#### Vienna Doctoral College on Digital Humanism



# Navigating Heat: Sensor-Based Wayfinding Strategies in Public Spaces Under Variable Thermal and Weather Conditions

## DIGHUM college



Doris Jessica Avram TU Wien

### Supervisors Milica Vujovic, TU Wien Gerald Schweiger TU Wien Marta Sabou , WU Wien

#### The Project

This PhD project explores how climate change affects wayfinding in public spaces. Using sensor data on both human responses and environmental conditions, the project examines how thermal stress like heat and humidity shapes our comfort and navigation decisions. It aims to design adaptive, data-driven wayfinding systems that guide users along more comfortable and safer routes during extreme weather.



#### **Interdisciplinary Approach**

Bridging architecture, psychology, and data science, this research integrates environmental and physiological sensing, behavioural analysis, and human-centered design.

#### **Research Methods**

This project combines wearable physiological sensing (skin temperature, heart rate) with environmental monitoring (temperature, humidity, CO<sub>2</sub>, PM2.5) and spatial tracking (via sensors or observation).

**Field studies** will identify behavioural patterns and evaluate **prototype navigation tools**.

### Project Contribution Science / Technology / Society

The project advances understanding of how thermal stress influence human behaviour and spatial decision-making. It

- develops adaptive, sensor-based navigation tools that
- integrate environmental data and
- supports inclusive, climate-resilient design strategies that



enhance comfort, safety, and accessibility in public spaces.







