



VISUAAL

Privacy-Aware and Acceptable
Video-Based Technologies
and Services for Active and
Assisted Living

D6.6 – Award of Doctoral Degree (ESR 1, ESR2, ESR 3)

Status	Complete		
	SH	Sophia Hick ESR2	RWTH
	CM	Caterina Maidhof ESR1	RWTH
Status	Stopped		
	AH	Alexander Hick ESR 3	RWTH
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1. Executive Summary

This deliverable presents information on the Rheinisch-Westfälische Hochschule in Aachen, Germany (RWTH). Early Stage Researchers (ESRs) and the status of the Doctoral degrees awarded at the end of the visuAAL project (2025). This deliverable complements D1.1 – *Doctoral Theses*. In total, two of the three ESRs at RWTH completed the doctoral defences successfully by the end of 2024.

Document Structure:

- **Introduction:** A brief overview of the deliverable's aim and the content it includes.
- **ESR Award status:** A summary of each ESR's research topic and award status at the conclusion of the visuAAL project.

2. Introduction

The aim of this deliverable information on the RWTH Aachen University Early Stage Researchers (ESRs) and the status of the Doctoral degrees awarded by the end of the visuAAL project (2025). This deliverable complements D1.1 – *Doctoral Theses* (M54). As per the Grant Agreement (GA) awards may be given after the end of the project, as ESRs may require more than 3 years to finalise their degree and submit their theses. Additionally, academic or administrative requirements may delay the award of the doctoral degrees.

In total 3 ESRs were recruited by RWTH. In summary:

- **ESR1** successfully finished the doctoral exam. The public defence took place on December 12, 2024.
- **ESR2** successfully finished the doctoral exam. The public defence took place on November 5, 2024.
- **ESR3** quit the project out of personal reasons in October 2023, after two years in the visuAAL project.

3. ESR Award Status

This section provides the final award status of each ESR at the end of the visual project.

ESR 1 – Caterina Maidhof

PhD Title: **Privacy and Acceptance Perceptions of video-based Ambient Assisted Living Technologies**

Award Status: ESR 1 was recruited on 01.04.2021 and exited the project on 30.03.2024. On December 12, 2024, she successfully finished her thesis in a public defence at RWTH Aachen University. The dissertation has been recently published in the HCI-Series by the Apprimus publisher.

<https://www.apprimus-verlag.de/privacy-and-acceptance-perceptions-of-video-based-ambient-assisted-living-technologies.html>

ESR 2 – Sophia Hick

PhD Title: Trustworthiness of Medical Technology in Severe Health Decisions: Findings in the Context of Ambient Assisted Livings

Award Status: ESR 2 was recruited on 15.10.2021 and exited the project on 14.10.2024. On November 5, 2024, she successfully finished her thesis in a public defence at RWTH Aachen University. The dissertation has been recently published in the HCI-series by the Apprimus Publisher.

<https://www.apprimus-verlag.de/trustworthiness-of-medical-technology-in-severe-health-decisions-findings-in-the-context-of-ambient-assisted-living.html>

ESR 3 – Alexander Hick

Award Status: ESR 3 was recruited on 15.10.2021 and exited the project on 30.03.2024, after year 2 (2023). He exited the project out of personal reasons on 01.10.2023 without completing his research or submitting a thesis. Within the two years, he finished both secondments, one at the University of Wien, Austria, the other at a company, Enervision, dealing with sociotechnical issues of home automation, under the supervision of Dr. Christian Möllering. Also, he published (or contributed to publications) the following papers.

- Brauner, P., Hick, A., Philipsen, R., & Ziefle, M. (2023). What does the public think about artificial intelligence?—A criticality map to understand bias in the public perception of AI. *Frontiers in Computer Science*, 5, 1113903.
- Liehner, G.L., Biermann, H., Hick, A., Brauner, P., & Ziefle, M. (2023). Perceptions, attitudes and trust towards artificial intelligence—An assessment of the public opinion. *Artificial Intelligence and Social Computing*, 72, 32-41.
- Hick, A., & Ziefle, M. (2022). A qualitative approach to the public perception of AI. *International Journal on Cybernetics & Informatics (IJCI)*, 11(11), 1.

Disclaimer

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