



CHOM5KY vs CHOMSKY

A playful conversation on AI

WORLD PREMIERE IN BERLIN

Press release Berlin
September 29, 2022

November 4–20, 2022

Press preview: November 4, 2022
at KINDL — Centre for Contemporary Art

KINDL
Centre for Contemporary Art
Am Sudhaus 3
12053 Berlin

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#chom5ky_vs_chomsky
@chom5ky_vs_chomsky

Side event with Science Notes on artificial intelligence:
November 9, 8 p.m., Admission is free
with Sandra Rodriguez (Canada/Québec),
creator of CHOM5KY vs CHOMSKY among others

SO36
Oranienstraße 190, 10999 Berlin
[sciencenotes.de](https://www.sciencenotes.de)

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CHOM5KY vs CHOMSKY is part of Berlin Science Week.



Artificial intelligence is omnipresent: from image editing programs in smart-phones to self-parking cars and a virtual assistant in the kitchen. The attempt to transfer human learning and thinking to computers and give them intelligence is a prominent phenomenon of our time. But what exactly is AI?

CHOM5KY vs CHOMSKY
Digital rendering, VR application
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CHOM5KY vs CHOMSKY: A playful conversation on AI created by Sandra Rodriguez is not so much an exhibition project, but rather an engaging virtual reality experience shared by visitors, inviting them to explore the promises and possibilities as well as the obstacles, pitfalls and risks of AI, and to critically question the automation of intelligent human behaviour.

In November 2022, the German-Canadian co-production **CHOM5KY vs CHOMSKY** will celebrate its world premiere in Berlin. When machine intelligence is praised as an inevitable and necessary technology of the present and future, one should ask: What are we hoping for? And what price are we willing to pay?



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Through various forms of games, **CHOM5KY vs CHOMSKY** demonstrates the limits and possibilities of machine learning while highlighting the human capacity for creativity, research and collaboration. The question of the singularity of human creativity is central here. It is among the most interesting and controversial discussion points in the context of AI. Our experience in the study of human thought shows how little we know about the human mind, so a very urgent, essential question arises: What exactly are we trying to replicate in AI?

The visitors enter the world of AI with VR headsets. CHOM5KY welcomes them immediately—an artificial entity inspired by and programmed from the numerous digital traces of Noam Chomsky. Noam Chomsky, born in Philadelphia in 1928, Professor Emeritus of linguistics at MIT, is one of the world's best-known critical intellectuals.



CHOM5KY is a friend and guide in the **CHOM5KY vs CHOMSKY** virtual experience space, inviting us to look beyond the surface of machine learning and ask how artificial intelligence intersects with human life.

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For this purpose, the visitors enter into a dialogue with the AI CHOM5KY, allowing them to ask questions and learn about the importance of data as the basis for AI and how algorithms work. In addition, they interact with other visitors and ask themselves the not-so-easy-to-answer question of what makes them special.

Why Noam Chomsky? Chomsky is a philosopher, social critic, historian and political activist best known for his work in linguistics and cognitive science—the study of the mind and human thought. As one of the most important living intellectuals, he has left behind extensive data, sufficient to develop an AI system based on his legacy. Chomsky himself is skeptical of the promises of AI. Therefore, he is the suitable companion to encourage visitors to question everything they see—and thus contribute to the demystification of AI.

CHOM5KY vs CHOMSKY was created by Sandra Rodriguez (Canada/Québec), Ph.D., director, producer, and sociologist of new media technology. She is also a Scholar and Lecturer at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), where she leads “Hacking XR”, MIT’s first official class in immersive media creation.

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CHOM5KY vs CHOMSKY created by Sandra Rodriguez. A co-production of the National Film Board of Canada and the Berlin based studio SCHNELLE BUNTE BILDER, with support from Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg.



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About the NFB

The National Film Board of Canada (NFB) is one of the world's leading digital content hubs, creating groundbreaking interactive documentaries and animation, mobile content, installations and participatory experiences. NFB interactive productions and digital platforms have won over 100 awards, including 21 Webbys. To access this unique content, visit NFB.

About SCHNELLE BUNTE BILDER

Founded in 2011, SCHNELLE BUNTE BILDER is an interdisciplinary studio specializing in animation and media scenography. Technically on the cutting edge, our heart beats for art, culture and science. We develop tailor-made productions for exhibitions and events. Together with curators, we develop innovative exhibits and digital communication strategies for museums and events.

Contact organiser

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