

Transforming Economic and Financial Research with AI

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May 4–8, 2026

Course overview

This doctoral course gives an introduction to how recent advances in generative AI are reshaping research in economics and finance. The course covers how to integrate AI into research workflows, discusses applications in recent papers, introduces tools for working with large language models at scale, and develops ideas for how AI can be used in participants' own research projects. The course will also cover recent developments in agentic coding, including the use of coding agents and reproducible AI workflows for research. The course is taught at Aalto University School of Business, Otaniemi, Espoo. Assessment is based on a term paper.

Recommended preparation

Students are strongly recommended to install the Codex CLI and Git before the course starts.

- Codex CLI: <https://developers.openai.com/codex/cli>
- Git: <https://git-scm.com/downloads>

Preliminary schedule

Monday, May 4

11:00–12:30: **Lecture 1:** Transformative AI for research

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13:00–14:00: **Lecture 2:** Hands-on session with Codex
Literature: OpenAI (2026)

Tuesday, May 5

09:30–11:00: **Lecture 3:** Conducting qualitative interviews with AI
Literature: Chopra and Haaland (2023)

12:30–14:00: **Lecture 4:** Conducting behavioral interventions at scale with AI
Literature: Chopra et al. (2026)

Wednesday, May 6

10:00–11:30: **Lecture 5:** News customization with AI
Literature: Chopra et al. (2025)

12:30–14:00: **Lecture 6:** Agentic workflows with Codex
Literature: OpenAI (2026)

Thursday, May 7

10:00–11:30: **Lecture 7:** Brainstorming session: Leveraging LLMs at scale

12:30–14:00: **Lecture 8:** Group work

Friday, May 8

10:00–11:30: **Lecture 9:** Class presentations

12:30–13:30: **Lecture 10:** Class presentations

References

References

Chopra, Felix and Ingar Haaland. 2023. “Conducting Qualitative Interviews with AI.” Available at: <https://github.com/fchop/papers/raw/gh-pages/Qualitative%20Interviews.pdf>

Chopra, Felix, Ingar Haaland, Nicolas Roever, and Christopher Roth. 2026. “Evaluating Behavioral Interventions at Scale with AI.” Available at: https://www.econtribute.de/RePEc/ajk/ajkdps/ECONtribute_385_2026.pdf

Chopra, Felix, Ingar Haaland, Fabian Roeben, Christopher Roth, and Vanessa Sticher. 2025. “News Customization with AI.” Available at: https://www.econstor.eu/bitstream/10419/331587/1/cesifo1_wp12121.pdf

OpenAI. 2026. “Codex CLI Documentation.” Available at: <https://developers.openai.com/codex/cli>

Git. 2026. “Git Downloads.” Available at: <https://git-scm.com/downloads>