WDCD - Sep 25 2025

Urban AI Narratives

Imagining and discussing localized narratives for Urban AI

Karla Saldana Ochoa
Hubert Beroche

SHAIRE

URBAN AI

BLOCK 1

1. Introduction of the team

5 minutes

1. Goals of the workshop

5 minutes

2. AI tools ML: teaching, learning, inference

10 minutes

3. Survey

5 minutes

BLOCK 2

4. Reflect in what matters in a City?

20 minutes

5. What defines a good city?

20 minutes

6. Designing AI for the City

20 minutes

7. Group Swap & Ethical Feedback

10 minutes

8. One Word for The Future

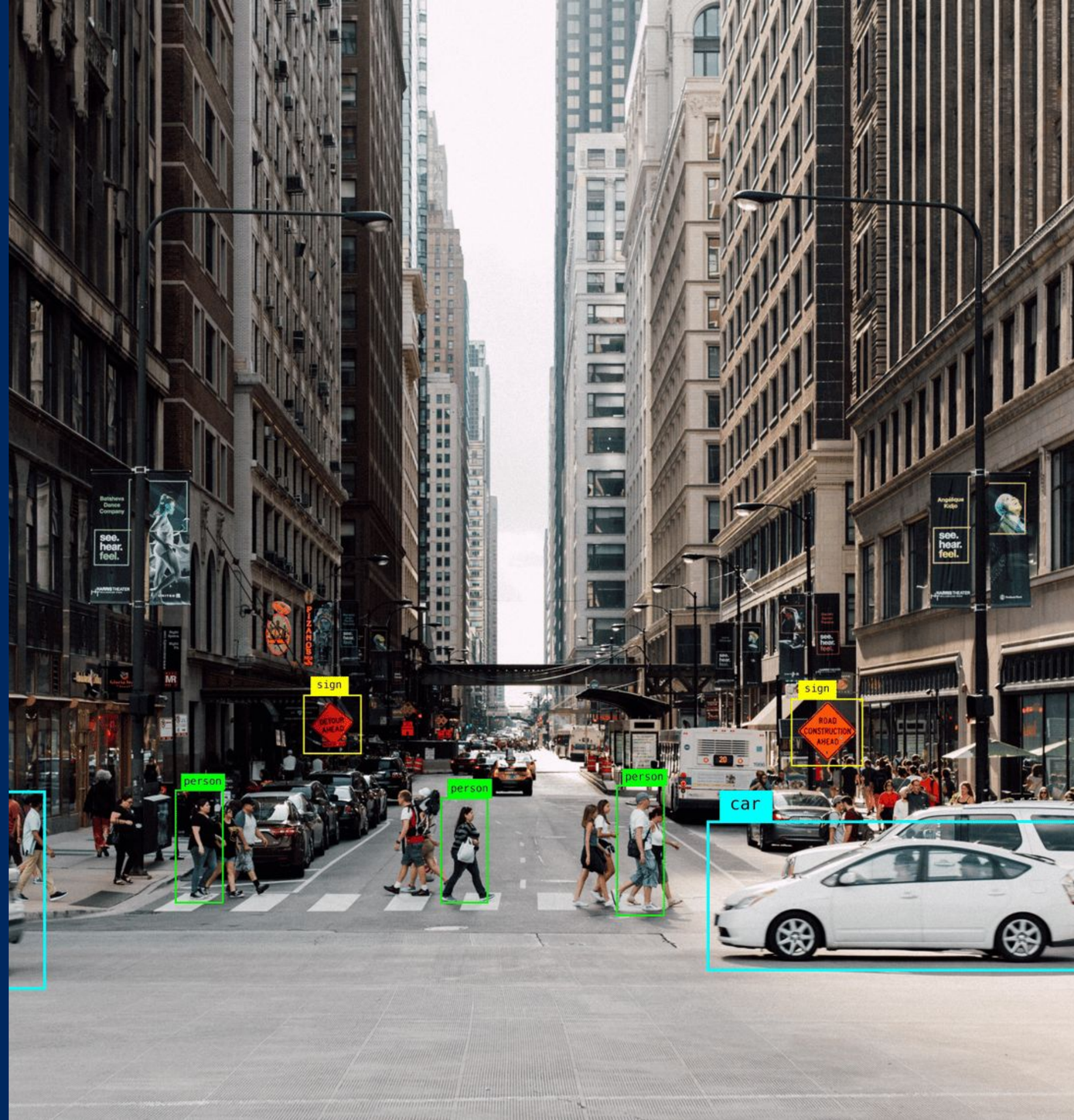
5 minutes

URBAN AI

URBAN AI is a global and pioneering organization dedicated to the emerging field of urban Artificial Intelligence.

It carries and supports a leading Think Tank that federates a large global network of experts and organisations.

Together, they conduct global research, events and experiments in urban AI.



URBAN AI

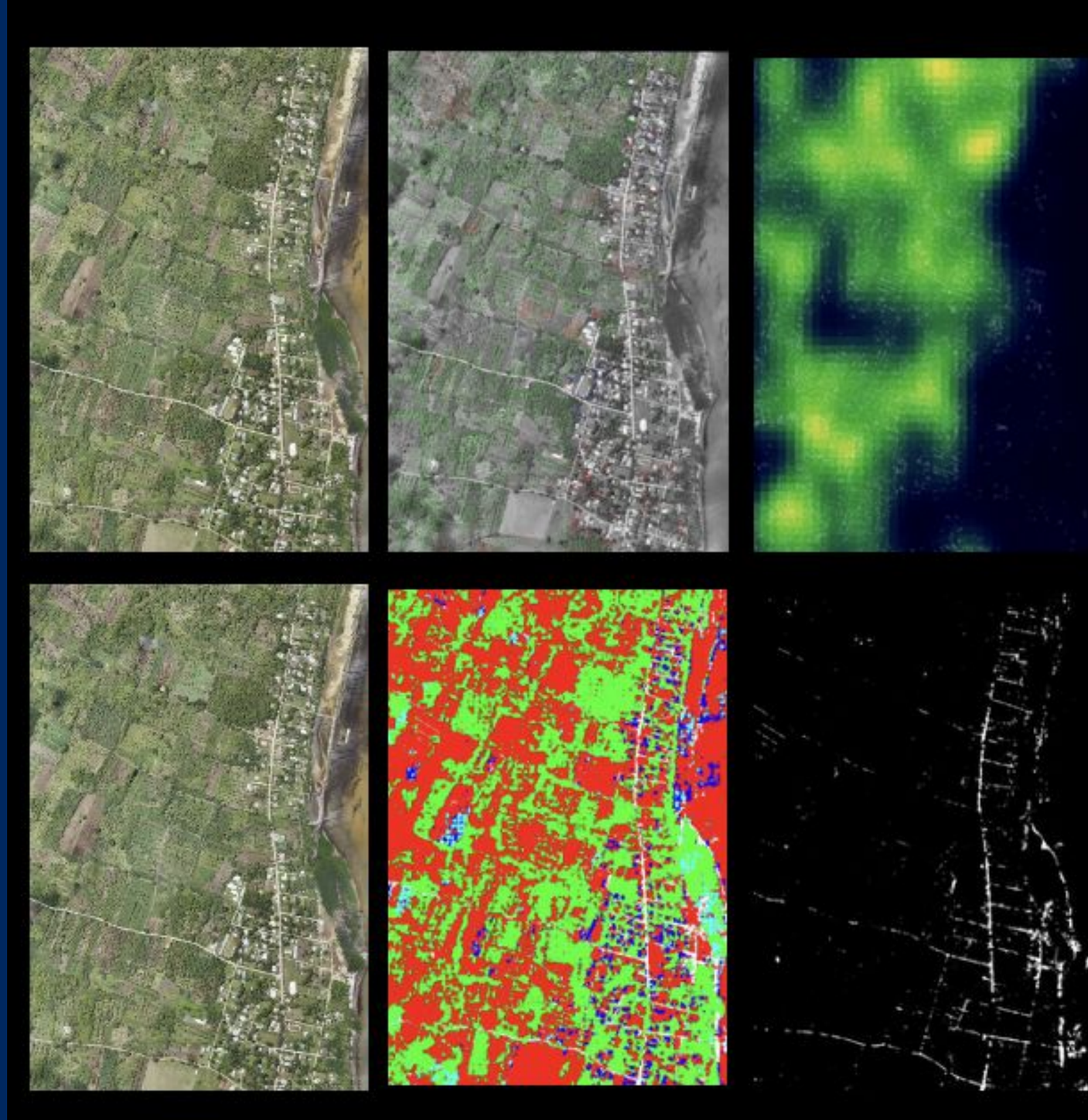
Harnessing Bottom-Up Dynamics for Global Urban AI Governance

Grounding Urban AI Governance in Local Realities and People-Centered Priorities

Mapping Urban AI Narratives at the Local Level

SHARE

Architects and designers are uniquely equipped to translate vast, multimodal urban data into actionable insights through design thinking and spatial intelligence. At the SHARE Lab, we harness artificial intelligence as a tool and instrument, as an integral part of the creative process—classifying, predicting, and generating design outcomes that address real-world challenges like climate resilience, disaster response, and land-use planning. By developing immersive digital environments and intelligent virtual replicas enriched with sensor data, AI models, and spatial analysis, our work advances a new paradigm where design, data, and computation converge to inform the planning, management, and transformation of the built environment.



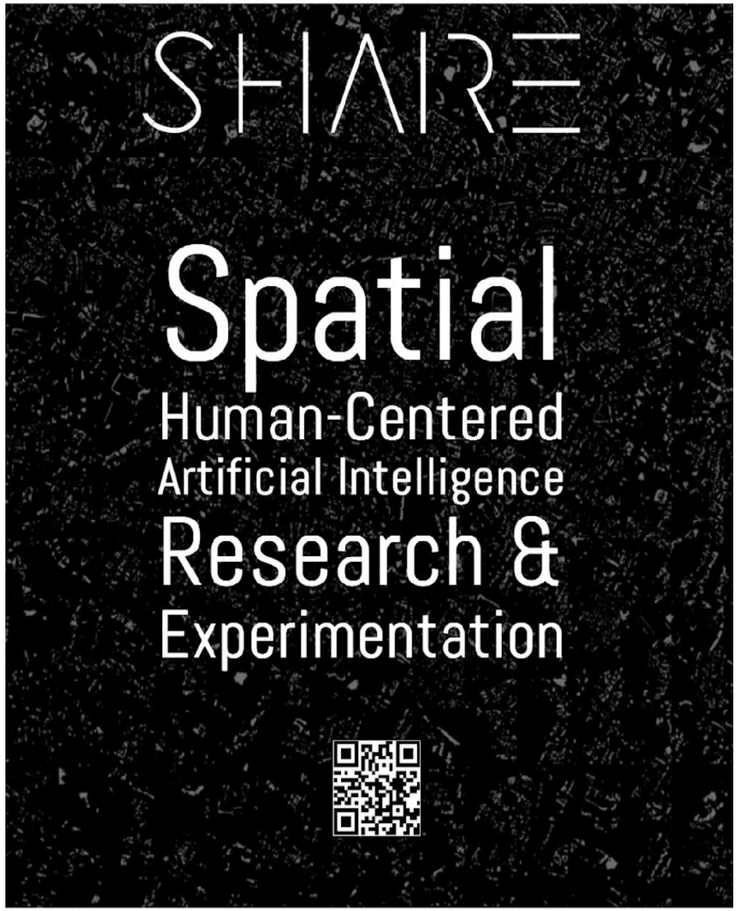
SHAIRE

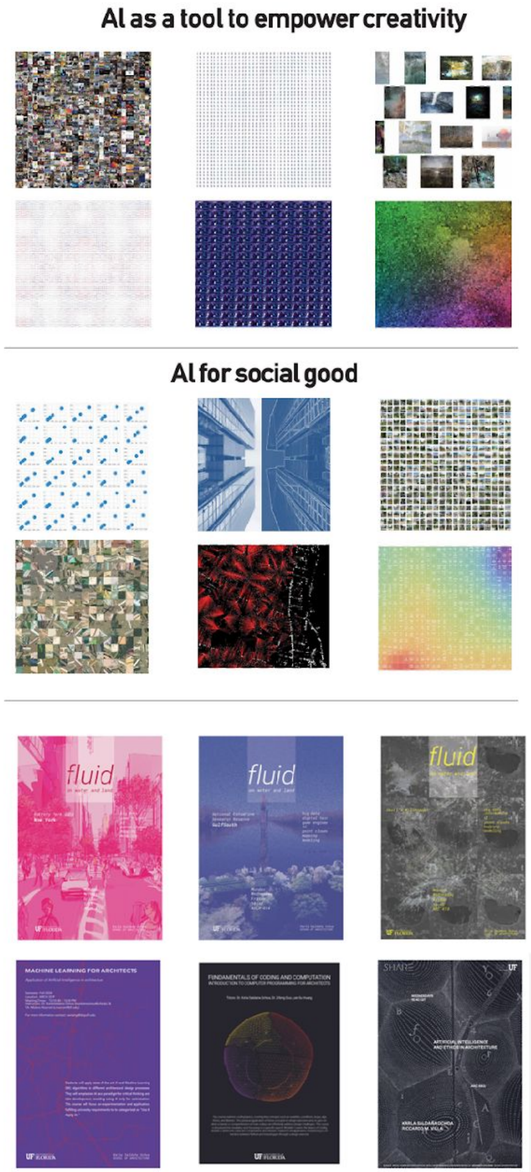
AI for Social Good

Applications that address pressing societal challenges, especially in the built environment. This includes projects on climate adaptation, disaster response, flood vulnerability, and urban resilience. The goal is to use AI not only for efficiency and prediction but also for ethical, equitable, and community-informed outcomes.

AI to Empower Creativity

AI as a creative and generative instrument in architectural design. It develops computational pipelines that transform natural language into spatial forms, generate structurally informed 3D models, and support design decision-making through immersive digital twins and multimodal data integration.



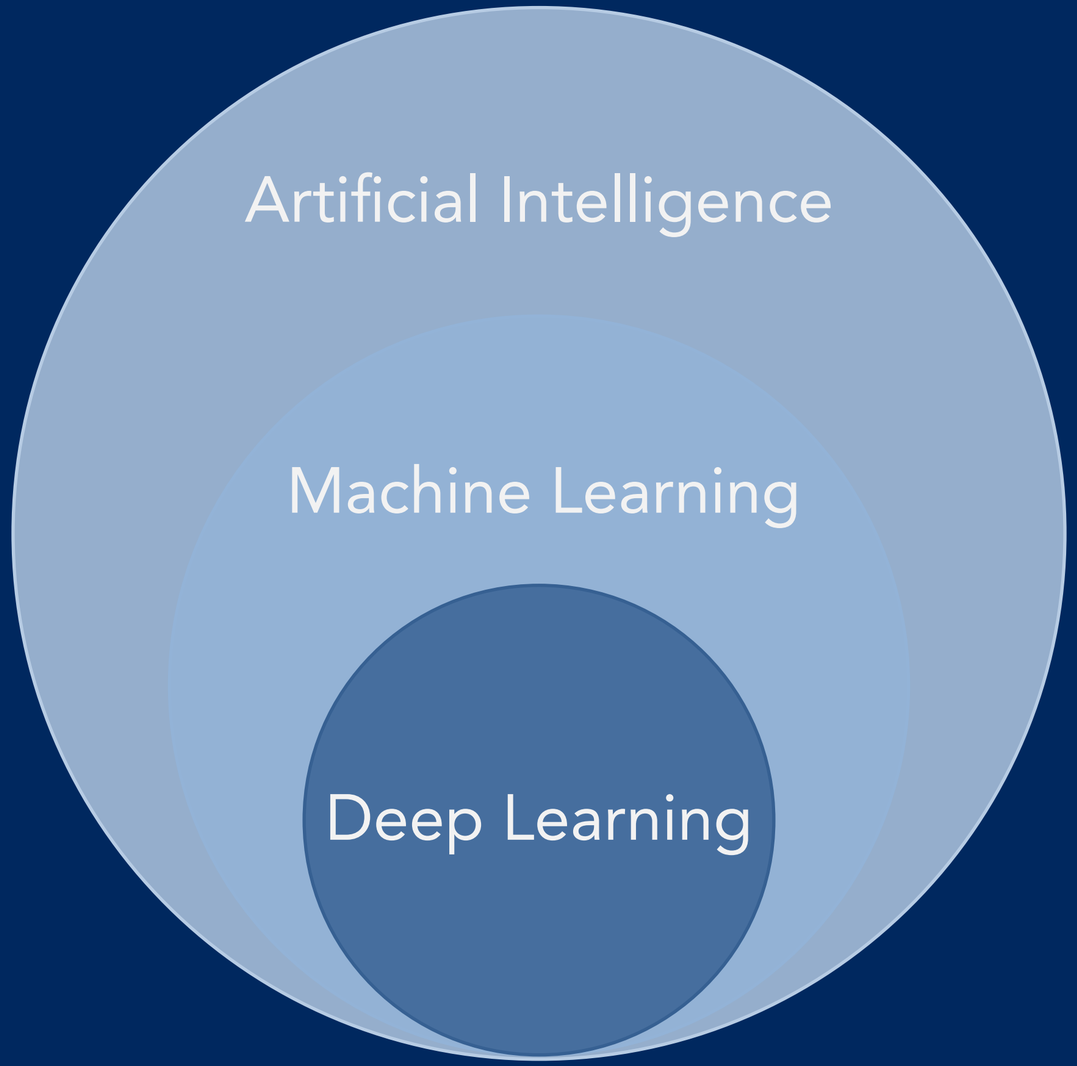


Urban AI Forum

Workshop

SHAIRE

URBAN AI


Artificial Intelligence
Machine Learning
Deep Learning

Towards Symbolic Manipulation

Expert Systems	Computer Vision	Natural Language Processing	Robotics
Parametric generators	Edge Detection	Bag of words	Rule-based movement

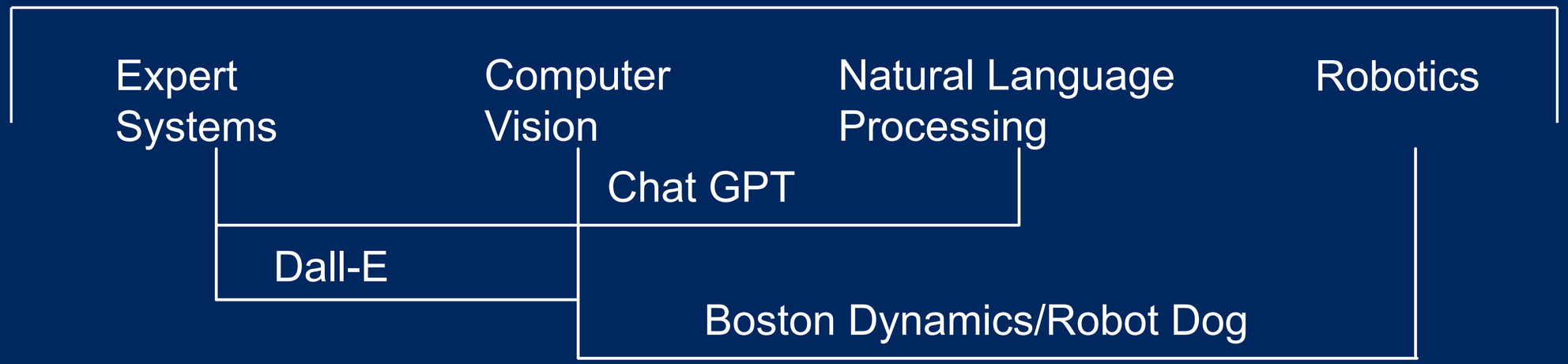
Towards Neuro-Simulation

Machine Learning
Logistic regression

1995 Artificial Intelligence: A Modern Approach, Stuart Russel y Peter Norvig

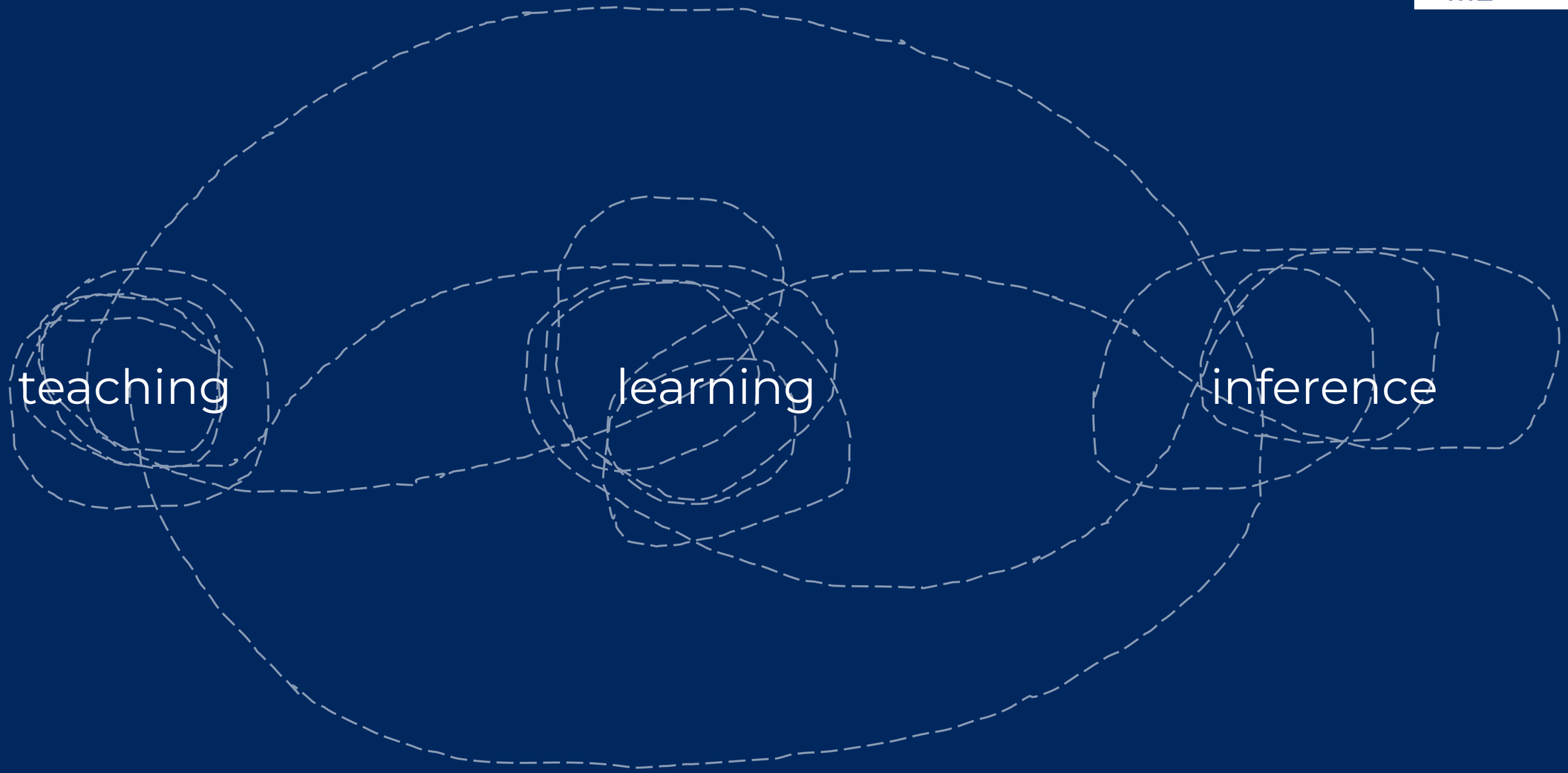
AGI

MACHINE LEARNING



2025

ML



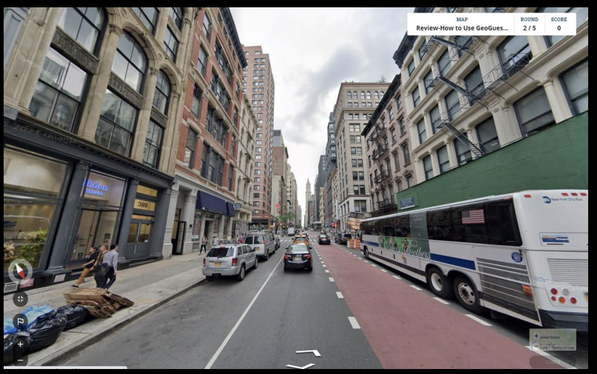
AI
MODELS

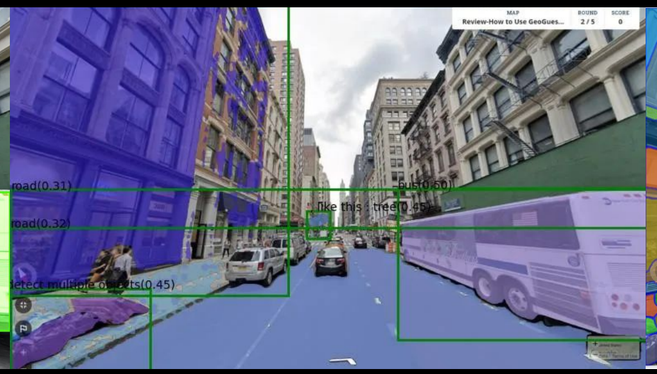
Data: Street view images

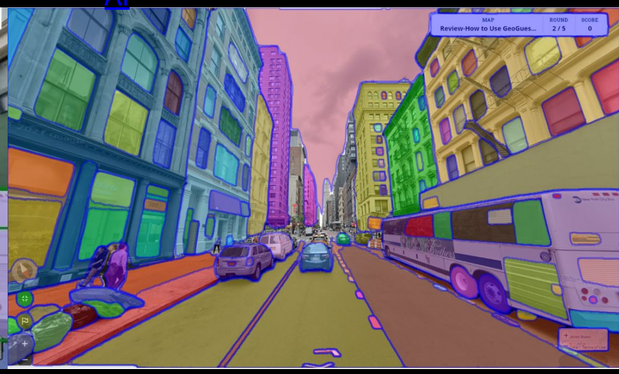
YOLOv8 Segmentation

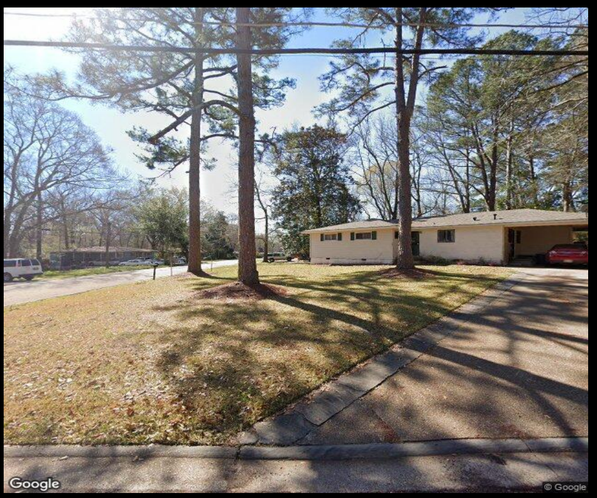
Grounded-Segment-Anything

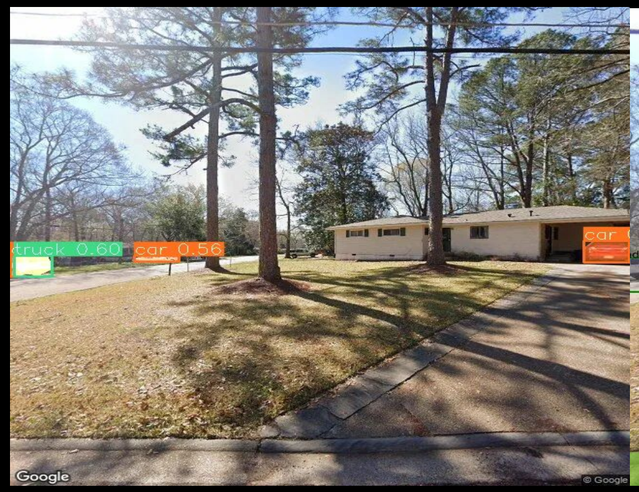
[Segment Anything - Research by Meta AI]







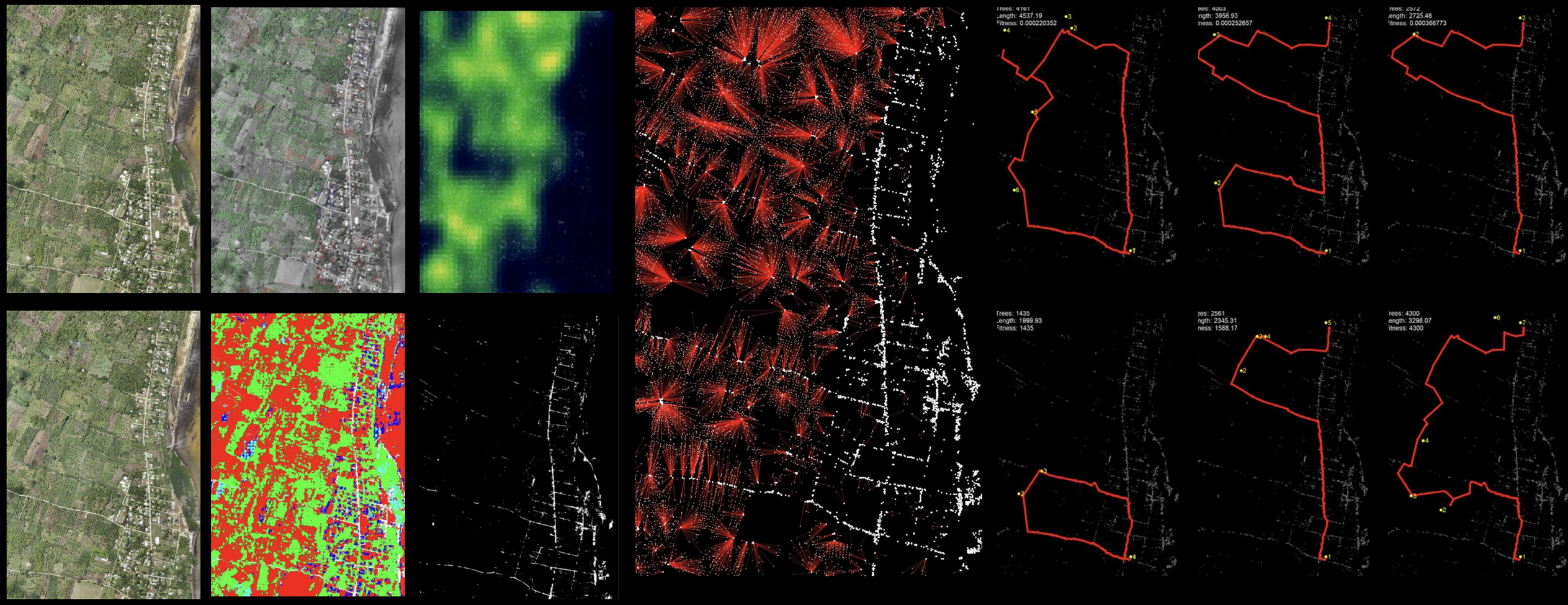




An image-based system for analyzing the risks posed to buildings and nearby objects during flood events.

Collaboration with Mobina Noorani

AI
MODELS

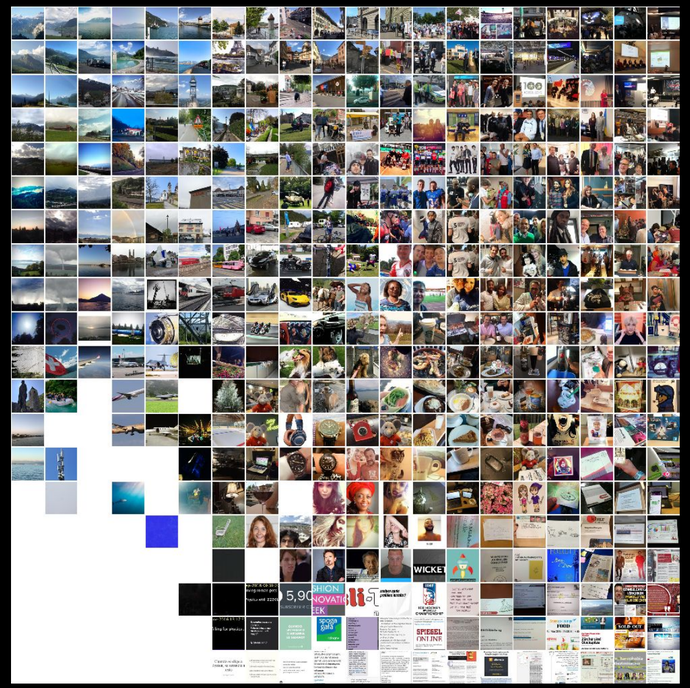


A analysis tool to identify vegetation and built customized tools to e.g. harvesting the resources timely of within a particular path

Collaboration with Zifeng Guo

AI
MODELS

Multimodal models, fusion textual with visual input



AI is so versatile that it can be used as either tool or instrument , allowing to communicate between different domains being these medicine, business or education. In the coming slides I will show how we have used AI as a tool and instrument in different domains, and we will take some time to describe a process where AI became an active agent in design process.

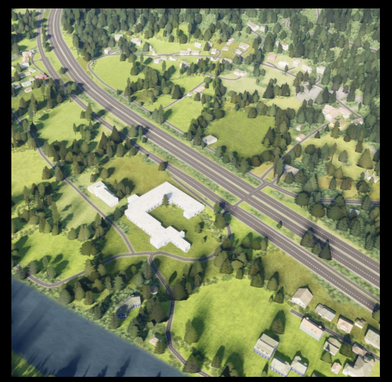
Collaboration with Zifeng Guo

3D MODELS

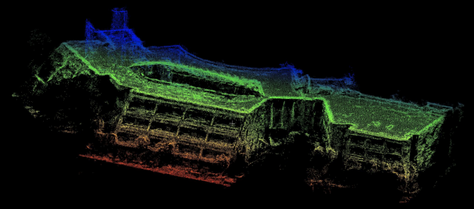
Different levels of detail, depending on the process and data availability

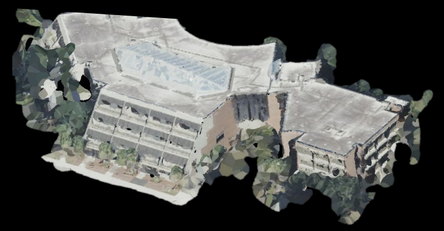
SEMANTIC MODEL BIM

PROCEDURALLY TEXTURED

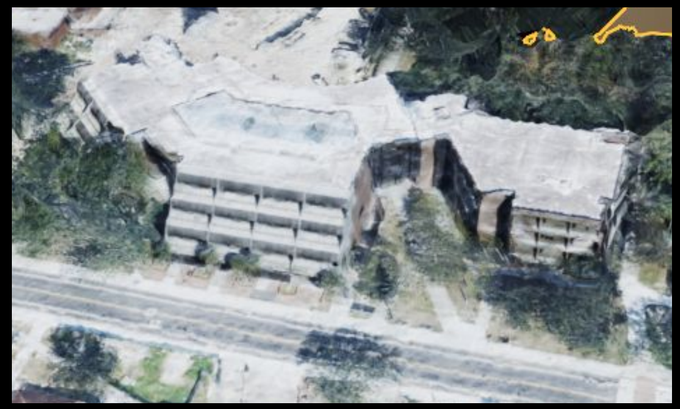


COLMAP/NKSR



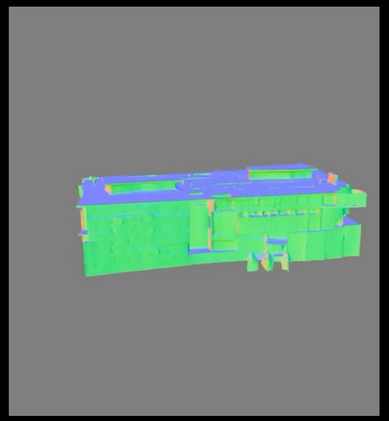


ALICEVISION MESHROOM



WEBODM

TRELLIS



Collaboration with Changjie Chen, Seth Barber and Jorg Peters.

SURVEY

https://ufl.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3eEjkKjzd1425ro

INDIVIDUAL

Reflect in what matters in a City - 10min

Each participant writes individually what they believe is essential in a city. This can be in the form of poetry, concepts, sentences, quotes or drawings. Emphasis is on freedom of expression and local specificity.

INDIVIDUAL

Presentation

GROUP

What defines a good city? - 20min

Students gather in groups of 4. Each group discusses individual reflections and agrees on a shared vision: what fundamental values or features should define their ideal city? Output is summarized on a shared poster or board.

GROUP

Presentation

SHAIRE

URBAN AI

GROUP

Designing AI for the City - 25min

Each group now reflects on how AI could serve the values and joint goals they have identified. They discuss and illustrate how AI should be used in their city—and in the service of what matters most to them. Results are presented on their board.

Group Presentation - 2/3min per group - 15min

Each group presents its board to the room, explaining the vision of the city and the role of AI.

GROUP

Group Swap & Ethical Feedback - 15min

Each group moves to another group's board and reads their AI proposal. Their task is to reflect critically and write the conditions under which this proposed use of AI would be acceptable or desirable. These can include ethical, social, or environmental safeguards.

Reflecting on Acceptable AI - 2/3min per group - 30min

Each group presents the conditions they proposed for the AI uses imagined by others. A brief open discussion follows on accountability, governance, and citizen values in AI deployment.

INDIVIDUAL

One Word for The Future - 5min

Each student shares a word representing how the future of Urban AI should be

Search map | Filter | ••• | Edit

URBAN AI

Add image

The Global Observatory Of Urban AI Narratives

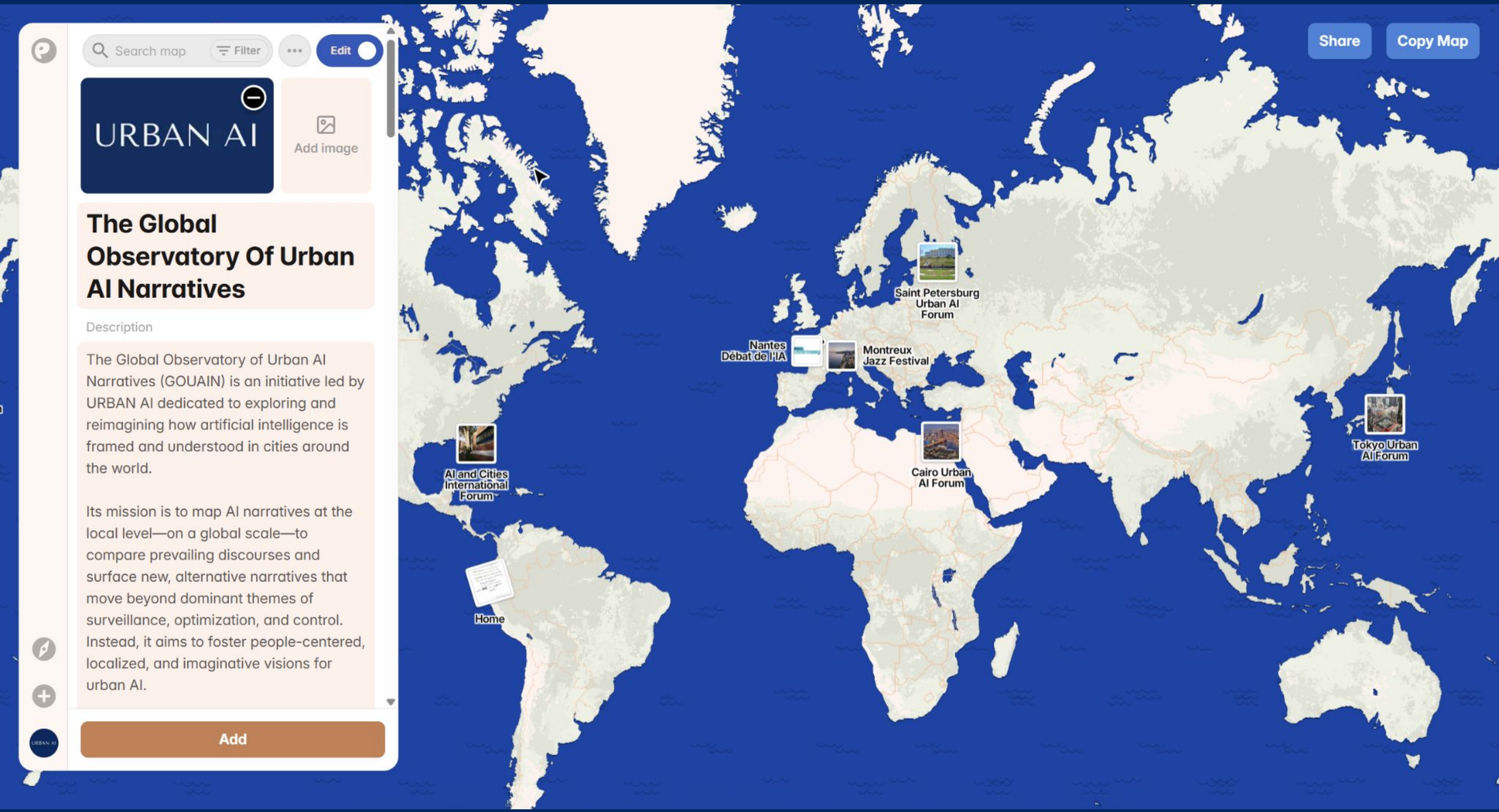
Description

The Global Observatory of Urban AI Narratives (GOUAIN) is an initiative led by URBAN AI dedicated to exploring and reimagining how artificial intelligence is framed and understood in cities around the world.

Its mission is to map AI narratives at the local level—on a global scale—to compare prevailing discourses and surface new, alternative narratives that move beyond dominant themes of surveillance, optimization, and control. Instead, it aims to foster people-centered, localized, and imaginative visions for urban AI.

Add

Share | Copy Map



Thanks!

hubert@urbanai.fr
ksaldanaochoa@ufl.edu