

Agenda Overview

CLAIR 2026 - The First International Conference on Leadership & AI in Research

Three-Day Agenda Overview

CLAIR is a cross-industry conference bringing together **academic researchers and senior practitioners** from research-intensive organizations to examine how artificial intelligence is reshaping scientific method, leadership, governance, critical thinking, creativity, and organizational design. By intentionally operating at the intersection of academia and practice — and across industry sectors — CLAIR creates a forum for dialogue that rarely exists in traditional conferences. This cross-fertilization of perspectives enables CLAIR to move beyond technology discussion toward shared understanding, responsible leadership, and the co-creation of a forward-looking research agenda.

The program is deliberately structured to move from research insight → senior leadership dialogue → collaborative synthesis and direction, positioning CLAIR as a long-term, research-informed leadership platform rather than a traditional technology event.

Day 1 | Research & Insight Forum (13:00–17:30)

The conference opens with a **Research & Insight Forum** based on an open Call for Abstracts. Academic researchers and reflective practitioners present short, peer-reviewed contributions across four parallel thematic tracks aligned with CLAIR's core perspectives. Moderated discussion panels are interwoven throughout the sessions to synthesize insights and surface emerging tensions.

Purpose – Day 1 establishes a shared research and practice landscape, highlights under-explored questions, and provides intellectual grounding and “food for thought” that directly informs the leadership dialogue of the main conference day. Many abstract contributors remain engaged throughout the conference and form an important knowledge base for the collaborative work on Day 3.

Day 2 | Main Conference Day: Leadership Dialogue

The main day brings together invited keynote speakers, senior leaders, researchers, and strategists from across industries and academia. The structure balances reflection and response through two complementary segments.

Morning – Setting the Scene – The morning frames the broader challenge of AI's impact on research-intensive work. Keynotes explore how AI influences scientific and engineering method, accountability and governance, organizational design, critical thinking, and creativity. Curated dialogues and moderated exchanges engage the audience and integrate cross-disciplinary perspectives.

Afternoon – Defining the Way Forward – The afternoon shifts toward direction and response. Keynotes and leadership dialogues focus on practical implications, emerging governance models, organizational choices, and ways to preserve rigor and responsibility while enabling innovation. Interactive formats ensure cross-industry integration rather than isolated sector viewpoints.

Day 3 | Collaborative Workshop & Research Agenda (09:00–13:00)

Format – Facilitated working sessions and synthesis

Day 3 is intentionally designed as a collaborative, out come-oriented workshop where selected participants jointly shape the **CLAIR Research Agenda White Paper** — a shared, forward-looking document capturing priority questions, thematic directions, and cross-industry insights emerging from the conference. Building on the reflections and dialogues of the previous days, the focus moves from discussion to structured co-creation.

Participants work in small cross-sector groups (approximately 8–12 attendees per group), supported by experienced facilitators from the IMIT network and affiliated academic partners who help ensure methodological clarity and coherent synthesis.

Workshop Structure

The morning is organized into four parallel workshop streams, each aligned with one of CLAIR's core perspectives:

- AI and the Scientific & Engineering Method
- Leadership, Governance, and Accountability
- Critical Thinking in Algorithmic Environments
- Organizational and Cultural Transformation in R&D

Each stream encourages focused yet cross-disciplinary dialogue, enabling participants to explore concrete dilemmas, emerging practices, and overlooked questions while maintaining awareness of interdependencies between themes.

Outcome & Continuity

The primary outcome is the **CLAIR Research Agenda White Paper**, developed with academic support to ensure rigor, coherence, and continuity. Participants who actively contribute to the workshop outputs are offered co-authorship or formal acknowledgment in the White Paper.

Beyond informing the CLAIR 2027 conference agenda, the Research Agenda is intended to catalyze **new research studies, cross-industry collaborations, and joint academic-practitioner initiatives**. The strength and relevance of Day 3 depend on the active participation of both academics and experienced practitioners, combining scientific insight with real-world organizational experience.

Day 3 therefore represents not the conclusion of CLAIR, but the beginning of an ongoing collaborative process — extending the conference's impact into sustained knowledge development and cooperative exploration.

Stay for Day 3 — this is where the real impact happens.