




Machine Learning

By Prof. Silvia Serrano





Sorbonne Center for Artificial Intelligence will contribute to make Abu Dhabi the next home for cutting-edge AI research

The ideas behind artificial intelligence have been around since the middle of the twentieth century, but it's only the latest advances in Machine Learning and, in particular, in Deep Learning, that are dramatically transforming technology. Such a transformation enables us to peek into the near future and see cars that drive themselves, improved diagnostic tools put in the hands of doctors and supercomputers able to completely manage industrial engineering processes. All of this is happening at a staggering pace – a fact that poses our societies in front of opportunities and challenges of spectacular magnitude.

Like in the vast majority of revolutionary innovations, cutting-edge research comes from universities and is spread by students who have gone on to become world-famous in their respective fields. It's no surprise, then, that an institution with the history and scientific excellence of Sorbonne is taking the lead in the field. In particular, after having been launched in June 2019 in Paris, Sorbonne Center for Artificial Intelligence (SCAI) was inaugurated in Abu Dhabi, on January 26th, 2020.

"At the heart of our strategic plan, Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi prioritises the development of the UAE's knowledge economy," says Prof. Silvia Serrano, Executive Director of Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi.

Based both in Paris and Abu Dhabi, SCAI's mission is to develop world-class fundamental and applied interdisciplinary research. The center will comprise, initially, two Chairs of Excellence and state-of-the-art computing units. These two Chairs, which are funded by energy company TOTAL and aerospace firm THALES, respectively, will each host a Senior Scientist and two PhD students, whose activity will be performed under the coordination of a Principal Investigator in Paris.

Building on the stimulus brought about by SCAI, two executive training programs have been designed – one in Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence, and the other in Actuarial specialty in Data Science. Other educational programmes will come to light soon.

Historically, Sorbonne has been at the helm of influential research – now it's taking on AI.



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Professor Silvia Serrano is a political scientist and a specialist in soviet and post-soviet studies. She holds a doctoral degree from the INALCO (National Institute of Oriental Studies, Paris) and a habilitation to direct research, defended at the EHESS (Ecole des Hautes études en sciences sociales, Paris).

She has been a Professor at Sorbonne University since 2017, and the Vice Chancellor of Sorbonne Abu Dhabi since 2020.

Her research focuses on political, societal and religious dynamics in contemporary Russia and the post-soviet states. She is the author of several monographs and collective books, of multiple articles and chapters in international publications and peer-reviewed journals.