

# MILID

## Summer School 2026

# Media & Information Literacy *and Intercultural Dialogue* *Global Understanding* *Peace for all*

7 – 17 July 2026

### DATES

7 – 17 July 2026

### VENUE

Hotel Campus · Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona ·  
Bellaterra, Barcelona, Spain

### DAILY HOURS

10:00 – 13:30 h  
(Opening and Closing Ceremony: 10:00 – 13:00 h)

### PARTICIPANTS

More than 300 students and faculty

### TRACKS

MIL & Global Understanding · Law and Rights ·  
Challenges of AI

### FLAGSHIP

MIL Young Peace Ambassadors Programme

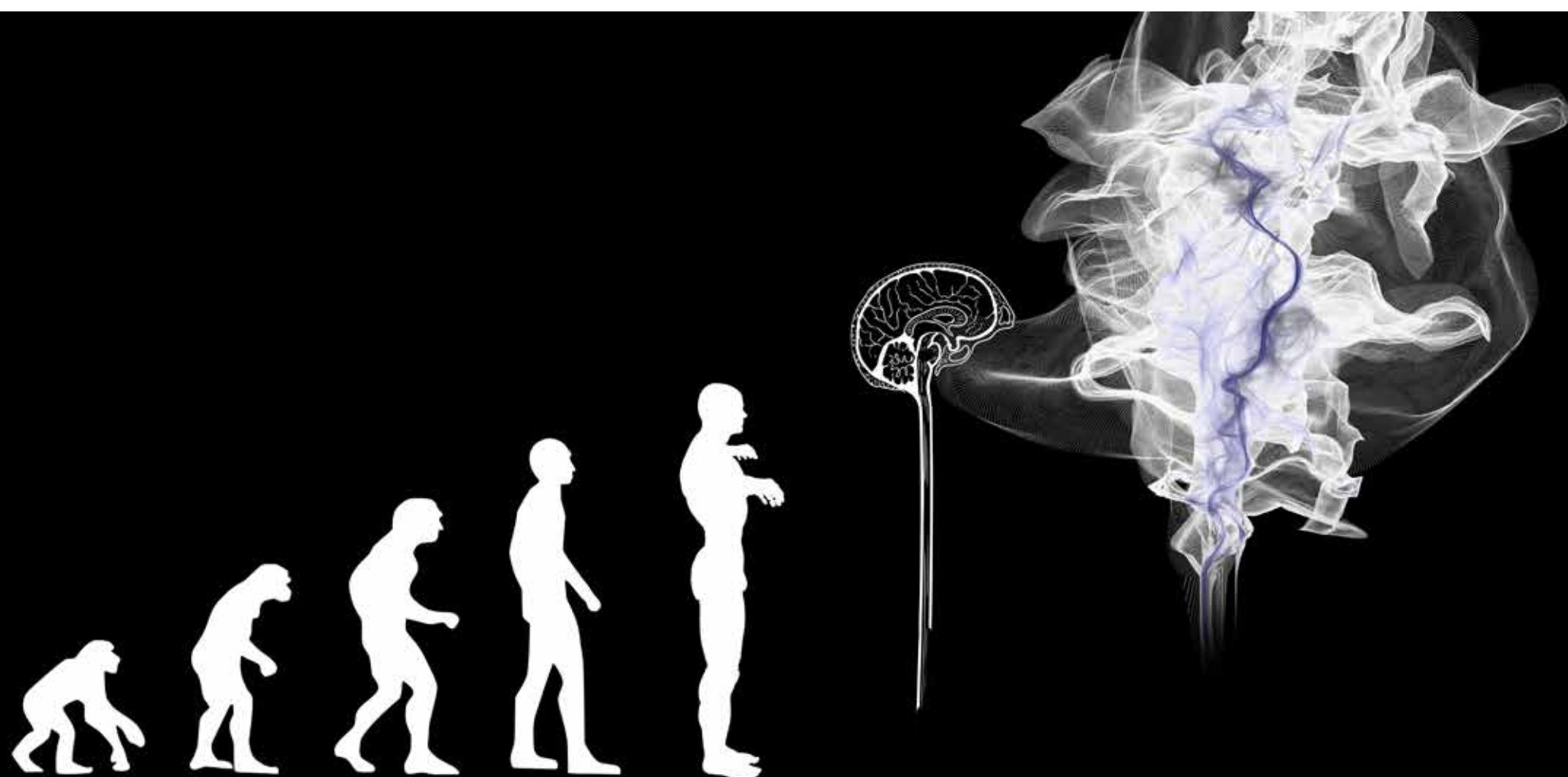
# Presentation

**T**he great digital mediatization and the AI have transformed our world. We are entering a new era of civilization in which technologies have become intelligent, and many of them now perform functions that, in earlier times, only human beings could perform. If the age of machinery and the Industrial Revolution replaced mechanical and physical labour, today's technology is replacing — and in some cases supplanting — countless cognitive activities: not only reading and calculation, but reasoning and decision-making itself. Nor does it stop there: many machines now perform tasks of an affective and emotional nature, caring for, accompanying, and conversing with us.

These changes are unfolding in social contexts that are increasingly complex and conflictive, marked by growing consumerism, individual isolation, social fragmentation, and polarization. At the same time, control over the new technological tools is concentrated in fewer and fewer hands: large technology corporations and states that algorithmically govern the flow of information, and that have developed artificial intelligence systems so powerful that they threaten to condition the collective intelligence of the entire planet.

The result is an unstable world, where shared prosperity is in crisis, inequality is rising, and war and rearmament threaten global peace. From Ukraine to Palestine, from Sudan to so many other places, conflict reminds us that peace is not a starting point, but a daily construction.

Have we fully grasped the scale of this transformation? For now, the debate remains open, but very few effective steps have been taken to respond adequately. **UNESCO's own evidence confirms this gap.** Its *Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence* — adopted by acclamation by 194 Member States in November 2021 and still the world's first and only global standard-setting instrument on AI ethics — places human rights and human dignity at the centre of its framework, calling for transparency, fairness, environmental sustainability, and continued human oversight of AI systems. Yet, five years on, implementation remains uneven: most countries have endorsed the principles, but few have built the institutional capacity — readiness assessments, ethical impact assessments, regulatory frameworks — needed to make them operative on the ground.





The same gap appears in the field of Media and Information Literacy. UNESCO's most recent Issue Brief, *Media and Information Literacy for All: Closing the Gaps* (October 2025), offers the first global mapping of MIL policies and curricula across UNESCO's 194 Member States. It finds that while 171 countries now reference MIL in national policy frameworks, only a small minority have developed dedicated, standalone MIL policies — the decisive factor that allows MIL to be systematically embedded in education systems. As UNESCO itself concludes, recognition of MIL is high, but implementation remains fragmented: the shift from awareness to action is still largely unfinished. This is precisely the gap that UNESCO's Global MIL Framework — already piloted in more than forty countries — and the renewed Model MIL Curriculum for Educators and Learners seek to close, explicitly linking media and information literacy to artificial intelligence, digital citizenship, and the fight against misinformation, disinformation, and hate speech.

National and international regulations alone, then, are not enough to contain the negative impact of technology. Media literacy policies remain, in much of the world, more an aspiration than a practical reality. And ethical positions on these new developments — however commendable — have not yet achieved the popular and educational impact the moment demands.

In this context, building a global consensus on the need to strengthen Media and Information Literacy and Intercultural Dialogue (MILID) seems more timely than ever. The Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona and the Arab Academy for Science,



Technology and Maritime Transport, in cooperation with the UNESCO MIL Alliance and the UNESCO UNITWIN MILID Network, have already taken important steps in this direction. The First International Conference on Media and Information Literacy and Global Understanding, held in Cairo in 2024 under the auspices of the Arab League and UNESCO, revealed broad consensus on the key role that MIL and intercultural dialogue can play in building global peace. A year later, in Barcelona, the Second Conference deepened that consensus and moved toward a Common Action Plan against disinformation and hate speech, structured around three axes: media and intercultural dialogue, research and education, and rights, cybersecurity, and artificial intelligence.

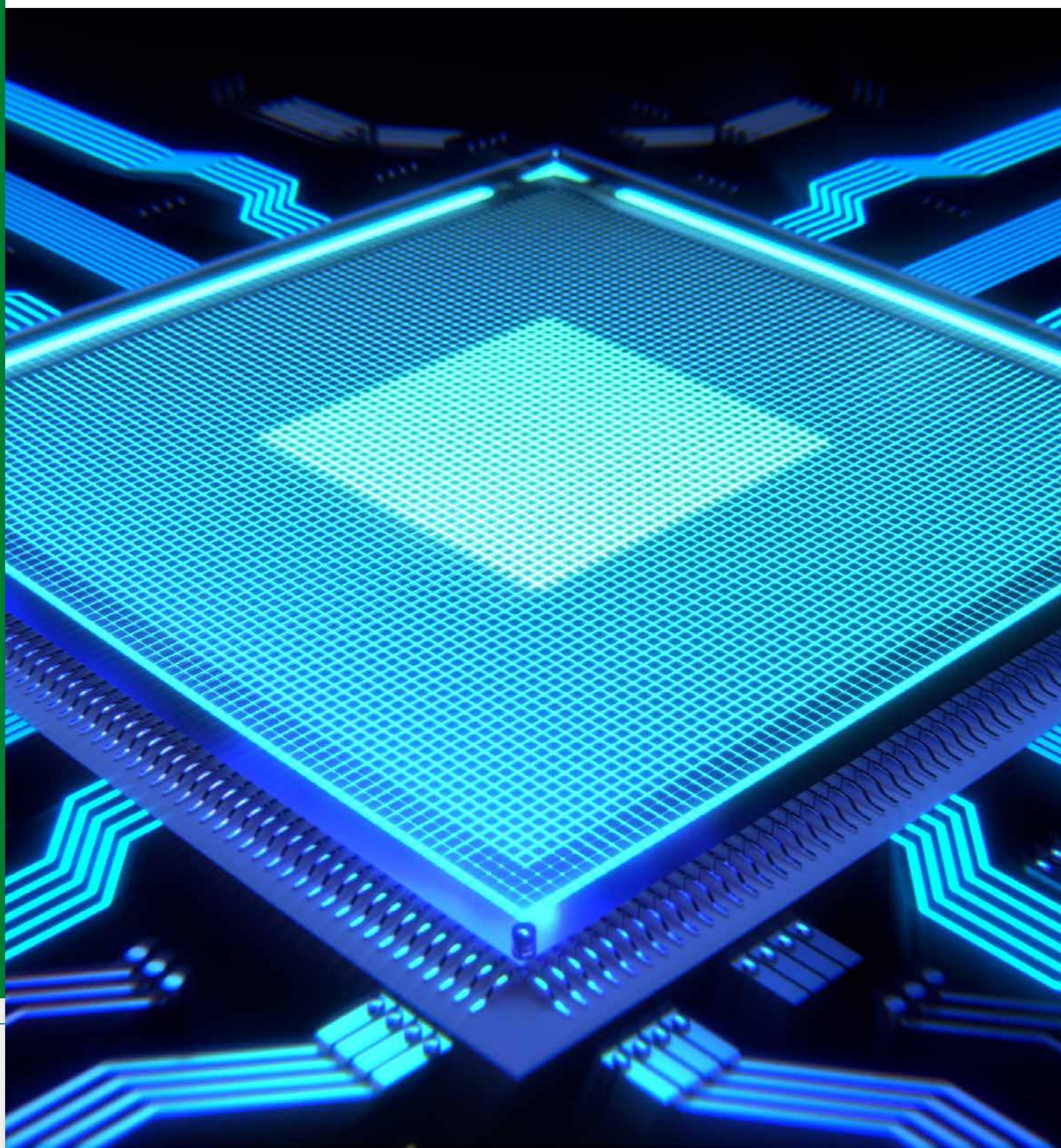
The **MILID Summer School 2026** is presented this year as a further effort in that same direction. From 7 to 17 July, at the Hotel Campus of the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, more than 300 students and faculty from the UAB, the Arab Academy, and partner universities of the UNESCO UNITWIN MILID Network will gather for eleven days around a shared purpose: to explore how media literacy, law, and artificial intelligence can converge to build a more just, more humane, and freer global understanding.

The programme is organized around three complementary tracks — **MIL and Global Understanding** (communication and intercultural dialogue), **Law and Rights** (the legal framework that protects human dignity in the digital environment), and **Challenges of Artificial Intelligence** (a rigorous introduction to its principles, applications, and social impact) — which converge in joint plenary sessions, particularly at the opening and closing, where the whole academic community will debate the great challenges we share.



This edition places special emphasis on the role of young people as active agents in raising awareness of the importance of MIL in building the conditions for understanding and peace. Throughout the school, students will take part in hands-on audiovisual workshops devoted to producing materials for the diffusion of MIL across social media and the wider internet, which will feed directly into the **MIL Young Peace Ambassadors Programme** — an initiative born two years ago at the First Cairo Conference, aimed at weaving an international network of young communicators committed to peace, human rights, and intercultural dialogue. The work students undertake during these two weeks in Bellaterra is therefore not an isolated academic exercise: it will directly inform the proposals and initiatives to be presented at the **Third MIL Global Understanding Conference**, to be held in Cairo this coming October.

For this reason, the active, sustained, and committed participation of every student is absolutely essential. This is not a programme to be attended as passive spectators of a lecture series, but a collective process of learning, debate, and production in which each participant is a protagonist — one with consequences and continuity well beyond the classrooms of the UAB. Rigorous attendance, genuine engagement in workshops and debates, and respect for the spirit of intercultural exchange and coexistence that has always defined this Summer School are indispensable conditions for the experience to have meaning — both for each participant individually and for the international community this initiative seeks to build.



For more than fifteen years, the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport, the UNESCO UNITWIN MILID Network, and the MIL Institute have sustained, in Bellaterra, a community of learning and intercultural dialogue. The 2026 edition, one of the most ambitious in the school's history, brings together a faculty of internationally recognized standing, combining academic rigour with practical experience across their respective fields: specialists in communication and media literacy, legal scholars expert in the European legal framework governing digital society, and AI researchers who combine scientific precision with a critical eye on its ethical and social implications. To all of them — and to everyone in the academic direction, the organizing institutions, and our partners who have made this new edition possible — I wish to express my sincere gratitude.

Welcome to the MILID Summer School 2026. Welcome to a space of knowledge, encounter, and shared commitment to building a more just and more peaceful world.



*Dr. José Manuel Pérez Tornero*



*Dr. Samy Taye*



*Dr. Santiago Tejedor*

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# Introduction

## A Commitment to Global Understanding

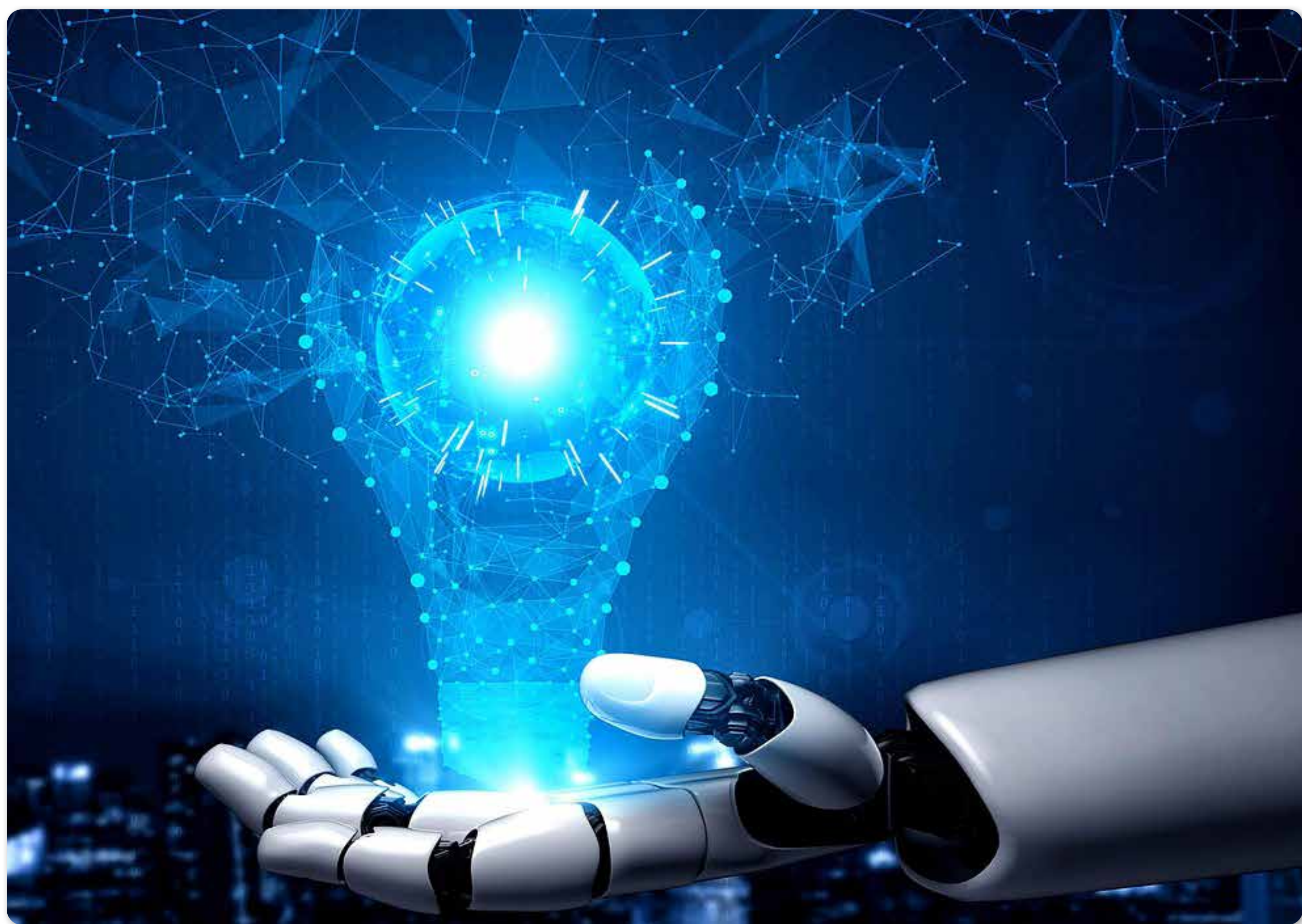
The year 2026 confronts us with a paradox that defines our time: never has humanity been so interconnected, and yet never so vulnerable to fragmentation and polarization. Global networks bring us closer, but they also amplify disinformation and hate speech. Artificial intelligence promises to expand knowledge while testing the legal frameworks that protect our rights. And against this backdrop, conflict persists — from Ukraine to Palestine, from Sudan to so many other places — reminding us that peace is not a starting point but a daily construction.



In this context, the MILID Summer School 2026 returns to its historic mission with a renewed question: how can media literacy, law, and artificial intelligence converge to build a more just, more humane, and more open global understanding?

## The 2026 Emphasis — Youth as Peace Ambassadors

This edition places special focus on the role of young people as active agents of awareness around the importance of MIL in building the conditions for understanding and peace. Throughout the Summer School, students will take part in hands-on audiovisual workshops devoted to producing materials for the diffusion of MIL across social media and the wider Internet. These campaigns will be integrated into the MIL Young Peace Ambassadors Programme, a flagship initiative aimed at weaving an international network of young communicators committed to peace, human rights, and intercultural dialogue.



MILID Summer School 2026

## Introduction

This edition will gather more than 300 participants — students and faculty — from the UAB, the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport, and partner universities of the UNESCO UNITWIN MILID Network. It will be one of the largest and most ambitious editions in the school's history: a genuine international academic community gathered for eleven days around a shared purpose.

For more than fifteen years, the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona and the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport — with the cooperation of the UNESCO UNITWIN MILID Network and the MIL Institute — have sustained in Bellaterra a community of learning and intercultural dialogue.

The 2026 edition consolidates this legacy around three complementary and interdependent tracks:

- MIL and Global Understanding · Young Peace Ambassadors — the foundational track, where media literacy is conceived and practised as a tool for peace.
- Law and Rights — the framework that protects human dignity in digital environments.
- Challenges of Artificial Intelligence — the technological frontier that is redefining what it means to inform, decide, and live together.



MILID Summer School 2026

# At a Glance

## Programme Structure

All sessions take place at a single venue: the Hotel Campus of the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, which will host both the lecture rooms and the plenary opening and closing ceremonies.

## Daily structure on full-activity days

TIME	ROOM A MIL & GLOBAL UNDERSTANDING	ROOM B LAW AND RIGHTS	ROOM B CHALLENGES OF AI
10:00 – 11:30	Theoretical session	Theoretical session	Theoretical session
11:30 – 12:00	Coffee break · 30 minutes		
12:00 – 13:30	Debate · Case study · Workshop	Debate · Case study · Workshop	Debate · Case study · Workshop

→ MIL Young Peace Ambassadors Programme · Hands-on audiovisual workshops are integrated within the 12:00–13:00 block in Room A, alternating with debates and case studies throughout both weeks.

## General calendar

### JULY 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	<b>7</b> OPENING CEREMONY · Room A · 10:00 – 13:30 h	8 3 parallel rooms · theoretical sessions + debates / case studies / workshops 10:00 – 13:00 h	9 3 parallel rooms · theoretical sessions + debates / case studies / workshops 10:00 – 13:00 h	10 3 parallel rooms · theoretical sessions + debates / case studies / workshops 10:00 – 13:00 h	11	12
13 3 parallel rooms · theoretical sessions + debates / case studies / workshops 10:00 – 13:00 h	14 3 parallel rooms · theoretical sessions + debates / case studies / workshops 10:00 – 13:00 h	15 3 parallel rooms · theoretical sessions + debates / case studies / workshops 10:00 – 13:00 h	16 3 parallel rooms · theoretical sessions + debates / case studies / workshops 10:00 – 13:00 h	<b>17</b> CLOSING CEREMONY · Room A only · 10:00 – 13:30 h	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26



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# Plenary Days



## Programme Structure

### **TUESDAY 7 JULY** · OPENING CEREMONY · HOTEL CAMPUS · ROOM A

10:00 – 11:30	Official opening ceremony · Authorities of UAB, UNESCO, Arab Academy and MIL Institute · Inaugural lecture
11:30 – 12:00	Coffee break
12:00 – 13:30	Programme presentation · MIL Young Peace Ambassadors · Welcome to students and faculty

### **FRIDAY 17 JULY** · CLOSING CEREMONY · HOTEL CAMPUS · ROOM A

10:00 – 11:30	Interdisciplinary round table: “MILID, Law and AI: a shared agenda for peace”
11:30 – 12:00	Coffee break
12:00 – 13:30	Presentation of MIL Young Peace Ambassadors campaigns · Award of diplomas · Closing ceremony



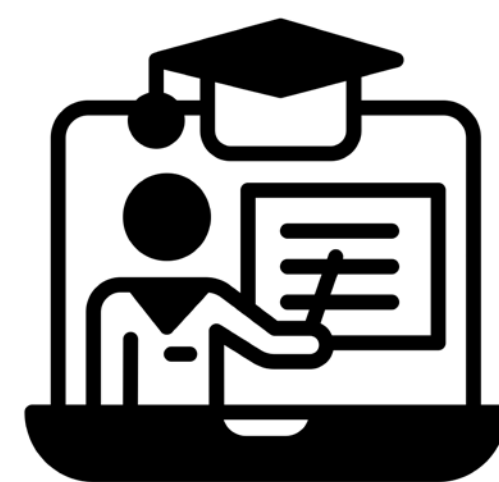
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# Faculty

## An International Teaching Team

Across the three tracks, the MILID Summer School 2026 brings together scholars and practitioners from the UAB, the Universidad de Salamanca, the University of Toronto, the IIA-CSIC, the UNESCO MIL Alliance, and the wider UNITWIN MILID Network.



## Full Faculty List · in alphabetical order

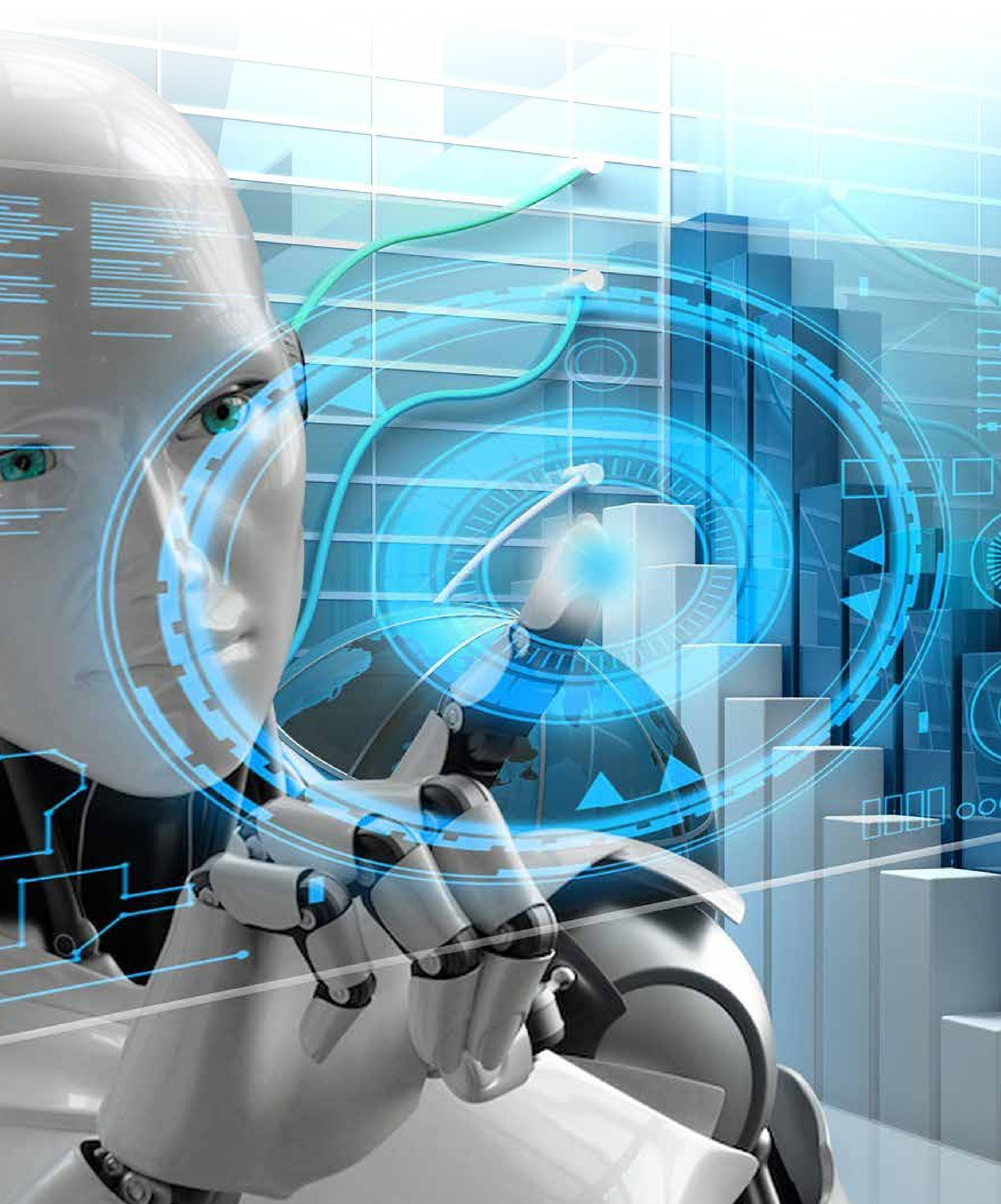
An international team combining the academic voice of the UNESCO MILID Network with the research and professional experience of the UAB Gabinete de Comunicación y Educación.

<i>Pol Adroher</i>		UAB / UB · Professor of Commercial Law
<i>Rafael Arenas</i>		UAB
<i>Lidia Ballesta</i>		UAB
<i>Jaime Carril</i>		Professor, Universidad de Chile
<i>Michele Catanzaro</i>		UAB · Gabinete de Comunicación y Educación · science communication
<i>José María de Dios</i>		UAB · Professor of International Private Law and EU Law · Director, Institute of European Union Studies
<i>Miguel Gardesnes</i>		UAB · Lecturer in Private International Law
<i>Carles Górriz (Coordinator)</i>		UAB · Coordinator, Track B · Law and Rights
<i>Yonti Friesen</i>		UNESCO MIL Alliance · MILID network
<i>Alexander Le Voci</i>		UAB · Gabinete de Comunicación y Educación
<i>Marcel Maas</i>		UAB · Facultad de Ciencias de la Comunicación
<i>Julian McDougall</i>		Bournemouth University · United Kingdom
<i>Pedro Meseguer (Coordinator)</i>		IIA-CSIC · Coordinator, Track C · Challenges of AI
<i>Jorge Miquel</i>		UAB · Lecturer in Business Law
<i>Milagros Orozco</i>		UAB · Lecturer of International Private Law
<i>Félix Ortega Mohedano</i>		Universidad de Salamanca · Audiences and new media
<i>Xavier Ortuño</i>		UAB · Gabinete de Comunicación y Educación
<i>José Manuel Pérez Tornero</i>		UAB · UNESCO Chair on MIL
<i>Marta Portalés</i>		UAB · Gabinete de Comunicación y Educación
<i>Cristina Pulido</i>		UAB · Coordinator, Track A · MIL and Global Understanding

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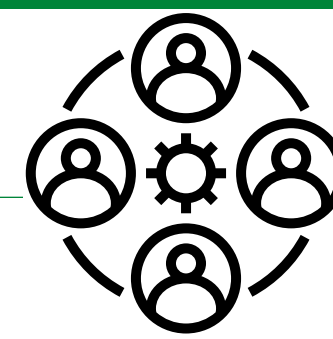
<i>María José Recoder</i>		UAB · Gabinete de Comunicación y Educación
<i>Olunifesi Suraj</i>		University of Lagos · UNESCO MILID Network co-coordinator
<i>Samy Tayie</i>		Arab Academy
<i>Sally Tayie</i>		Arab Academy
<i>Santiago Tejedor</i>		UAB · Cyberjournalism and intercultural communication



MILID Summer School 2026

# Governance

## Direction and Organisation



### Academic Direction

Continuity with the 2025 edition.

<i>José Manuel Pérez Tornero</i>	UAB · Director of the MILID Summer School · UNESCO UNITWIN MILID Network
<i>Samy Tayie</i>	Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport · Representing the Rector of the Arab Academy · UNESCO MIL Alliance
<i>Santiago Tejedor</i>	UAB · Director of the Gabinete de Comunicación y Educación

### Organising Committee

Constituted for the 2026 edition.

<i>Cristina Pulido</i>	UAB · Coordinator, Track A · MIL and Global Understanding
<i>Carles Górriz</i>	UAB · Coordinator, Track B · Law and Rights
<i>Pedro Mesequer</i>	IIIA-CSIC · Coordinator, Track C · Challenges of Artificial Intelligence
<i>Sally Tayie</i>	Arab Academy

### Organisation and Logistics

- Gabinete de Comunicación y Educación, UAB
- Coordination with the Embassy of Spain in Cairo (visa procedures and documentation)
- Coordination with the management of Hotel Campus UAB for venue arrangements



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