

#WAY | INTERVIEWS



#WHEREAREYOU

HOW DIGITAL COMMUNICATION DEFINES WHO WE ARE.

QUESTIONS |

PERSONAL QUESTIONS |

_Please introduce yourself briefly.

_Where are you from? Tell us about your background.

_Please describe your present private life, your way of living it, and why you chose this path.

_How important are social networks to you? How do you handle them in your professional and private life?

_Please tell us about your personal experiences during the Covid pandemic. How has the world changed, especially in the way we communicate with each other?

_How do you handle stress? How do you stay calm and factual within the eye of the Hurricane?

_“The best way to gain control of the most powerful and intelligent species on the planet would be to completely divide them from the love within themselves.” Would you agree, and why?

_How do you make yourself stay curious?

_How important are social networks to you? How do you handle them in your private life?

_Are you using AI agents, and how do you utilize them? How will they change the game?

_Which are the most important premises for an individual to find his/her path in the future AI world?

_What's the secret of your success? Were you simply at the right place (Caltech) at the right time (past 8 years)?

_You see your colleagues, and also Benedikt, mostly on screens. What is your perception towards this, does it have influence on your emotional side/mental health?

_Are you living the American Dream, or how would you describe the last decade for you?

_What can tell us about your relationship to Germany?

_What's your love story?

LAB QUESTIONS |

_Please describe your work, your way of working, and why you chose this path.

_What's the definition of a scientist?

_In one interview you're talking about the idea to avoid all lab experiments and replace them with AI: How will this transform science. What are the other scientists saying about this!?

_Aren't you eliminating yourself by AI/ Your models?

_What is the Anima Lab, and who is standing behind it? How many people, and what are the goals? How do you and your team work (workflows, communication, interchange)? Where's your focus at the moment?

_Explain Neural Operators and their impact. Are they universal, what could be other fields they can be used in?

_Please explain NOBLE (Neural Operator with Biologically-informed Latent Embeddings) (<https://www.eas.caltech.edu/news/modeling-neurons-with-the-help-of-ai>) and NeurlIPS.

_You are collaborating with all other faculties on the Caltech Campus. How do these interdependencies look like? How are your models supporting other scientific disciplines? What's special about Caltech?

QUESTIONS |

_Your models are based on existing information. How about laws and copyrights etc for your models? And generally in the AI world?

_How did you train your model? In a psychologic sense, do you consider it as your friend or partner?

_We are entering the era of Language Models. How do Language Models help with your Scientific Discovery?

_Why is your AI weather model open source? What are the benefits?

_Jensen Huang is warning about the Chinese, who keep their AI development Open Source. Who'll win the race, and why?

_How can we enable AI to understand the physical world? How are you doing it? Tell us about your observations towards AI and its behavior. Can we trust algorithms?

_Is AI a simulation of the real world? Once it's done: What are we doing with all the humans? Where will be their worth?

_Are you the most powerful woman in AI? Why are most people in this field men?

_Would it still be possible to turn everything upside-down with a new idea?

AI QUESTIONS |

_AI is considered more and more as the biggest game changer in human history, even larger than industrialization. Would you agree? Why?

_It's obvious that the Tech Bro's to a certain extend are recreating what they've seen in the Sci-Fi movies of their youth (Musk refers to The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy of Douglas Adams). Or were these ideas simply predictions? How could it be done differently?

_What are we doing here anyway? Are we rebuilding our own species to make it godlike? Why can't we ever be content with ourselves?

_Let's check the internet's footprint on earth. Currently, data centers consume 60% more energy than private households, and climbing. We put everything in the cloud, while humans and planet get exploited (tin, lithium). Is it worth it?

_Are data centers the cathedrals of the modern age, lousy ones? Are their appearance a metaphor for the slowly dying soul?

_How do AI programmers (coding, math for example) work?

_Why is Jensen Huang so present in the media? What has to be moderated?

_Why is it so crucial that America wants to be the leader in this? Is it worth all the power plants, data centers, etc, and why?

_The Scientist's wet dream: „This will lead to something. I don't know what, but it'll lead to something, and we'd better pursue it.” Can this be the way in AI? Do we really want to take the risks of unchecked speed?

_It seems to me that AI is about the ego. Does AI kill our souls?

_Can we trust AI? Can we trust the people behind it? Can we trust data? Is the world only about data?

_Even Geoffrey Hinton has become more optimistic. He wants to give the models a kind of maternal instinct so that they won't turn against their own 'baby' (humans). Is that naive?

_There seems to be a rethinking of AI going on. From an AI which is related to the human way of thinking towards a kind of Artificial Superintelligence which nobody really understands right now. What or who will this Superintelligence be? Tell us about the race towards it. Who are the protagonists, and who will win the race? Why?

_What's in the jackpot?

QUESTIONS |

DIGITAL SPACE |

- _Why are social networks so successful?
- _Would a global lockdown have been possible without digital communication?
- _The internet has created new worlds and spaces. What defines these new spaces? What changes are emerging?
- _How does our experience of time change through digital communication? How does our notion of past, present and future shift?
- _Everything seems to be in flux, nothing final anymore. Interpersonal relationships are becoming more non-committal. Is this a response to being overwhelmed by the flood of information? How should we deal with it?
- _How is digital communication reshaping societies, and where is it leading?
- _What influence does digital communication have on our understanding of reality?
- _Why can we feel close to each other in the digital world even though we're not physically together?
- _Can you get lost in the digital world?
- _In your opinion: has digitalization brought more advantages or disadvantages? How do you think this will develop in the future?

_If digital networks are a drug, what would withdrawal look like?

_Do we need a new Enlightenment? What could "digital enlightenment" look like?

_What long ago has been a playful and anarchistic universe (digital), is now taken over by the 'system'. The protagonists appear as their own bots, repeating the same messages over and over again. Why? What has to be moderated?

_What are the key questions of our time?

_Traveling vs face-to-face: Why are you traveling, eG to conventions? You could have the same conversations, meet the same people via Zoom. Where is the difference to being in the same room, and who or what profits from it?

EXCHANGE AND CLOSENESS |

_What does closeness mean in 2025, and what is the price for it?

_If I can communicate directly with a friend in California while sitting in Berlin, if I can witness political and cultural events all over the world without leaving my home: where am I then? Who am I then?

_Is the feeling of interpersonal closeness perhaps only an illusion, and does it mainly depend on our own attitude or will?

_Are we all becoming narcissists through the internet? ("The internet isn't a window to the world, it's a mirror in which we only ever see ourselves.")

_How do humanism and digitalization fit together?

_Are displays to be seen as windows into a new real or pseudo-real world?

_What is actually transmitted when we sit across from each other? Does it go beyond verbal/non-verbal communication? Where lies the difference to digital exchange?

_What is energy?

QUESTIONS |

_Has it now become a game you can't leave anymore?

_How does the digital space organize its content, and where do you see the boundary of value?

_Is the computer to be understood as a speed machine?

_What does it mean for communication when technology, as a third party, is always co-communicating, intervening and manipulating (pre-set input masks, search programs, algorithms, character limits, etc.)?