and Vali Stan).