

Curriculum Vitae

October 2025

Bernhard Schölkopf

Max Planck Institute for Intelligent Systems & ELLIS Institute Tübingen

72076 Tübingen, Germany

+49 7071 601550

bs@tue.ellis.eu

Personal

Born February 20, 1968, Stuttgart, Germany;

married to the Spanish children's book illustrator Ana Martín Larrañaga, three children

Professional

since 7/2023 Scientific Director of the ELLIS Institute Tübingen

since 2011 Director at the Max Planck Institute for Intelligent Systems

since 2019 Affiliated Full Professor, ETH Zürich

2017 – 2023 Amazon Distinguished Scientist / VP (part-time)

2001 – 2010 Director at the Max Planck Institute for Biological Cybernetics

2000 – 2001 Group leader at the biotech startup Biowulf Technologies, New York

1999 – 2000 Researcher, Microsoft Research, Cambridge, UK

1997 – 1999 Researcher, German National Research Center for Computer Science, Berlin

Education

1997 PhD in Computer Science (TU Berlin) — *summa cum laude*, awarded the annual dissertation prize of the German Society for Computer Science (GI) for the best German PhD in Computer Science

1994 Diplom in Physics, University of Tübingen (Germany) — *Grade: 1*

1992 M. Sc. in Mathematics, University of London (Erasmus Exchange student) — *with distinction*; awarded the Lionel Cooper Memorial Prize of the University of London for the best MSc in Mathematics

1987 Abitur, Eduard-Spranger-Gymnasium — *top of the year, Prize for Mathematics and Sciences*

Honors

2025 Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany, 1st Class

2023 Corresponding Member, Royal Academy of Engineering, Spain

2023 Asteroid (53839) Schölkopf = 2000 EY₁₉₇ https://minorplanetcenter.net/db_search/

2022 ACM AAI Allen Newell Award (with Stuart Russell)

2022 Thomas Mann Honorary Fellow, Villa Aurora & Thomas Mann House e.V.

2022 Honorary doctorate, School of Informatics, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece

2020 BBVA Frontiers of Knowledge Award (with Isabelle Guyon and Vladimir Vapnik)

2019 Körber European Science Prize

2019 Member, Heidelberg Academy of Sciences and Humanities

2019 Fellow, Canadian Institute for Advanced Research (CIFAR)

2018 Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Prize

2018 Causality in Statistics Education Award, American Statistical Association (with Dominik Janzing & Jonas Peters), for the monograph *Elements of Causal Inference*

2017 Fellow, Association for Computing Machinery (ACM)

2016 Member, Leopoldina (German National Academy of Sciences)

2015 Overseas Visiting Scholar, St John's College, Cambridge

2014 Royal Society Milner Award, London

2013 XXVIIIth Courant Lectures, New York University

2012 Academy Prize, Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities

2011 Max Planck Research Award of the Alexander-von-Humboldt-Stiftung (with Sebastian Thrun)

2011 Posner Lecture, Neural Information Processing Systems Conference

2011 Annual Brain Computer Interfacing Research Award (with Moritz Grosse-Wentrup)

2006 J. K. Aggarwal Prize of the International Association for Pattern Recognition (IAPR)

2001 Scientific member of the Max Planck Society

1992 – 1997 Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes

Members of his group have won awards at most major conferences in the field (COLT 2003, NIPS 2004, COLT 2005, COLT 2006, ICML 2006, ALT 2007, DAGM 2008, CVPR 2008, ISMB 2008, NIPS 2008, NIPS 2009, UAI 2010, IROS 2012, NIPS 2013, IROS 2014, ECML 2016, ICML 2017, ICML 2019, R:SS 2021, ICML 2022, CLear 2023, ICRA 2024)

Academic Service

European Laboratory for Learning and Intelligent Systems (ELLIS) — *president until 2024*

Board member of the Neural Information Processing Systems Foundation and (formerly) of the International Machine Learning Society

Advisory Committee (member 2008 – 2014; chair 2014 – 2019), *Neural Computation and Adaptive Perception* program (later *Learning in Machines and Brains*), founded by Geoff Hinton with the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research; this was instrumental in establishing the field of “deep learning”

Co-founder of a series of summer schools on Machine Learning (www.mlss.cc)

Program (co-)chair of COLT'03, DAGM'04, NIPS'05; general chair of NIPS'06; co-chair of CLear'22

Journal of Machine Learning Research — *co-founding action editor, later member of the advisory board, and co-editor-in-chief for eight years; this has become the flagship journal of machine learning*

Journal of Artificial Intelligence Research (2003 – 2006)

IEEE Transactions on Pattern Analysis and Machine Intelligence (2005 – 2009), International Journal of Computer Vision (2004 – 2010) — *the two flagship journals of computer vision*

Machine Learning Journal (until 2002)

SIAM Journal on Imaging Sciences (2007 – 2012)

Many of his past students and postdocs have gone into academia (more than 50 tenured or tenure-track positions) as well as into R&D labs. Prominent examples include Karsten Borgwardt (director at the Max Planck Institute for Biochemistry), Olivier Bousquet (director at Google Zürich), Carl Rasmussen (Cambridge), Arthur Gretton (UCL/Gatsby), Stefanie Jegelka (MIT), Joaquin Candela (“head of preparedness” at OpenAI), Gunnar Rätsch (ETH Zürich), Koji Tsuda (University of Tokyo), and Jonas Peters (ETH Zürich). His recent student Giambattista Parascandolo now leads the OpenAI team on reasoning and was core contributor of the recent OpenAI o1 / o3 / GPT-5 thinking models which set a new state of the art for language models.

Invited Presentations at Conferences (Selection)

American Association for Artificial Intelligence, *Madison, Wisconsin, USA (1998)*, International Conf. on Artificial Neural Networks, *Edinburgh (1999)*, Meeting of the Bernoulli Society, *Tokio (2000)*, Interface, *Orange County (2001)*, Neural Information Processing Systems, *Vancouver (2001)*, European Conf. on Machine Learning & European Conf. on Principles and Practice of Knowledge Discovery in Databases, *Helsinki (2002)*, International Conf. on Artificial Neural Networks, *Madrid (2002)*, International Statistical Institute, *Berlin (2003)*, Effective Computational Geometry, *ENS, Paris (2004)*, Mathematics and Image Analysis, *Paris (2004)*, International School “Eduardo R. Caianiello,” *Erice (2005)*, International Conf. on Pattern Recognition, *Hong Kong (2006)*, International Conf. on Machine Learning, *Corvallis, OR (2007)*, International Conf. on Artificial Neural Networks, *Porto (2007)*, European Signal Processing Conf., *Lausanne (2008)*, Methods for Mining Massive Data, *Copenhagen (2009)* Techkriti, *IIT Kanpur (2010)*, IPMU, *Dortmund (2010)*, Information Hiding Conference, *Prague (2011)*, Pattern Recognition in Neuroimaging, *London (2012)*, Maximum Entropy Conference, *Munich (2012)*, International Conference on Data Mining, *Brussels (2012)*, Mathematical and Statistical Aspects of Molecular Biology, *Sheffield (2014)*, Annual Meeting of the Max Planck Earth System Research Partnership, *Weimar (2014)*, International Symposium on Statistical Learning and Data Sciences, *London (2015)*, Drawing Causal Inference from Big Data, National Academy of Sciences, *Washington, D.C. (2015)*, IFAC SYSID, *Beijing (2015)*, Machine Learning for Signal Processing (MLSP), *Vietri sul Mare (2016)*, Conditional Independence Structures and Extremes, *Munich (2016)*, International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML), *Sydney (2017)*, Asian Conference on Machine Learning (ACML), *Seoul (2017)*, SIAM International Conference on Data Mining (SDM), *San Diego (2018)*, International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR), *Vancouver (2018)*, Falling Walls Conference, *Berlin (2018)*, United Nations Workshop on Militarization of AI, *New York City (2019)*, Global Forum on AI, *Paris (2019)*, ICASSP, *Toronto/virtual (2021)*, G20 AI Summit, *Genova (2021)*, PAKDD, *virtual (2022)*, International Congress of Mathematicians, *MPI Bonn / virtual (2022)*, STARMUS, *Yerewan (2022) & Bratislava (2024)*, Deutsche Mathematiker Versammlung, *Berlin (2022)*, Leopoldina Christmas Lecture, *Halle (2023)*, CLear, *Los Angeles (2024)*

Invited Presentations at Universities and Research Institutes (Selection)

AT&T (*New Jersey*), MIT (*Cambridge, USA*), RIKEN (*Tokyo*), EPFL (*Lausanne, Switzerland*), MPI for Computer Science (*Saarbrücken*), MPI for Mathematics in the Sciences (*Leipzig*), MPI for Biochemistry (*Martinsried*), MPI for Mathematics (*Bonn*), Daimler Benz Research (*Ulm*), Siemens R&D (*Neuperslach*), Australian National University (*Canberra*), University of Sydney (*Australia*), Microsoft Research Redmond (*USA*) & Beijing (*China*), National University of Singapore, Oxford University, Ecole Polytechnique, Université Jussieu, Université Orsay, Ecole Centrale (*Paris*), KU Leuven, ETH (*Zürich*), German Cancer Research Institute (*Heidelberg*), TU Karlsruhe, Universität Göttingen, Cornell University (*Ithaca, NY*), National Taiwan University (*Taipeh*), Pao-Lu Hsu Lecture (*Beijing*), Helmholtz Lecture, Humboldt-Universität (*Berlin*), Google Research (*New York*), IST Austria (*Vienna*), Royal Society (*London*), Babbage Seminar (*Cambridge, UK*), Google DeepMind (*London*), Microsoft Distinguished Research Lecture (*Cambridge, UK*), Annual Oxford-Warwick Lectures in Statistics (*Oxford*), Annual ISTA & Austrian Academy of Science Lecture (*Vienna*)