

AI4IA CONFERENCE REPORT 2025



In observance of the International Day
for Universal Access to Information (IDUAI)
28 September 2025

As part of the working group for Information Accessibility (WGIA) within the UNESCO Information for All Programme (IFAP), this publication documents the insights from the sixth annual Artificial Intelligence for Information Accessibility (AI4IA) Conference.

Held on September 28, 2025, in observance of the International Day for Universal Access to Information (IDUAI), the event centered on the theme "AI Access in Focus"

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First published by the WGIA

<https://www.UNESCO.org/en/ifap/working-groups?hub=722>

Report on

The Sixth Annual Artificial Intelligence for Information Accessibility (AI4IA) Conference

Compiled by Maria Dolores Souza Meyerholz and Erin Klazar
November 2025

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The sixth annual Artificial Intelligence for Information Accessibility (AI4IA) Conference was convened on 28 September 2025 by the UNESCO Information for All Programme (IFAP) Working Group on Information Accessibility (WGIA), in observance of the International Day for Universal Access to Information (IDUAI). Hosted in collaboration with international academic, civil society, and regional partners, the conference brought together more than 60 global speakers and participants from across Africa, the Caribbean, Latin America, Europe, Asia, and North America to explore the theme: “AI Access in Focus.”

The conference examined the rapidly expanding role of artificial intelligence (AI) in shaping access to information, communication, governance, education, creativity, and social participation. Central to the discussions was the recognition that AI presents both unprecedented opportunities for inclusion and serious risks relating to inequality, misinformation, bias, surveillance, and exclusion. Across all thematic tracks, participants emphasized that the future impact of AI will depend not on technological inevitability, but on human-centred governance, ethical design, and inclusive participation.

Three thematic streams structured the programme:

- **AI and the Question of Trust** explored information integrity, ethical governance, intellectual property, media literacy, transparency, and the public accountability of AI systems.

- Discussions highlighted the urgent need for trustworthy, transparent, and context-sensitive governance frameworks capable of protecting democratic values and public trust in increasingly AI-mediated information ecosystems.
- **Breaking Accessibility Barriers in Communication** focused on practical AI applications that expand inclusion for persons with disabilities, ageing populations, linguistically diverse communities, and digitally marginalized groups. Presentations demonstrated how AI-driven tools — including voice interfaces, sign-language processing, translation technologies, assistive systems, and speech therapy applications — can significantly improve equitable access to communication and knowledge.
- **The Technical is Social** emphasized that AI systems are fundamentally socio-technical systems shaped by culture, governance, economics, and power relations. Contributors examined issues such as algorithmic coloniality, environmental sustainability, digital sovereignty, human agency, youth empowerment, and culturally grounded AI innovation, particularly within the Global South.



A major strength of AI4IA 2025 was its global and inclusive structure. In addition to the main conference, eight regional satellite events were convened across Canada, Chile, Latin America, Jamaica, India, Europe, South Africa, and Zimbabwe. These events surfaced region-specific experiences and priorities, reinforcing the importance of locally grounded and culturally responsive approaches to AI governance and accessibility.

Several recurring priorities emerged across the conference:

- strengthening AI literacy and public awareness;
- ensuring multilingual and culturally inclusive AI systems;
- safeguarding information integrity and democratic participation;
- safeguarding information integrity and democratic participation;

- promoting open, accessible, and trustworthy public-interest information;
- embedding ethics, transparency, and accountability into AI governance; and
- ensuring that communities in the Global South actively shape, rather than merely consume, AI technologies.

The conference ultimately affirmed that access to information must be understood not only as a technical issue, but as a matter of dignity, equity, participation, and human flourishing. AI4IA 2025 concluded with a strong collective call for inclusive, ethical, and human-centred AI ecosystems that advance universal access to information while protecting cultural diversity, democratic values, and social justice in an increasingly AI-driven world.

The AI4IA Community

AI4IA Conference Website:	ai4iaconference.com
Digital Library Link: AI4IA	https://ualberta.aviaryplatform.com/collections/1845
Conference on Gather.Town:	https://app.gather.town/app/qyp8rGGY81tp7do5/AI4IA2024
AI4IA Conference on YouTube:	https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLTULETeBko5G--y7nXR8MtPPDN1a-c4Ay&si=sf4c2mdF9Z7Xnp5Y
AI4IA Conference on Instagram:	https://www.instagram.com/ai4iaconference/
AI4IA Conference on X:	https://x.com/ai4iaconference?s=11&t=mZyd_AD0h-B9gg1leMv5wQ
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Get in touch with us at:	ai4iaconference@gmail.com

INTRODUCTION

The UNESCO Information For All Programme (IFAP) Working Group on Information Accessibility (WGIA) hosted its sixth online one-day conference on Sunday, September 28, 2025, to commemorate the International Day for Universal Access to Information (IDUAI). This year's event was hosted in collaboration with the College of Social Sciences and Humanities, University of Alberta, Canada; The Kule Institute for Advanced Study (KIAS); and the Broadcasting Commission of Jamaica, all under the auspices of the UNESCO Cluster Office for the Caribbean and the UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa.

The conference explored a range of topics under a central theme, “AI Access In Focus”. It sought to make the implications of AI (risks and opportunities) understandable and relatable to the broadest cross-section of people, and tackled pressing questions around trust, communication, and the social nature of technical systems, offering a multidimensional view of AI's role in our lives.



Three thematic tracks structured the programme:

1. AI and the Question of Trust

- GenAI and Information Integrity
- The Digital Media & Information Literacy Divide
- Intellectual Property Rights in the Age of GenAI
- AI Promoting Public Access to Government Information
- Enhancing AI Safety, Security & Ethics

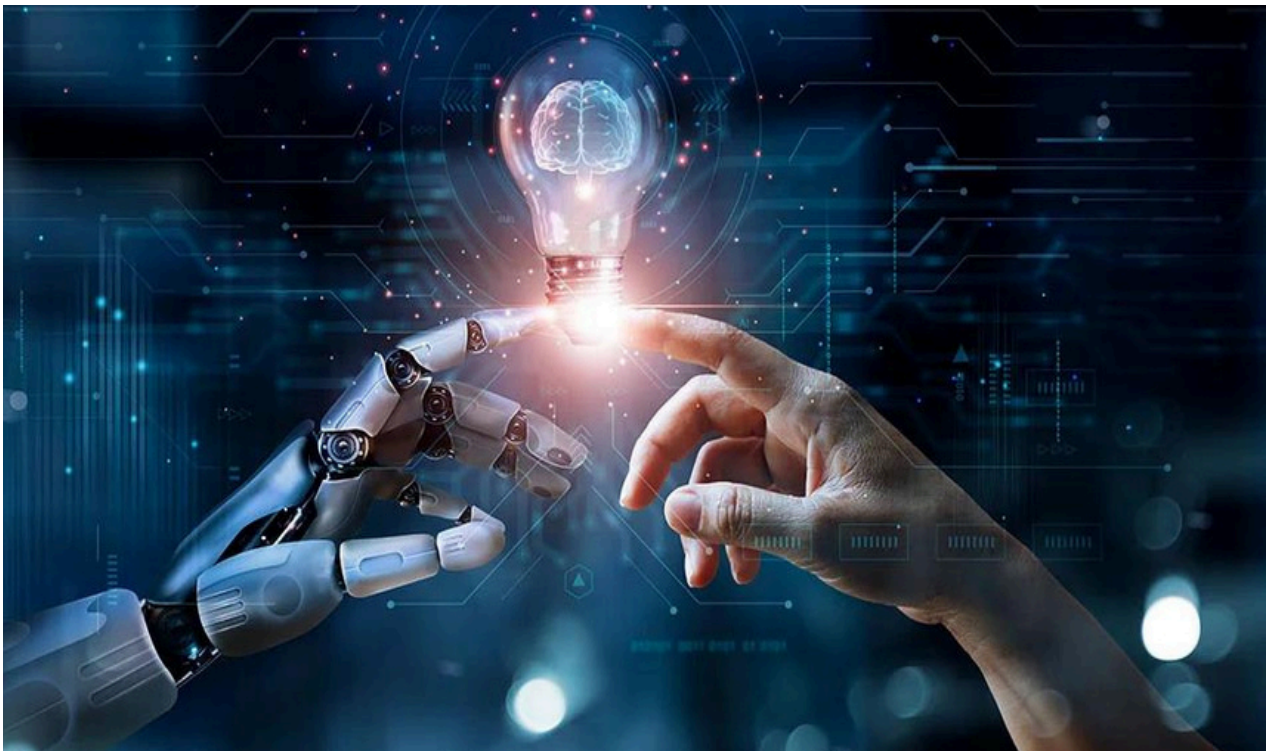
2. Breaking Accessibility Barriers in Communication

- Enhancing Communication: AI Applications in Speech Therapy
- How AI-Driven Neurotechnology Could Transform Media Experiences

- AI Solutions for Safeguarding Linguistic Diversity
- Unlocking Archives for All: AI-Driven Preservation of and Access to Historical Records & Documentary Heritage
- The Role, Responsibility, and Accountability of Platforms

3. The Technical is Social

- AI Systems as Social Systems
- The Future of Human Agency
- Sustainable Futures & Environmental Impact
- Algorithmic Coloniality: Tools & Strategies to Combat Race, Gender, Geography, Illiteracy & Poverty as Barriers to Access
- The Intersection of AI, Arts, and Human Creativity



OBSERVATION AND REMARKS FROM THE WGIA CHAIR

Mr Cordel Green

- Vice Chair, Intergovernmental Council of the UNESCO Information for All Programme (IFAP);
 - Chair, UNESCO IFAP Working Group for Information Accessibility (WGIA);
 - Executive Director, Broadcasting Commission of Jamaica.
-

The 6th AI4IA Conference, convened under the theme “AI Access in Focus” to mark the International Day for Universal Access to Information, brought together participants across regions and time zones. At its heart was a reminder that access must be understood not only in terms of connectivity, but as a matter of dignity, equity, and empowerment.

Building on that foundation, it is emphasized that human dignity and human flourishing must remain the cornerstone of AI governance. This principle is especially urgent as societies confront the reality of creating machines in our own image.

Two imperatives frame this reflection. First, efficiency and economic advancement must never come at the expense of human worth or sustainability, and those most affected must have a voice in shaping the future of AI. Second, moral literacy must be cultivated alongside digital literacy. It is not enough to demonstrate how AI can be used; we must also ensure it is engaged in ways that preserve our sense of self, empathy, and community. Inclusivity is not only a principle espoused but evident in the conference’s execution. In addition to the main event, nine regional satellite gatherings were convened across Africa, the Caribbean, Latin America, Europe, India, and North America.

These events surfaced diverse perspectives across technical, ethical, cultural, legal, and social domains, reinforcing that the global conversation on AI must be grounded in the lived realities of communities everywhere.

In the end, “AI Access in Focus” stood not simply as a theme but as a call to action: to ensure that AI access is shaped by ethics, guided by empathy, and directed toward human flourishing.

Sincere gratitude is extended to the UNESCO IFAP Working Group on Information Accessibility, which I have the honour of chairing, and to the organizers and partners across regions whose efforts made this inclusive global dialogue possible.



FIRESIDE CHAT REPORT

Governing Deepfakes: Copyright, Human Rights, and the Future of Information Integrity

The AI4IA 2025 Conference included a “fireside chat”, exploring the growing challenge of governing AI-generated deepfakes and protecting identity in digital spaces. The discussion featured **Anne-Sophie Kofoed Rasmussen of Kromann Reumert**, who examined proposed amendments to Denmark’s Copyright Act. If adopted, Denmark would become the first European Union country to regulate deepfakes through copyright law. The conversation highlighted growing concerns around misinformation, AI-enabled fraud, identity theft, non-consensual explicit content, and the broader impact of deepfakes on democratic trust and public discourse. Central to this is whether a person’s likeness, voice, and identity should be understood primarily as economic assets or as fundamental human rights deserving legal protection.

The proposed legislation introduces two key forms of protection:

- safeguards against realistic digital imitations of a person’s physical and personal characteristics; and
- expanded protections for performers and performances against unauthorized AI-generated imitation.

A major point of discussion was that the proposed law focuses on the dissemination of harmful deepfakes rather than their creation. This raised important questions around platform accountability, notice-and-takedown procedures, and the speed of enforcement in rapidly evolving digital environments.

The session also explored the tension between protecting individuals and preserving freedom of expression. The proposed amendments exclude satire, parody, caricature, and artistic or social criticism unless such content constitutes harmful misinformation. Participants noted that courts would need to rely heavily on contextual interpretation and human rights principles when assessing disputes.

Additional themes included:

- the territorial limitations of national copyright law in a global digital ecosystem;
- the challenges of enforcing regulations across borders;
- the distinction between misinformation and disinformation; and
- the increasing sophistication of deepfake technologies.

The fireside chat concluded that while significant legal and technical challenges remain, the Danish initiative represents an important step toward developing human-centred governance frameworks capable of responding to emerging AI-driven harms while safeguarding democratic freedoms and public trust.



Note: The legislation has been delayed following the dissolution of Parliament, but it is expected to be re-tabled.

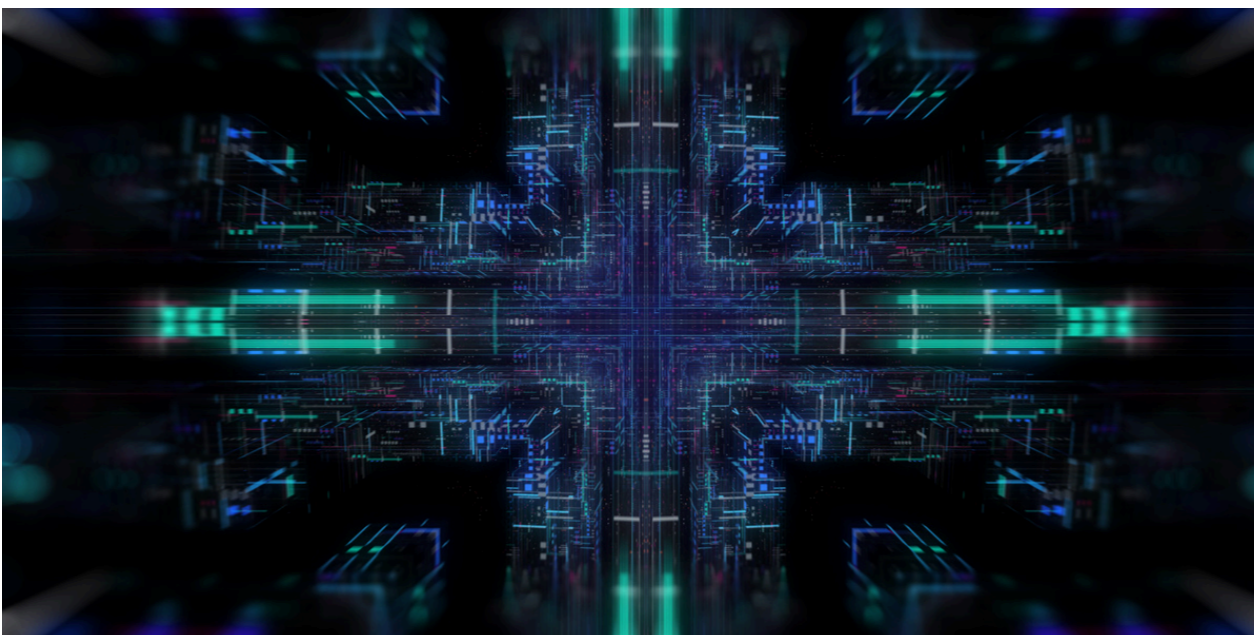
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE FOR INFORMATION ACCESSIBILITY 2025 ON GATHER.TOWN

The main event of the conference featured an impressive lineup of over 60 speakers from a wide range of global backgrounds, each contributing their unique perspectives and expertise to the conversation around artificial intelligence (AI). These pre-recorded presentations, which delve into some of the most pressing and timely topics in the field, are available for on-demand viewing through the **Gather.Town platform**.

In addition to the presentations, the platform also served as the venue for live virtual salon discussions with the speakers.

These discussions provided attendees with an opportunity to engage directly with the speakers, ask questions, and gain further insight into the topics covered, fostering a dynamic exchange of ideas.

The conference content is structured around three key thematic areas: AI & Accessibility, AI & Governance, and AI & the Sustainable Development of Society. Each of these overarching themes explores different facets of AI's impact and potential, and the pre-recorded presentations are further categorised into sub-themes that examine specific challenges, opportunities, and areas for growth within these fields.



THEME ONE

AI AND THE QUESTION OF TRUST

The thematic session on AI and the Question of Trust explored the critical intersection of technological advancement and the fundamental need for reliable, ethical information ecosystems. As generative AI (GenAI) becomes increasingly integrated into public life, this track addresses the urgent necessity of establishing frameworks that ensure technology serves the public interest rather than undermining it.

Core Focus Areas

The presentations and discussions within this theme are structured around several key pillars:

- **GenAI and Information Integrity:** Examining the impact of synthetic content on truth and public discourse.
- **The Digital Media & Information Literacy Divide:** Addressing how disparities in literacy affect the ability to navigate AI-driven environments.
- **Intellectual Property Rights in the Age of GenAI:** Exploring the legal and ethical challenges of creative ownership and compensation.
- **AI Promoting Public Access to Government Information:** Leveraging technology to enhance transparency and institutional responsiveness.
- **Enhancing AI Safety, Security & Ethics:** Developing safeguards against bias, misinformation, and systemic harm.

AI holds unprecedented potential to expand information accessibility and public empowerment, even as it amplifies structural inequalities, erodes trust, and introduces new vectors of harm. The goal of these interventions is to articulate a shared agenda for building AI ecosystems that are inclusive, transparent, pluralistic, and aligned with public-interest governance.

A Framework for Public-Interest AI

To navigate these challenges, the contributors outlined a comprehensive framework centred on four imperatives:

- **Trustworthiness:** Grounded in transparency, independence, and credible expertise.
- **Integrity:** Secured through robust safeguards against misinformation, manipulation, and systemic opacity.
- **Inclusiveness:** Ensured by intentionally addressing linguistic, technological, and physical accessibility gaps.
- **Governance:** Anchored in context-aware regulation, equitable data access, and multi-stakeholder collaboration.

The overarching conclusion for this theme is clear: AI will shape the information landscapes and democratic capacities of the coming decades. Whether this technology results in benefit or harm depends not on technological inevitability, but on intentional governance choices, societal values, and the degree to which accountability is built into these systems from the start.

THEME ONE: PRESENTATIONS

AI AND THE QUESTION OF TRUST

Dr Mohamed Abdalla

AI Expertise, Trust and Ethics

[Link to Presentation](#)

Public trust in artificial intelligence depends in part on who is recognized as an AI expert. Misplaced trust can lead to poorly aligned policies, harmful deployments, and inequitable outcomes. This contribution examines the conditions required for trustworthy AI expertise, including competence, integrity, independence, and accountability. It highlights structural conflicts of interest arising from financial and professional ties between AI ethics researchers and major technology companies, which undermine expert independence. The analysis argues that existing institutional arrangements are insufficient to safeguard credibility and public confidence. Strengthening transparency, disclosure, and accountability mechanisms is essential to ensure that AI expertise serves the public interest rather than commercial priorities. Building trust in AI, therefore, requires not only technical competence but systemic reforms in how expertise is produced, validated, and governed.

Paul Ash

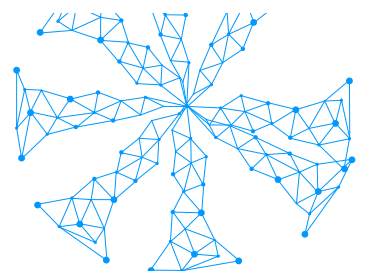
Opportunities and Risks of AI

[Link to Presentation](#)

Artificial intelligence presents significant opportunities for innovation, efficiency, and social benefit, while simultaneously introducing serious risks related to harm, misuse, and governance gaps. From the perspective of global efforts to counter online extremism and violence, AI amplifies both protective and harmful capabilities. Automated systems can improve content moderation and threat detection, yet also accelerate the spread of harmful material and lower barriers to abuse. Addressing these tensions requires collective governance approaches that extend beyond individual platforms or states. Shared responsibility, cross-sector cooperation, and international coordination are essential to ensure AI systems are developed and deployed in ways that uphold safety, human rights, and democratic values.

“Strengthening transparency, disclosure, and accountability mechanisms is essential to ensure that AI expertise serves the public interest rather than commercial priorities”

Dr Mohamed Abdalla



Dr Okan Bulut

AI Literacy as the New Assessment Literacy

[Link to Presentation](#)

Generative AI is transforming teaching, learning, and assessment in higher education, exposing gaps in educators' preparedness to evaluate student learning effectively. As students increasingly use AI tools for drafting and problem-solving, traditional assessment practices struggle to distinguish original work from AI-assisted outputs. This contribution argues that assessment literacy must be re-conceptualized as a core component of AI literacy for educators. Rather than relying on detection or prohibition, institutions should adopt pedagogically grounded strategies that prioritize higher-order thinking, authentic assessment, and transparent expectations. Embedding AI literacy into assessment design enables educators to respond proactively to technological change while maintaining academic integrity and educational quality.

Anamaria Corca

Artificial Intelligence for Information Accessibility

[Link to Presentation](#)

This presentation examines the critical intersection of artificial intelligence and information accessibility through the lens of European Union policy experience, offering concrete frameworks for transforming AI from a potential barrier into a powerful enabler of universal information access. Drawing on EU-level policy implementation, including the AI Act, Digital Single Market strategy, and European Accessibility Act, this speech demonstrates how strategic regulation and public-private partnerships can advance information accessibility as a fundamental

human right. The presentation highlights successful European approaches to multilingual AI development and digital inclusion, positioning these as scalable models for global adoption. The analysis addresses key policy tensions between privacy and accessibility, innovation and inclusion, proposing evidence-based solutions that balance competing interests while prioritizing long-term accessibility goals. Specific focus is placed on Europe's leadership in multilingual AI systems, demonstrating how linguistic diversity requirements drive technological innovation that benefits global users. This contribution addresses UNESCO AI4IA conference themes by connecting policy theory with practical implementation experience, offering actionable insights for government officials, private sector leaders, and international organizations committed to ensuring artificial intelligence serves information accessibility for all global citizens. Keywords: artificial intelligence, information accessibility, EU policy, digital inclusion, multilingual AI, accessibility governance, universal design, international cooperation.



Dr Pierrette Renée Dagg

Ethical AI in Education: Building Transparent Frameworks for the Future

[Link to Presentation](#)

AI systems are increasingly embedded in classrooms, assessments, and student monitoring, often without adequate transparency or ethical oversight. This contribution presents a research-based ethical framework designed to protect student agency, equity, and democratic values. Moving beyond minimal harm reduction, the framework addresses bias, surveillance, data exploitation, and power asymmetries in educational technologies. It offers actionable tools for institutions to support ethical policy development, educator training, and governance structures. Ensuring the ethical future of AI in education requires deliberate institutional leadership and sustained engagement from educators, students, and policymakers.

Augustine Farinola

AI as Mediator, Not Source: Rethinking Information Accessibility in the Age of Hallucinating Systems

[Link to Presentation](#)

This presentation examines whether outputs from AI systems, particularly large language models, can be considered “information” in the Floridian sense — that is, well-formed, meaningful, and truthful. While Shannon’s technical conception views information as a signal, Floridi stresses the necessity of truth. To ground this conceptual debate, I analyze 1,191 incidents from the AI Incident Database, categorized into hallucination, bias, autonomous vehicles, and other

domains. The findings reveal that most failures represent signals without truth, reinforcing the argument that AI generates data-like artifacts requiring human validation, rather than information per se. Drawing on philosophy of information and those real AI disasters affecting various sectors of our society, this talk argues that AI outputs are provisional, meaning-bearing artifacts requiring validation — not sources of information per se. Recognizing this nuance is essential for genuine information accessibility.



Lovely Tembani Fundisi

Linguistic Diversity and AI

[Link to Presentation](#)

Linguistic diversity remains a critical yet under-addressed dimension of AI development and governance. This contribution emphasizes the role of ethical AI education, mentorship, and capacity-building in ensuring that diverse languages and cultural contexts are represented in AI systems. Integrating AI ethics into curricula and training programmes can empower underrepresented communities to shape responsible and inclusive AI governance. Multi-stakeholder collaboration across academia, civil society, and global initiatives is essential to prevent linguistic marginalization and ensure equitable distribution of AI benefits, particularly in the Global South.

Prof Haizheng Fu

Artificial Intelligence for Inclusive Information Accessibility

[Link to Presentation](#)

This presentation focuses on the relationship between artificial intelligence and information accessibility, emphasizing that “inclusiveness” signifies not merely technological coverage but demands accessibility and usability for all. Should barriers to use and disparities in capability be overlooked, AI risks widening rather than narrowing the digital divide. Drawing upon the practical experience of Communication University of China’s “Bright Cinema” accessible film project, the presentation proposes three points on how AI can promote inclusiveness and support the development of accessibility: First, empower through education by strengthening the foundation of information literacy. Second, optimize technologies to enhance the inclusiveness of digital products. Third, build a collaborative ecosystem for accessible information. The presentation concluded by emphasizing that artificial intelligence’s true value lies in enhancing convenience for all citizens, particularly by enabling persons with disabilities, the elderly, and marginalized groups to participate equally in the information society. This approach propels technology towards a future that is ‘more inclusive and more compassionate’.



Jonathan Gandari

How AI Is Assisting and Enhancing Government Communication

[Link to Presentation](#)

AI technologies offer new possibilities for improving government communication by increasing responsiveness, transparency, and accessibility of public information. When aligned with democratic values, AI can support more inclusive engagement between governments and citizens. However, these benefits depend on appropriate regulation, respect for media plurality, and safeguards against misuse. Integrating AI into public communication strategies requires governance frameworks that prioritize accountability, public trust, and local context, ensuring that AI strengthens rather than undermines access to official information.

Gilford Tapera Hapanyengwi

AI Promoting Public Access to Government Information

[Link to Presentation](#)

Duralsiphala263 is a national higher education management information system developed in Zimbabwe to support evidence-based planning and public accountability. The system consolidates institutional data on students, staff, programmes, inclusivity, research, and graduates, enabling descriptive and trend-based analytics. Additional AI-enabled modules support qualification assessment for foreign graduates and analysis of research outputs. Early findings reveal emerging trends in STEM participation, inclusivity, staff qualifications, and programme development. While still evolving, the system demonstrates how locally developed AI-driven data infrastructure can enhance access to public information and inform policy decisions.

Byeongjo Kong

AI and Accessibility: Fast and Equitable Access to Public-Interest Information

[Link to Presentation](#)

AI can significantly improve access to public-interest information by translating complex data into plain-language guidance and overcoming linguistic barriers. Applications such as OCR, machine translation, text-to-speech, and conversational interfaces enable broader inclusion, particularly in low-connectivity environments. Case examples from agri-tech demonstrate the value of offline-first and on-device AI systems. At the same time, risks such as bias, surveillance creep, and hallucinated outputs require safeguards centred on data sovereignty, inclusive design, and digital equity.

Nancy Kwangwa

Protecting Information Integrity and Expanding Inclusive Access in the Age of GenAI

[Link to Presentation](#)

Generative AI expands access to information while simultaneously threatening information integrity through misinformation, bias, and erosion of trust. This contribution examines challenges such as deepfakes, fabricated content, scalable disinformation, and micro-targeted persuasion. It proposes mitigation strategies including multilingual and offline AI tools, inclusive co-design, AI literacy, real-time fact-checking, algorithmic transparency, and citizen oversight. Cross-sector collaboration is identified as essential to safeguarding equitable and trustworthy information ecosystems.

Dr Faith Majekolagbe

Generative AI, Intellectual Property & Public Trust

[Link to Presentation](#)

Intellectual property (IP) law, especially copyright, plays a key role in the public trust debate surrounding generative AI. This presentation examines the perceived conflict within copyright, which both grants creators' rights and allows certain unauthorized uses of their works through exceptions, such as fair use. While AI developers depend on these exceptions, their use raises concerns about the lack of credit or compensation for artists. The presentation considers how IP laws can either hinder innovation by creating barriers for smaller developers or encourage it through a broad interpretation of existing exceptions. It also highlights how the failure of IP systems to protect Indigenous knowledge contributes to a growing distrust in AI.

Ropafadzo Makaza

GenAI and Information Integrity

[Link to Presentation](#)

Generative AI challenges the reliability of information by blurring boundaries between reality and fabrication. Risks such as hallucinated outputs and highly realistic deepfakes complicate efforts to assess credibility and accountability. This contribution outlines a multi-layered response combining technical detection tools, regulatory frameworks, and media literacy initiatives. Protecting information integrity in an AI-saturated environment requires coordinated action across technology, policy, and education.

Sandrea Maynard

Caribbean and Governance: Toward a Region-Specific AI Framework

[Link to Presentation](#)

Rapid advances in AI risk reinforce existing inequalities unless governance frameworks are designed inclusively. This contribution proposes a region-specific approach for the Caribbean is built on accessibility, accountability, and community co-creation. Participatory design is emphasized as essential for building trusted and effective AI systems. Cross-sector collaboration is identified as critical to ensuring AI contributes to equitable development across the region.

Dr Svitlata Mazepa

GenAI, Cyberwarfare and Participatory Propaganda

[Link to Presentation](#)

Contemporary conflicts reveal how generative AI, cyber-warfare, and participatory propaganda destabilize societies beyond physical battlefields. Deepfakes, bots, and disinformation mobilize both state and civilian actors, complicating accountability. Existing legal frameworks lag behind these developments, as international humanitarian law and content regulation inadequately address AI-driven wartime propaganda. Addressing these gaps is essential to protect democratic resilience and information integrity during conflict.

Tabani Moyo

AI and the Question of Trust in Africa and the Global South

[Link to Presentation](#)

Generative AI is reshaping economies, communication, and governance, while raising urgent questions of trust. Trust in AI systems depends on perceptions of competence, intent, and ethical use, and varies significantly across regions.

In Africa and the Global South, AI amplifies both opportunity and risk, including disinformation, democratic destabilization, digital divides, and intellectual property challenges. Realizing AI's benefits requires clear use policies, professional ethical standards, and regulatory guidance that address data protection, confidentiality, and system limitations.

Dr Tetyana Oleksiyuk

Artificial Intelligence for Unlocking Public Access to Information

[Link to Presentation](#)

AI offers new tools to strengthen access to government information within international legal frameworks such as the Tromsø Convention. Persistent challenges — weak proactive disclosure, administrative delays, and limited infrastructure — undermine transparency. When paired with robust legal guarantees, AI can improve data management, personalize access, and enhance accountability. Effective implementation can strengthen public trust and democratic governance.

“Ultimately, intellectual property regimes exist to foster access to information and knowledge. While this is often achieved by incentivizing or motivating creators with exclusive rights, the ultimate goal of intellectual property regimes is to promote human innovation and creativity by enabling the dissemination, access and use of works of art and science.”

Dr Faith Majekolagbe

Prof Felipe Chibas Ortiz

Artificial Intelligence Policy and Ethics Free Related Issues in the Post Human Society

[Link to Presentation](#)

This presentation explores the complex intersections of artificial intelligence (AI), ethics, and public policy in the context of a posthuman society. Drawing on research, global examples, and UNESCO frameworks, the speaker emphasizes that AI is no longer limited to technical applications but increasingly shapes education, health, entrepreneurship, and political processes. While AI offers significant opportunities for innovation, it also raises ethical concerns, including bias, gender inequities, hate speech, fake news, and data privacy violations. The presentation argues that current public policies and corporate practices often lack transparency and fail to integrate ethics as a core component, resulting in discriminatory and culturally insensitive outcomes. Highlighting the pandemic-era acceleration of digital dependence, the speaker calls for multicultural, multidisciplinary, and multisectoral strategies to ensure that AI supports human well-being rather than exacerbating social inequities. Ethics, he concludes, is essential for guiding the responsible development, deployment, and governance of AI in society.

Shernon Osepa

Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Small Island Developing States

[Link to Presentation](#)

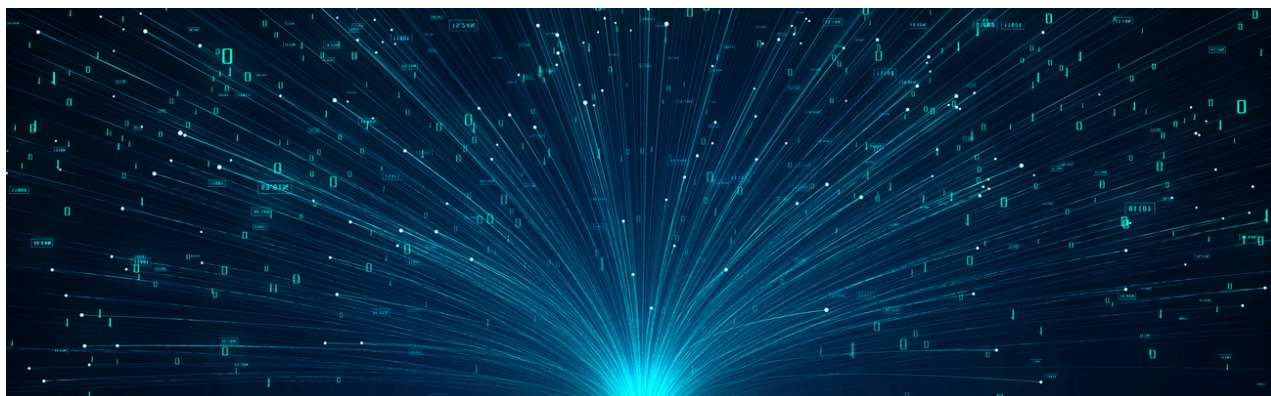
AI presents strategic opportunities for Small Island Developing States to address challenges such as climate vulnerability, limited human capital, and economic diversification. However, global inequalities risk deepening digital divides. This contribution outlines AI typologies, regional readiness, and policy recommendations to support inclusive and sustainable adoption. Coordinated regional strategies are essential to ensure AI serves development priorities rather than exacerbating structural disadvantages.

Prof Jan Oster

AI and Competition

[Link to Presentation](#)

AI systems increasingly shape information markets, influencing opinion formation and market dynamics. While AI can drive innovation and creative destruction, it also poses risks such as algorithmic collusion, pricing coordination, and concentration across the AI value chain. The “AI paradox” highlights how disruptive technologies may ultimately reduce competition. Data access emerges as a central issue in maintaining plurality, diversity, and fair competition across digital markets.



Ana Bárbara Gomes Pereira

Brazil and Governance

[Link to Presentation](#)

Brazil's experience with AI governance highlights how historical inequality, uneven connectivity, and limited digital literacy shape both the benefits and risks of AI adoption. This contribution examines ongoing national debates around AI regulation, particularly the development of a risk-based approach within Brazil's legislative process. Civil society perspectives underline the importance of context-sensitive policies that address structural inequalities while promoting accountability and social responsibility. The Brazilian case offers broader lessons for designing inclusive AI governance frameworks across the Global South.

Christopher Reckord

From Queue to Instant Response:

AI for Public Access to Government Information

[Link to Presentation](#)

Conversational AI offers a more inclusive and efficient alternative to traditional digital portals for accessing government services. By enabling plain-language interaction through widely used platforms, AI can improve dignity and usability. However, digital transformation often fails when analogue-era inefficiencies persist. Avoiding common pitfalls requires redesigning processes, not merely digitizing them, to ensure trust and effectiveness.

Ihor Samokhodskyi

AI and Open Data for Public Policy:

Turning Access into Use

[Link to Presentation](#)

AI and open data can transform formal access to information into practical usability. This contribution presents replicable tools including AI pattern analysis of court decisions, plain-language legal summaries, and legal Q&A assistants. These applications enhance accountability, transparency, and citizen engagement by translating complex legal data into accessible insights.



Alyssa Lefaivre Škopac

AI and the Question of Trust: From Binary Thinking to Nuanced Choices

[Link to Presentation](#)

Trust in AI cannot be reduced to simple distinctions between safe and unsafe systems. It is contextual, layered, and shaped by trade-offs. This contribution examines how trust is built, eroded, and repaired, highlighting the importance of transparency, accountability, feedback mechanisms, and public literacy. Strengthening trust requires acknowledging uncertainty and embedding governance practices that prioritize credibility across diverse use contexts.

Dominique Varela

How AI Promotes Public Access to Government Information

[Link to Presentation](#)

AI can address longstanding barriers to accessing government information, including data volume, complexity, and searchability. By functioning as an organizer, summarizer, and user guide, AI improves usability and transparency. This approach aligns with ethical and responsible AI principles embedded in Chile's national policy framework.

Dr Stefaan G. Verhulst

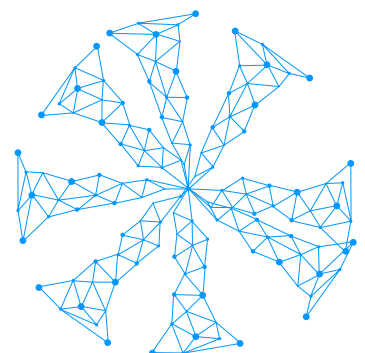
A Fourth Wave of Open Data: Harnessing AI for Information Accessibility

[Link to Presentation](#)

Open data is entering a potential fourth wave driven by AI, amid declining data availability across sectors. This wave combines data for AI, supporting trustworthy applications, and AI for data, enhancing discovery, usability, and inclusion. Realizing this potential requires AI-ready data, public-interest priorities, strengthened governance, and renewed stewardship to prevent a “data winter” and advance sustainable information accessibility.

“Trust in AI cannot be reduced to simple distinctions between safe and unsafe systems. It is contextual, layered, and shaped by trade-offs”

Alyssa Lefaivre Škopac



THEME TWO

BREAKING ACCESSIBILITY BARRIERS IN COMMUNICATION

The thematic session on Breaking Accessibility Barriers in Communication focuses on the transformative potential of AI to bridge the gaps that exclude individuals from full participation in the global information society. This track moves beyond theoretical ethics to explore practical, scalable AI applications that address physical, cognitive, and linguistic barriers, ensuring that communication becomes a universal right rather than a privilege.

Core Focus Areas

The presentations and discussions within this theme are structured around several key pillars:

- **Enhancing Communication:** Leveraging AI applications for speech therapy and language literacy in vulnerable communities.
- **Neurotechnology and Media:** Exploring how ocular motor biometrics and brain-computer interfaces could transform diagnostic accuracy and media accessibility.
- **Safeguarding Linguistic Diversity:** Using AI to preserve indigenous languages and provide real-time translation for sign languages.
- **Unlocking Archives for All:** Applying AI-driven preservation to grant universal access to historical records and documentary heritage.
- **Platform Responsibility:** Defining the accountability of digital gatekeepers in building trustworthy public infrastructure.

While AI offers unprecedented tools to empower persons with disabilities and ageing populations, it also risks widening the digital divide if systems are not guided by ethical values and inclusive design. Whether through voice-driven interfaces for the visually impaired or sign language dictionaries for the deaf, the technology must be intentionally designed to prevent "algorithmic coloniality" and cultural erasure.

To transform these technological possibilities into lived realities, this theme emphasizes four strategic imperatives:

- **Trustworthiness:** Building systems that are transparent and grounded in the lived realities of users.
- **Integrity:** Protecting users through frameworks that address AI-driven harms, such as deepfakes and the unauthorized imitation of performers.
- **Inclusiveness:** Prioritizing multilingualism and representation across demographics, cultures, and physical abilities.
- **Governance:** Implementing human-centred policies to ensure that AI serves as a sociocultural mediator for the public good.

The overarching goal of this theme is to move toward a future where AI is "All Included". By embedding inclusion and accountability into the very architecture of communication tools, society can ensure that the technological advancements of the coming decades enhance human agency and dignity for all global citizens.

THEME TWO: PRESENTATIONS

BREAKING ACCESSIBILITY BARRIERS IN COMMUNICATION

Dr Gisella Bejarano Nicho

Sign Language Processing for Accessibility

[Link to Presentation](#)

More than 700 million deaf people worldwide rely on sign languages as their primary means of communication, making lip-reading and captioning insufficient for full access to information and education. Sign language processing has emerged as a critical research field for bridging this accessibility gap. This contribution presents the development of a machine learning-based Peruvian Sign Language–Spanish dictionary, created through an interdisciplinary approach combining linguistics, computer science, and community engagement. The project demonstrates how AI can support linguistic inclusion by enabling more effective translation tools and accessible digital platforms for deaf communities.

Pramit Bhargava

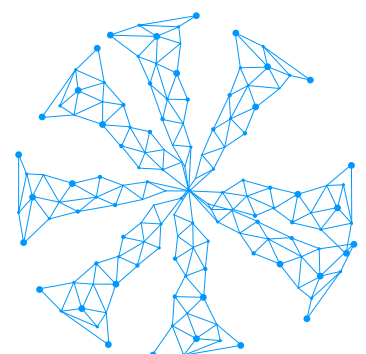
Louie Voice SDK: An AI-Driven Voice Interface for Apps and Websites

[Link to Presentation](#)

Voice-based AI interfaces offer a powerful pathway to inclusive digital access across literacy levels, languages, abilities, and age groups. Louie Voice SDK enables users to complete end-to-end transactions within mobile applications and websites using voice commands alone, supporting over 40 global languages. By removing reliance on visual interfaces and text-heavy navigation, voice-driven interaction expands accessibility for visually impaired users and others facing digital barriers. This contribution illustrates how AI-powered voice technology can function as a practical, scalable tool for universal access to digital services.

“Voice-based AI interfaces offer a powerful pathway to inclusive digital access across literacy levels, languages, abilities, and age groups”

Pramit Bhargava



Denise Eldemire-Shearer

AI Access without Flying Blind: The Old Is New Again

[Link to Presentation](#)

Population ageing presents both challenges and opportunities for the adoption of AI-enabled technologies. This contribution examines demographic trends in Jamaica and explores how AI-driven tools can support older persons in maintaining independence, well-being, and social connection. Assistive technologies addressing memory loss, mobility limitations, and health monitoring demonstrate AI's potential to provide both physical and psychological support. Acceptance and adoption depend on trust, usability, and alignment with the lived realities of older adults. Ensuring accessible and age-sensitive design is essential for AI to enhance, rather than complicate, later life.

Kemar E. Green

AI-Based Ocular Motor Biometrics of Neurologic Disease

[Link to Presentation](#)

Eye movements function as neurophysiological biomarkers and offer promising alternatives to existing diagnostic approaches for neurological conditions such as Alzheimer's disease, stroke, and brain injury. AI models trained on synthetic, disease-specific eye movement data can enhance early detection and diagnostic accuracy. Because ocular motor patterns are unique to individuals, privacy and data protection considerations are critical. The ability to collect eye movement data autonomously and remotely also expands access to diagnosis, particularly in underserved settings, highlighting both the

clinical potential and ethical responsibilities of AI-driven biometric tools.

Caleb Michael Levy

Beyond the Buzzword: Responsibility of Platforms in the Age of Artificial Intelligence

[Link to Presentation](#)

Artificial intelligence is often narrowly equated with large language models, obscuring the broader spectrum of methods and reinforcing unrealistic expectations. Platforms that develop and deploy AI now function as gatekeepers, responsible not only for innovation but also for stewardship. Yet these systems remain unpredictable: billions of parameters produce emergent behaviors that are often difficult to predict. I will examine some methods that have emerged as reactive responses to hallucinations, bias, and disinformation, and argue that accountability must be built into platforms if AI is to become trustworthy public infrastructure.



Deepak Maheshwari

Grassroots Innovation for Universal Access to Information

[Link to Presentation](#)

Universal access to information requires both technological innovation and inclusive infrastructure. In India's multilingual context, AI-driven translation systems such as Bhashini enable any-to-any translation across 22 official languages using a shared pivot architecture. Community-based digital centres can host open-source AI models locally, supporting knowledge preservation and access to public information. Achieving meaningful access depends on universal connectivity, demand-side support, and policies that empower communities as both producers and users of knowledge in the AI era.

Dr Giulia Ajmone Marsan

The Importance of Inclusivity and Economic Benefits

[Link to Presentation](#)

Artificial intelligence is projected to reach a global market value of USD 4.8 trillion by 2033, transforming productivity and decision-making across sectors such as healthcare, education, and finance. When developed inclusively, AI can also contribute to reducing global inequalities and advancing sustainable development goals. However, disparities in skills, access, and governance risk limiting these benefits. This contribution highlights approaches that link inclusive AI development with economic opportunity, drawing on regional partnerships, startup ecosystems, and research initiatives in Southeast and East Asia. Responsible AI frameworks that integrate gender, disability, and inclusion considerations are essential to

ensure that economic gains are broadly shared.

Mary-Ruth Mendel

The Role of AI in Speech Therapy and Language Literacy for Vulnerable Communities

[Link to Presentation](#)

Global demand for speech and language pathologists exceeds available supply, particularly in vulnerable and remote communities. AI-enabled tools, combined with evidence-based strategies, allow trained community members to provide effective language and literacy support. The Australian Model demonstrates how community-level approaches can generate home-language resources, break language silos, and support multilingual literacy development. The model is transferable across linguistic contexts and contributes to data ecosystems that strengthen translation technologies and inclusive education frameworks.



Mary-Ruth Mendel

AI as a Conduit for Breaking

Language Silos

[Link to Presentation](#)

Communities possess deep expertise in their home languages, enabling them to drive language development across speaking, listening, reading, writing, and comprehension. AI and translation technologies can leverage community-generated language datasets to overcome literacy barriers, expand access to technology, and support equitable participation in education and digital life. This contribution explores how integrated AI platforms can connect home languages with dominant-language resources, enabling the creation of teaching materials, well-being tools, and financial and information literacy applications rooted in community knowledge.

Virginia Pardo

Artificial Intelligence and Accessibility

[Link to Presentation](#)

AI offers significant opportunities to advance accessibility and inclusion when developed in accordance with ethical principles and human rights standards. Uruguay's National AI Strategy (2024–2030) and Digital Citizenship Strategy (2024–2028) provide a policy framework for embedding accessibility into public services. Practical applications include real-time sign language interpretation, text-to-speech systems, live captioning, natural language search, and adaptive interfaces. Progress depends on ethical governance, strengthened digital skills, and strategic implementation. Uruguay's approach demonstrates how AI can function as an enabling tool rather than a new source of exclusion.

Dr Claudio Pinhanez

The Yegatu Digital Project

[Link to Presentation](#)

The Yegatu Digital Project supports the preservation and everyday use of endangered Indigenous languages through AI-enabled digital writing tools. Developed collaboratively by IBM Research Brazil, the University of São Paulo, and Baré Indigenous communities in the Amazon, the project includes spell checkers, dictionaries, and next-word prediction tools. Digital classrooms deployed in Indigenous communities enable co-design and local ownership of technology. The initiative demonstrates how AI can strengthen linguistic diversity and cultural continuity when developed in close partnership with Indigenous peoples.

Anne-Sophie Kofoed Rasmussen

Tackling Deepfakes through

Copyright Law

[Link to Presentation](#)

Deepfakes pose growing risks to personal rights, artistic integrity, and public trust. This contribution examines a pioneering Danish legislative initiative proposing amendments to the Danish Copyright Act to address unauthorized dissemination of realistic, AI-generated imitations of individuals and performers. The proposed framework outlines new protections, defined exceptions for artistic and critical expression, and challenges related to enforcement and jurisdiction. The initiative illustrates how copyright law can be adapted to respond to emerging AI-driven harms while balancing freedom of expression.

Lwandle Simelane

AI4IA 2025

[Link to Presentation](#)

On behalf of the Eswatini National Commission for UNESCO, this contribution to the Conference on Artificial Intelligence for Information Accessibility reflects on the promise of AI as a driver of progress, while cautioning against its risks of exclusion if not guided by ethical values. At the centre of this reflection is the issue of representation in language, demographics, and culture. Multilingualism is therefore not only a technological necessity but also a cultural imperative. Likewise, demographic representation must be inclusive of youth, women, rural communities, and persons with disabilities, ensuring that AI systems are relevant, fair, and sustainable. Cultural diversity must also be safeguarded, with AI serving as a tool to preserve and share traditions rather than flatten identities. Guided by UNESCO's Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence (2021), the statement calls for human-centred AI rooted in ethics, inclusivity, and accountability. For Eswatini, this means advancing multilingual AI, inclusive participation, cultural sensitivity, and local capacity-building so that Africa is not merely a consumer but also a contributor in the AI landscape.

Pavel Vega

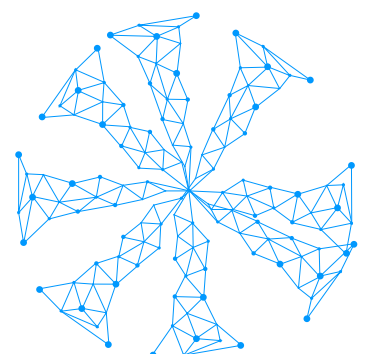
Daily Life and Work as a Blind Person Using AI Tools

[Link to Presentation](#)

AI-enabled tools increasingly support independence, professional activity, and access to information for persons with visual impairments. This contribution examines everyday and professional use of AI applications for reading, research, writing, and editing in journalistic work. Mobile and desktop tools enable continued engagement with freedom of expression, press freedom, and human rights reporting. Ethical considerations surrounding AI-assisted content creation and education are also addressed, highlighting the importance of responsible and transparent use of generative technologies.

“Multilingualism is therefore not only a technological necessity but also a cultural imperative”

Lwandle Simelane



THEME THREE

THE TECHNICAL IS SOCIAL

The thematic session on The Technical is Social recontextualizes artificial intelligence not as an abstract set of digital tools, but as a planetary socio-technical system deeply embedded in social, material, and cultural dimensions. This track emphasizes that the "technical" cannot be separated from the human experience; rather, AI is fundamentally about “people and the planet, not just machines and algorithms”.

The presentations and discussions within this theme are structured around several key pillars:

- **AI Systems as Social Systems:** Examining how AI is both shaped by and actively shapes institutions, communities, and individual agency.
- **The Future of Human Agency:** Addressing the risk of eroding human competence through passive dependence on AI and advocating for “Deliberate Attention” frameworks to ensure technology enhances rather than diminishes human capabilities.
- **Sustainable Futures & Environmental Impact:** Exploring the dual nature of AI as a tool for climate resilience — such as AI-driven satellite hydrology — while acknowledging its material ecological costs.
- **Combatting Algorithmic Coloniality:** Developing strategies to overcome barriers related to race, gender, geography, and poverty, ensuring that AI does not reinforce extractive practices or systemic inequalities.
- **The Intersection of AI, Arts, and Human Creativity:** Distinguishing between generative mimicry and “Creative AI,” where technology serves as a collaborative partner to human imagination while protecting cultural identity and intellectual property.

A recurring theme across these global perspectives is that poorly governed AI systems can reinforce inequality and dependency, particularly in the Global South. To counter this, the contributors advocate for “Sovereign AI” and locally grounded innovation that reflects the values, cultures, and specific needs of diverse populations. Whether used to redistribute medical waste or monitor ocean litter, the true value of AI lies in its ability to foster a more thoughtful, humane, and inclusive technological future.

To ensure that AI development aligns with the public good, this theme highlights several strategic levers:

- **Transparency & Accountability:** Grounding automated decision-making in safety and ethical safeguards.
- **Inclusivity:** Centring justice and decolonial governance to prevent the “data gaps” that lead to unequal harm in sectors like healthcare.
- **Human-Centred Values:** Prioritizing digital literacy as a fundamental civic skill to empower individuals to navigate and shape the tools that influence their lives.
- **Environmental Integrity:** Integrating sustainability metrics into the very architecture of AI governance.

The overarching conclusion of Theme Three is that the benefits of AI are not a technological inevitability but a societal choice. By embedding human-centred ethics and cultural awareness into these systems, society can move toward a future where AI serves as a catalyst for equitable growth and human dignity.

THEME THREE: PRESENTATIONS

THE TECHNICAL IS SOCIAL

Dr Andrés Burbano

Beyond the Divide: A Material and Cultural History of AI for a Decolonized Future

[Link to Presentation](#)

AI is often framed as an abstract digital tool, obscuring its social, material, and cultural dimensions. This contribution examines AI through a Latin American lens, highlighting its physical infrastructure, environmental impacts, and historical context. By exploring social agency, ecological costs, and cultural genealogies, it underscores the need to understand AI as a planetary socio-technical system. The analysis demonstrates how Latin American artists and thinkers anticipated concepts now central to generative AI and argues for decolonized approaches that embed dignity, autonomy, and regional specificity into AI development and deployment.

Debra Berlyn

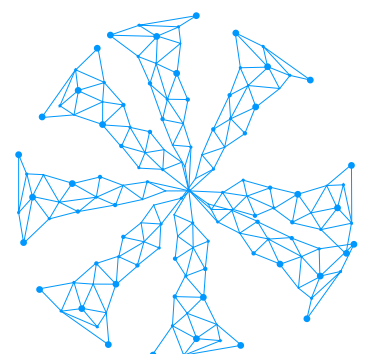
Technology Innovations: AI and Aging

[Link to Presentation](#)

Rapid population aging presents significant social and health challenges. AI and smart technologies can support older adults by reducing isolation, enhancing accessibility, and enabling independent living. This contribution highlights the potential of AI-enabled tools to improve health, well-being, and daily functioning while identifying barriers such as digital literacy gaps, affordability, and exclusionary design. Emphasis is placed on inclusive and ethical deployment, demonstrating how technology can empower older populations without replacing human care, fostering autonomy and enhancing quality of life.

“AI and smart technologies can support older adults by reducing isolation, enhancing accessibility, and enabling independent living”

Debra Berlyn



Prof Daniel Coore

AI and Productivity: The Unseen Threat of Generative AI to Human Capital

[Link to Presentation](#)

Generative AI offers productivity gains but poses risks to human skill development. Evidence suggests that prolonged reliance may erode competence, particularly among less experienced users. This contribution introduces a “Deliberate Attention” framework to distinguish between reflective, skill-building use and passive dependence. Findings highlight potential inequalities in labor markets arising from different patterns of AI use. Implications for education and workplace policy are discussed, emphasizing strategies to ensure generative AI enhances human capabilities rather than diminishing them.

Barbara Glover

AI for Peace, Security and Development in Africa

[Link to Presentation](#)

AI presents opportunities and challenges for Africa’s peace, security, and development. This contribution situates AI within historical technological change and assesses Africa’s role in shaping global AI governance. Case studies illustrate AI’s impact on early warning systems, conflict anticipation, humanitarian logistics, and cybersecurity. Risks such as algorithmic bias, autonomous weapons, and widening digital divides are also addressed. The analysis highlights governance frameworks, ethical safeguards, and collaborative strategies necessary to ensure AI supports equitable development, stability, and inclusion across the continent.



Dr Webster Gumindoga

AI-Driven Satellite Hydrology for Sustainable Futures & Environmental Impact

[Link to Presentation](#)

AI-driven satellite hydrology addresses escalating climate stress in Southern Africa, where recurrent droughts, floods, and limited monitoring networks challenge sustainable water management. Combining Earth Observation data (Landsat, Sentinel, CHIRPS) with machine learning, the approach enables near-real-time monitoring of rainfall, evapotranspiration, and water quality, while supporting predictive models of streamflow and reservoir dynamics in un-gauged basins. Zimbabwean case studies demonstrate how AI-integrated hydrological models and open data dashboards can democratize information access, bridge rural–urban divides, and empower decision-makers at multiple levels. By emphasizing transparency, ethical practice, and local capacity building, AI-driven satellite hydrology advances Sustainable Development Goals 6 and 13, establishing a scalable, equitable tool for climate resilience, sustainable futures, and environmental stewardship in vulnerable regions.



Paul G. C. Hector

How Is AI Impacting Caribbean Authors and Poets?

[Link to Presentation](#)

Caribbean authors and poets are increasingly engaging with AI for editing, translation, and promotion, revealing both opportunities and challenges. Survey findings from 55 participants across multiple languages highlight a vibrant yet economically fragile creative sector. While AI adoption can enhance productivity, visibility, and income, concerns remain regarding originality, fair compensation, and cultural identity. The analysis illustrates AI as a double-edged tool that can support creative economies while necessitating policies for ethical deployment, protection of intellectual property, and inclusive access to cultural resources in linguistically diverse and small regions.

Dr Jorge Alberto Hidalgo

Artificial Intelligence at the Service of Humanity

[Link to Presentation](#)

Artificial intelligence can be ethically oriented to support human well-being and social good. Framed across four axes — contexts, applications, societal impact, and competencies — AI is presented as a sociocultural mediator that enhances creativity, cognition, and decision-making while highlighting risks of bias.

The research considers misinformation, algorithmic injustice, and distorted collective imaginaries alongside opportunities in justice, sustainability, public health, and democratic participation. Emphasizing ethics, digital literacy, and interdisciplinary collaboration, the conclusion is that AI must be guided by responsibility, human-centred values, and international cooperation to protect rights and foster inclusive, intercultural futures.

Tyler Jaynes

AI-Driven Cognitive Technology: Knowledge as a Societal Duty or Individual Right?

[Link to Presentation](#)

Large language models and cognitive AI are reshaping access to information, decision-making, and identity. This presentation explores ethical challenges arising from AI-mediated knowledge systems, including risks of social manipulation, misinformation, and cognitive harm. It examines potential societal rights such as a “right to know” and a “right not to know,” akin to privacy protections like the “right to be forgotten.” The contribution emphasizes institutional responsibility, public deliberation, and ethical frameworks to safeguard autonomy, mental integrity, and democratic discourse, highlighting the need for proactive governance in the deployment of AI-driven cognitive technologies.

Matías Karlsson

Representation Is a Right: Equitable AI in Health

[Link to Presentation](#)

Under-representation in medical datasets can result in unequal harm when AI drives healthcare decisions. This presentation examines how diagnostic imaging and predictive models may fail Hispanic and Latino populations despite average accuracy, highlighting Latin America's data gap. A practical framework is proposed for responsible AI in healthcare, including dataset documentation, subgroup metrics, local validation, and ongoing fairness monitoring. Equity in AI-driven health systems is framed as a safety requirement and fundamental right, demonstrating the critical role of inclusive data practices to prevent systemic bias and ensure equitable patient outcomes.

Prof Ivan Kotuliak

Coexistence of AI and Humanity

[Link to Presentation](#)

The integration of artificial intelligence across sectors presents both opportunities and risks, highlighting the need for inclusive, ethical, and human-centered approaches. This work examines AI's societal impact, emphasizing benefits such as enhanced services and improved quality of life, alongside challenges including bias, discrimination, privacy concerns, and algorithmic coloniality. The presentation underscores principles of fairness, transparency, and accountability in AI development and offers recommendations for supporting open AI research, promoting local languages and cultures, and implementing inclusive policy frameworks.

It argues that AI should augment human decision-making and that collaborative, multi-stakeholder engagement is essential to ensure ethical and equitable outcomes.

Laura Kupe

Unleashing Africa's AI Potential: From Minerals to Innovation

[Link to Presentation](#)

AI applications in Africa's agricultural sector offer a pathway to narrowing the global AI divide. While the Global North dominates AI development, the Global South faces structural barriers including limited internet access, electricity, and infrastructure. Agriculture, employing 60% of Africans and leveraging the continent's vast arable land and renewable energy resources, provides a strategic entry point for AI adoption. The presentation outlines three frameworks for equitable AI development: international governance linking technology transfer with local capacity building; public-private partnerships to expand digital infrastructure in underserved areas; and regional initiatives, such as the African Union's Continental AI Strategy, that support locally driven innovation. With targeted action, AI can promote shared prosperity, empower communities, and ensure that technological benefits are inclusive rather than reinforcing existing inequalities.



Lloyd Laing

Beyond Generation: Understanding the Gap Between Generative AI and Creative AI in the Age of Information Access

[Link to Presentation](#)

Generative and creative AI occupy distinct roles in artistic production. Generative AI can efficiently mimic styles and generate content, but lacks inherent meaning or intention. Creative AI arises when human guidance transforms artificial intelligence into a collaborative partner, producing work with cultural resonance and emotional depth. The presentation argues that meaningful artistic creation depends on human imagination and dialogue, enabling AI output with purpose. This human–AI collaboration is especially critical in fields such as music and film, where emotional authenticity and audience connection surpass technical replication.

Dr Meena D. Lysko

Justice and Inclusivity as Crucial Enablers

[Link to Presentation](#)

Artificial intelligence is examined as a socio-technical system whose environmental and social impacts are shaped by economic and governance structures. Projects across the Global South demonstrate that poorly governed AI and data systems can reinforce inequality, dependency, and extractive practices, particularly under the banner of “green digital transitions.” Sustainability is framed not as a standalone technical goal but as inseparable from human agency, inclusion, and decolonial governance. Examples from earth observation, inclusive hiring, AI literacy, and community-driven data initiatives illustrate how participatory, locally

grounded AI design can enhance resilience, equity, and public good outcomes. Four governance levers — liability, sustainability metrics, interoperability, and labor protections — are highlighted, emphasizing the need for holistic, multi-stakeholder frameworks that center justice, environmental integrity, and Global South perspectives in building sustainable digital futures.



Michael Markovitz

Civil Society, Media, and AI Governance in Africa

[Link to Presentation](#)

African civil society is shaping AI governance and media policy through coordinated advocacy. Drawing on South Africa’s Media and Digital Platforms Market Inquiry, the presentation illustrates how generative AI was incorporated into competition remedies and situates these efforts within broader Global South collaborations. Emphasis is placed on addressing exclusion, inequality, and rights, while promoting locally grounded, participatory approaches to AI governance that reflect the realities of media ecosystems in emerging economies.

Ripple Nagpal

Bridging the Gap: How AI Makes Law and Compliance Accessible

[Link to Presentation](#)

Artificial intelligence is transforming access to legal information and compliance processes. This contribution highlights AI's role in simplifying drafting, contract review, due diligence, and regulatory compliance, while making legal knowledge more understandable for non-experts. It emphasizes that AI augments human judgment, enabling professionals to focus on strategic work and empowering small businesses and entrepreneurs. The analysis frames AI as a tool for democratizing legal systems, promoting equitable access to rights, and supporting inclusion in complex, traditionally opaque domains.

Stella Njogo

Building Inclusive AI Systems Through Cultural Awareness

[Link to Presentation](#)

The Culture Compass™ framework is applied to the development of emerging technologies, including AI, positioning culture as essential infrastructure. The research examines AI as both shaped by and shaping social systems, including institutions, communities, and individual agency. Drawing on case studies from Africa, the Pacific, and other regions, it highlights how AI confined to a single context risks reinforcing bias and exclusion. The analysis offers a roadmap for integrating multiple social and cultural spheres to design AI that is respectful, collaborative, and inclusive, safeguarding not only access to information but also cultural heritage, context, and human agency.

Utsav Patel

AI to Reduce Medicine Waste

[Link to Presentation](#)

Healthcare systems generate large volumes of usable medical waste, creating environmental and operational challenges. AI can enhance reuse by automating monitoring, label reading, damage assessment, and robotic sorting. This contribution examines how AI applications address bottlenecks in prescription donation programs, ensuring the safe redistribution of medicines while reducing environmental harm. The work emphasizes the importance of responsible deployment, transparency, and regulatory compliance in utilizing AI to enhance sustainability and accessibility in healthcare systems.

Chayan Kanti Ray

Human-Centered AI: Lessons from a Young Innovator

[Link to Presentation](#)

A 17-year-old student from India evolved from early programming curiosity to a deep engagement with artificial intelligence, ethics, and human creativity. Experiences in formal training and global UNESCO AI forums highlight AI not only as a technical discipline but as a force shaping emotional, ethical, and cultural dimensions of society. Examples from healthcare, education, business, and daily life illustrate AI's capacity to recognize emotions, support care, and foster human connections, while raising critical questions about bias, accountability, and privacy. The work emphasizes human-centered AI grounded in ethics, inclusivity, creativity, and empathy, advocating collaboration between humans and machines to enhance dignity, amplify compassion, and support a more thoughtful and humane technological future.

Megan Roberts

Bending the Arc of AI Equity: How UNDP is Leveraging AI to Increase Information Accessibility

[Link to Presentation](#)

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is supporting more than 130 countries around the world to leverage AI and digital technologies to support their development goals. This presentation explores how UNDP's work at both the country and global level is supporting the development of inclusive AI ecosystems that bolster information accessibility.

Azizi Seixas

AI the Great Equalizer for the Global South

[Link to Presentation](#)

The Global South, which constitutes around 80% of the world's population, faces significant barriers to accessing technology, education, and economic opportunities. AI can revolutionise healthcare, education, agriculture, commerce, and business by enhancing decision-making, improving processes, and predicting potential challenges before they arise. The transformative power of AI has made it a universal language, one that enables governments, industries, and individuals to solve complex problems more efficiently. However, for AI to act as a true global equaliser, it needs to be inclusive, accessible, and adapted to the specific needs of communities, especially in the Global South.

James Sherer

The “Cure” to AI Imposter Syndrome

[Link to Presentation](#)

Psychological barriers can impede effective AI adoption. This presentation examines five archetypes — the Perfectionist, Superhuman, Natural Genius, Soloist, and Expert — to explore how fear, overconfidence, and skepticism affect engagement with AI tools. It advocates for a balanced approach that combines critical literacy, ethical awareness, and standards-informed practices, showing how gradual, intentional adoption empowers individuals while mitigating risk. The analysis situates psychological readiness within broader AI governance frameworks, emphasizing sustainable, responsible integration of AI in professional and personal contexts.

Karam Saify

Accessible, explainable forecasting for smallholders using minimal local data

[Link to Presentation](#)

AgriSyncAI delivers accessible, explainable price and demand forecasts to smallholders by combining market, climate, trade, and price signals with minimal local data. A hybrid pipeline integrates seasonality learning, anomaly detection, and network spillover modules to produce four-week guidance and concise driver summaries. Forecasts are shared via low-data channels like WhatsApp and Excel, with multilingual support and a freemium onboarding path. Transparent performance metrics and GDPR-aligned data rights ensure farmers retain control and make informed, equitable decisions.

Matthew Stone

Sovereign AI & Jamaica's Path Forward

[Link to Presentation](#)

Sovereign AI offers nations the opportunity to develop and control AI systems that reflect their values, culture, and priorities, ensuring data sovereignty, ethical alignment, and national security. Jamaica's Project IRIS exemplifies this approach, aiming to build locally trained language models, establish data collection and labeling pipelines, and align AI development with national laws and cultural identity. By investing in sovereign AI, Jamaica can empower youth, create jobs, strengthen innovation, and safeguard digital independence, positioning the country to lead the Caribbean in responsible, locally grounded AI development.

Krishna Sunkara

The Mirror that Thinks

[Link to Presentation](#)

Rapid advances in cognitive technologies, including digital cognitive twins that learn from human thoughts, choices, and behaviors, are reshaping decision-making and identity representation. These systems create new opportunities for progress while raising critical questions about autonomy, privacy, and equitable access to information. The work explores strategies for establishing clear guardrails for AI systems, promoting digital literacy as a fundamental civic skill, and distributing responsibility across technology, policy, and society. Emphasizing the importance of empowering individuals to understand and shape the tools that influence them, it positions digital literacy as essential for navigating a world where information is abundant but trust and security remain fragile.

Thom Vaughan

Open Data for Open Models: Infrastructure, Standards and Transparency

[Link to Presentation](#)

Open datasets form the foundation for transparent and accountable AI systems. This contribution examines Common Crawl, one of the world's largest freely available web corpora, and its role in training advanced language models. Challenges such as multilingual representation, safety, and data quality are addressed, alongside the need for shared norms that parallel open-source principles. The work underscores the importance of language, culture, and community stewardship in building inclusive and trustworthy AI ecosystems.

Dr Adam White

RL4Good: The Future of Automated Decision-Making

[Link to Presentation](#)

Reinforcement learning enables AI systems to learn through interaction with dynamic environments, rather than static datasets. This presentation explores RL's potential for real-world applications that generate social and economic benefits, highlighting successes in simulations and the challenges of deployment at scale. Safety, accountability, and adaptive learning are emphasized as key to responsible implementation, illustrating how RL can support decision-making systems that respond to complex, evolving scenarios in practical contexts.

Al Arik Yusuph

AI for the Next Generation: Creativity, Problem-Solving, and Global Innovation

[Link to Presentation](#)

A young innovator demonstrates how artificial intelligence can empower youth to become active creators of real-world solutions. AI is framed not just as a technical tool, but as a means for creativity, problem-solving, teamwork, and social impact. Access to AI enables young people to innovate, compete globally, and address pressing challenges today. Achievements in national and continental science competitions highlight an award-winning, youth-designed AI-powered sea surveillance system that detects and removes ocean litter using computer vision and robotics. By applying models such as YOLOv5, the work illustrates how AI supports environmental protection through scalable, continuous solutions. Leading a school coding and robotics club emphasizes the importance of knowledge sharing and collective learning. When equipped with AI skills, youth can meaningfully contribute to environmental sustainability and global problem-solving.

Tendai Zengeni

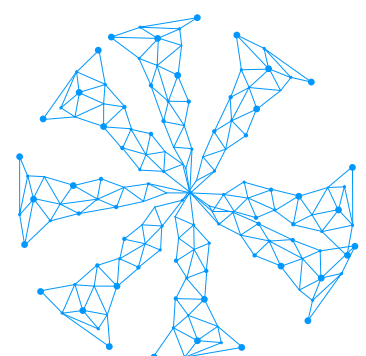
AI and the Youth: Shaping the Next Generation of Innovators and Ethical Leaders

[Link to Presentation](#)

Artificial intelligence is transforming employment, creativity, and entrepreneurship opportunities for youth in Zimbabwe and across Africa. This presentation examines both automation risks and new pathways for innovation, highlighting the necessity for active youth participation in AI development. Emphasis is placed on ethical, context-aware, youth-led solutions that address local challenges. The work advocates for equipping young people with technical skills, ethical frameworks, and entrepreneurial capacity to ensure that AI development reflects African values and supports inclusive, sustainable futures.

“AI is framed not just as a technical tool, but as a means for creativity, problem-solving, teamwork, and social impact”

Al Arik Yusuph



2025 AI4IA CONFERENCE

REGIONAL SATELLITE EVENTS



CANADA

22 September 2025

Event Focus: AI and Administrative Intelligence

[Click here to view the event on YouTube](#)

CHILE

26 September 2025

Event Focus: Discussion on the International Day for Universal Access to Information with UNESCO

[Click here to view the event on YouTube](#)

LATIN AMERICA

25 September 2025

Event Focus: Between Algorithms and Citizenship: Youth Facing AI

[Click here to view the event on YouTube](#)

JAMAICA

24 September 2025

Event Focus: From Airwaves to Algorithms: Empowering senior citizens in a digital age

[Click here to view the event on YouTube](#)

EUROPE

23 September 2025

Event Focus: Discussion on the International Day for Universal Access to Information with UNESCO

[Click here to view Panel 1 of the event on YouTube](#)

[Click here to view Panel 2 of the event on YouTube](#)

INDIA

25 September 2025

Event Focus: Discussion on the International Day for Universal Access to Information with UNESCO

[Click here to view the event on YouTube](#)

SOUTH AFRICA

19 September 2025

Event Focus: How Artificial Intelligence can strengthen the resilience of societies to harmful content spreading online.

ZIMBABWE

23 September 2025

Event Focus: Navigating AI: Rethinking Appliances, Climate, Youth and Information Access

[Click here to view Session 1 of the event on YouTube](#)

[Click here to view Session 2 of the event on YouTube](#)

EVENT REPORT

CANADA



“AI and Administrative Intelligence”

On 22 September 2025, the University of Alberta organized a satellite event for the *AI4IA 2025 Conference*, moderated by Dr. Geoffrey Rockwell. The event brought together a panel of experts to discuss the opportunities and dangers of automating administrative tasks using artificial intelligence.

The panel featured Dr. Faith Majekolagbe (*Faculty of Law*), Dr. Andy Knight (*Faculty of Arts*), Dr. Gillian Lermeyer (*Faculty of Nursing*), and Dr. John Simpson (*Information Services & Technology*), these four guests shared their thoughts and reactions to the following statement:

“Artificial Intelligence promises to automate many bureaucratic tasks from the assessment of applications to generating legal documents. What are the opportunities and dangers that you see in the applications of AI in administration? (whether the administration of education, of governance, of medical decisions, of justice, public policy or of technology?)”

In total there were four speakers, one moderator, two administrators and organizers, twenty people in attendance in person, nearly forty online all the time and a total of seventy-five registered individuals. The recording of the presentations can be found on Youtube using [this link](#).

Throughout the session, presenters highlighted that AI promises efficiency and speed in bureaucratic processes, such as application assessments and document generation, but warned against treating these as mere technical tasks.

Dr Majekolagbe focused on the significant legal and human impact of these decisions, particularly the risk of perpetuating biases against marginalized communities.

Dr Knight placed the conversation within a turbulent 'interregnum' period, arguing that AI could either deepen existing institutional inequalities or strengthen governance depending on whether tools are designed inclusively and with continuous human oversight.

Dr Lernermeier added a critical perspective on how AI changes the relational nature of work in healthcare and education, potentially de-skilling essential tasks or creating moral distress for professionals.

The panel concluded with a discussion on the future of employment and the necessity for human-centric AI adoption.

Dr Simpson noted the potential of AI to remove drudgery but also raised concerns about 'Prometheian shame,' where humans might feel obsolete compared to machine capabilities. The final Q&A session addressed the practical challenges of implementing AI, including the need for robust regulation that focuses on sector-specific applications rather than

Some interesting and thought-provoking facts that highlight surprising angles the speakers raised.

AI is described as “landless” - During the land acknowledgement, the host noted that AI feels territory-less, a technology without a physical place, yet it still relies on hidden infrastructures like data centres. This contrast challenges how we think about AI's presence in society.

Administrative decisions aren't “bureaucratic”, they're life-changing - Faith Majekolagbe emphasized that decisions made in immigration, policing, and social services are not clerical tasks. They directly shape people's lives, which makes AI's involvement far more consequential than many assume.

Courts may struggle to review AI decisions - Because many AI systems are “black boxes,” judges can't always determine why an automated decision was made. This threatens due process, since judicial review depends on understanding the reasoning behind decisions.

AI can detect medical image patterns before humans - One speaker noted that AI often sees subtle patterns in medical images faster than trained clinicians. This raises questions about whether such tasks will still be considered “expert work” in the future.

AI may erode institutional memory - If early-career professionals skip foundational tasks because AI handles them, institutions risk losing the “unwritten knowledge” of how things actually work — who to call, what's been tried, and how to navigate complex systems.

AI could create a world with no room for human “inefficiency” - John Simpson warned that AI's drive for hyper-efficiency might eliminate the ambiguity and “wiggle room” that makes human life livable — like forgiveness, second chances, or harmless mistakes.

Small businesses in Southeast Asia are already leapfrogging bureaucracy with AI - Andy Knight shared that many small businesses use AI for bookkeeping and tax prep, bypassing decades of administrative backlog. This shows how AI can radically accelerate development in certain regions.

AI literacy is becoming as essential as digital literacy was 20 years ago - The speakers argued that understanding AI — its limits, risks, and capabilities — will soon be a basic requirement for students, administrators, and professionals.

EVENT REPORT

CHILE



“Discussion on the International Day for Universal Access to Information with UNESCO”

The event on media literacy and access to information was held both in person and online, organized by the Faculty of Communications of the Universidad del Desarrollo (Santiago, Chile) on September 26, with the participation of several key faculty members along with 80 Media Literacy students. The event was broadcast through all the University’s digital channels.

Carolina Mardones, Dean of the faculty, highlighted this space for reflection that connects ethics with technology and spoke about access to information as a fundamental right. She identified barriers that must be overcome to uphold this right and emphasized the importance of media and technological literacy, stressing that AI makes it even more urgent. She referred to the university’s role in analyzing current transformations and in training communicators capable of mediating

between technology and society. She concluded that quality information is a value and a public good in constant adaptation.

Then a video greeting was presented from Jamaica by **Cordel Green**, Vice Chair of the IFAP UNESCO program. He thanked the work behind the 9 events taking place in all regions of the world, thus complementing the AI4IA international conference on September 28, and invited participation for that day.

Myriam Ruiz, academic coordinator¹, introduced the work session, emphasizing the importance of universal access to information for governance and sustainable development. She highlighted that the Universidad del Desarrollo is celebrating this date, established 10 years ago, for the first time. Finally, she noted that there are laws in 130 countries to guarantee access to information, but challenges for their implementation persist. Hence, the importance of public awareness in a context of rapid digital transformation.

***Presentation by María Dolores Souza²,
member of the AI4IA working group***

This presentation focused on definitions and concepts such as, what we understand by Artificial Intelligence, the differences between general and generative AI, narrow AI, and Super Artificial Intelligence, the latter still being a theoretical concept. A definition of algorithms was also provided and mentioned its use in mathematics since the 9th century, and its application in computing and machine learning.

Then reference was made to the algorithmic models of large language models (LLMs) and how they predominantly use information and data in English, which do not necessarily represent the culture of the Global South. She then stressed the difficulties presented by these databases and predictive models when analyzing complex situations, identifying emerging ideas, or for a critical perspective. Regarding statistical analyses, it was stated that they are also not perfect for representing reality and tend to overrepresent averages and high frequencies.

Given the widespread lack of knowledge about how algorithms work, María Dolores Souza highlighted the need for a closer connection between social and technological sciences, as well as the need for training professionals of the social sciences who use or are going to use these technologies, such as journalists. She also referred to the importance of regulation.

***Presentation of the students' work based
on T. Kerševan's video³***

Next, three students presented the conclusions of a project in which 80 students participated, coordinated by three teachers.

In their presentation, they identified three main risks associated with AI: the informational risk due to the loss of trust in information; the economic risk due to the economic concentration of large platforms; and the democratic risk, due to the consequent concentration of power.



However, they hope that society will address these. They emphasized that we cannot allow information to stop depending on journalists and end up in the hands of those who create algorithms.

They suggested a digital footprint to identify how risky information is and what part of it was generated by journalists or by AI. They also considered the need for digital education in schools to teach children about the use of artificial intelligence.

They proposed an alliance between the university and UNESCO to develop a strategy with three components: algorithmic footprint transparency; accountability mechanisms; and citizen auditing, through an app. They hope to overcome AI challenges so that it can become an ally.

The students based their work on Tania Kerševan's video at the 2024 AI4IA Conference titled "Epistemic Authority of Journalism in AI empowered Newsrooms: Implications for Governance".

Final Questions and Reflections

María José Labrador, Director of the Centre for Applied Communication, referred to the tasks of the Faculty of Communication in mitigating algorithmic biases; validating information; and in promoting media and critical literacy – with a focus on general audiences too. She concluded with the need to re-humanize the communicational experience, with our own imprint and human judgment. She also highlighted the role of the university in contributing to AI legislation, regulation, and governance, as has been done in this event.



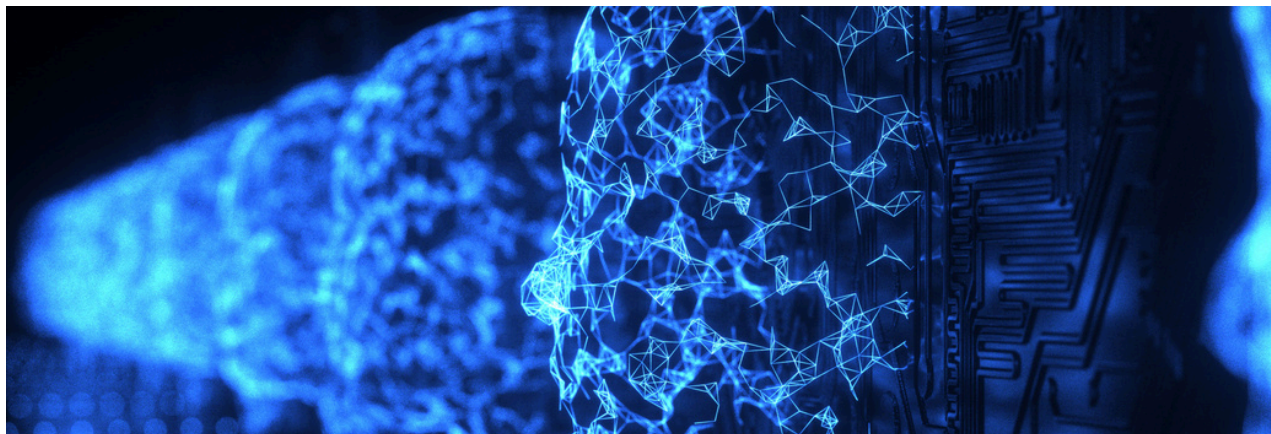
¹Member of the board of the National Association of Women Journalists of Chile.

²Psychologist from Leiden University, Netherlands. She is part of the international UNESCO-IFAP working group on AI and information accessibility (AI4IA) and serves on the board of the MediaB Foundation (Chile) for digital and media literacy ([LinkedIn](#))

³Tanja Kerševan (Slovenia) is a researcher and assistant professor at the University of Ljubljana. She was a regulator and former Minister of State responsible for culture, media, and cinema.

EVENT REPORT

EUROPE



“Event Focus: The Future of European AI”

On **23 September 2025** the second European regional AI4IA conference was held. It was organised by Dr. Dariia Opryshko with the support of the UNESCO Information For All Programme (IFAP), the University of Osnabrück, and the Mohyla School of Journalism. The 2025 European regional event was focused on the topic ‘The Future of European AI’ and was co-moderated by Andrea Millwood Hargrave.

Panel 1 of the European regional AI4IA conference ‘Challenges to Information Integrity’ brought together interdisciplinary experts to examine the technical, social, and legal gaps to maintaining a reliable information ecosystem in the age of Artificial Intelligence. The discussion underscored that information integrity is under significant threat from ‘truth decay’, polarization, and the mass dissemination of AI-generated deepfakes.

Professor Emanuele Frontoni (the University of Macerata) opened the session by highlighting the fundamental difference between human learning and AI training.

While humans learn from limited examples, AI requires millions of data points to function.

He demonstrated the risks of AI-generated content through a fake image of a farmer’s strike, noting that while AI is becoming sophisticated, it still lacks ‘real-world’ logic, such as physical proportions. He introduced the concept of ‘machine unlearning’ as a new technical methodology to help models ‘forget’ copyrighted or private data without needing to be retrained from scratch at a high cost.

Professor Viktoriia Romaniuk from the Mohyla School of Journalism presented evidence of AI-driven manipulation, in particular the disinformation campaign that used AI to clone legitimate media outlets like The Guardian and Bild to trick users into reading false articles. She warned that AI ‘hallucinations’ can cause severe reputational damage and erode public trust in news.

The legal discussion focused on the effectiveness of recent European legislation, including the AI Act, Digital Services Act (DSA) and European Media Freedom Act (EMFA).

Mr Ali-Abbas Ali (Ofcom) emphasized the need to improve the sustainability and prominence of high-quality information and high-quality journalistic sources, particularly in users' news feeds and search results.

Dr Olga Batura (TNO Vector) noted that while the DSA provides transparency tools, its success depends on consistent implementation by member states, which currently suffer from a lack of expertise and resources.

Professor Mark D. Cole from the Institute for European Media Law proposed considering whether the media should be classified as critical infrastructure for democracy. He argued that if AI distorts the news landscape, the state has a fundamental rights obligation to intervene to protect media pluralism.

The panel concluded that technical solutions like content credentials must be paired with massive investments in media literacy to empower citizens to navigate the 'post-truth' era.

23 September
Panel 1: 10.00-11.30 CET
Challenges to Information Integrity

Speakers:
Ali-Abbas Ali
Emanuele Frontoni
Mark D. Cole
Viktoriia Romaniuk
Olga Batura

Moderators:
• Daria Opryshko
• Andrea Millwood Hargrave

Logos: UNESCO, IFAP, AI4IA, University of Amsterdam, MSU
Buttons: REGISTER NOW FOR FREE, QR code

The second panel 'Driving European AI' shifted the focus toward European sovereignty and the strategic initiatives designed to make the continent a leader in AI development. The conversation focused on the AI Continent Action Plan, the creation of AI Factories, and the emergence of synthetic data.

Dr Stefaan Verhulst (New York University) set the stage by describing a paradox: we are in an 'AI Summer' but a 'Data Winter'. He identified three critical asymmetries (data, information, and agency), where private actors hold vast amounts of data while researchers and the public interest are left in the dark. He called for 'digital self-determination', moving beyond simple binary consent to a 'social license' for data reuse that benefits society as a whole.

Professor Natali Helberger from the University of Amsterdam introduced the 'What If' project, which uses 'digital twins' of social media environments to test possible policy interventions. She examined the ethical and regulatory complexities of using synthetic data and digital twins within the European AI ecosystem as well as argued that current transparency requirements alone are insufficient to make large language models more reliable.

The role of AI Factories that are one of the pillars of the European AI Action Plan, was discussed by Dr. Krisztina Rozgonyi of AIT. In particular, she discussed the concept of 'epistemic sovereignty' that is the ability of a community or a group to control and shape the knowledge and understanding that AI systems produce about them ensuring their voices and perspectives are not marginalized and misrepresented.

Stefan Baack, previously at the Mozilla Foundation, discussed whether Europe needs to develop an alternative to Common Crawl. In this regard, he provided two European initiatives that are currently under development. Additionally, he emphasised that Europe should invest more in public domain content.

In the closing remarks, the panellists agreed that success should not be measured by scalability at any cost to compete with the US and China. Instead, success for European AI must be rooted in human rights, safety, and democratic values, even if it means choosing smaller models over massive, uncured ones.

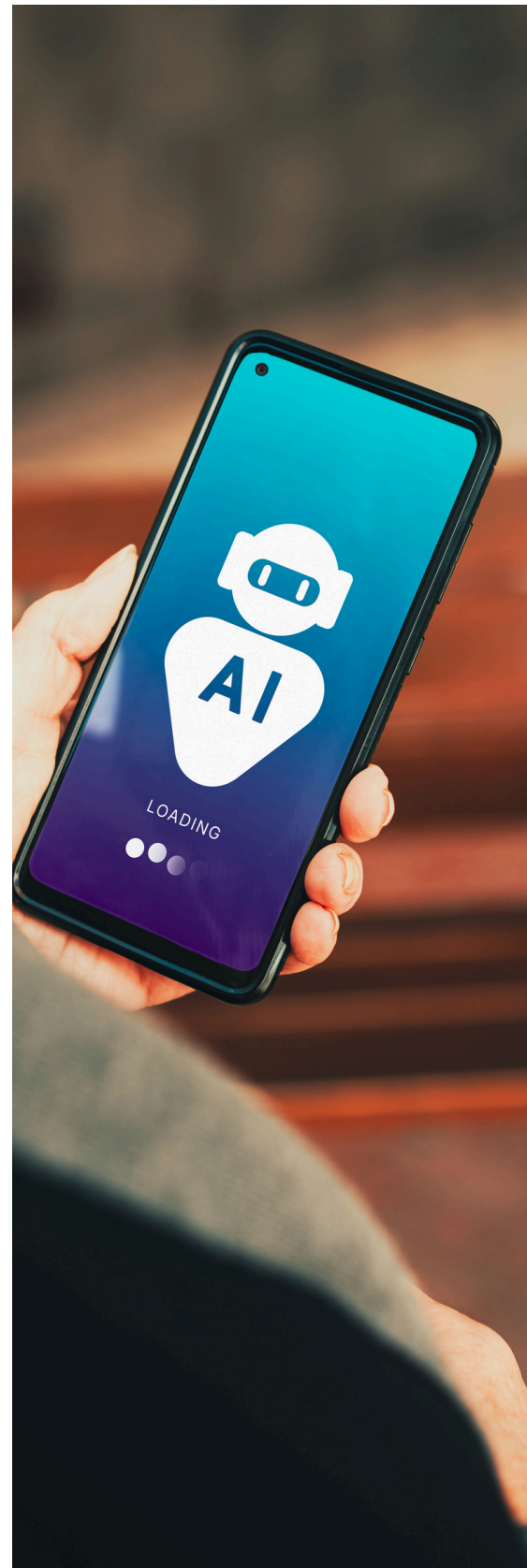
The poster features logos for UNESCO Information for All Programme, IFAP, AI4IA, University of Jyväskylä, and MSJ. The event details are: 23 September, Panel 2: 14.00-15.30 CET, Driving European AI. The panelists are Stefaan Verhulst, Natali Helberger, Krisztina Rozgonyi, and Stefan Baack. Moderators are Dariia Opryshko and Andrea Millwood Hargrave. A QR code and a 'REGISTER NOW FOR FREE' button are at the bottom.

23 September
Panel 2: 14.00-15.30 CET
Driving European AI

Stefaan Verhulst
Natali Helberger
Krisztina Rozgonyi
Stefan Baack

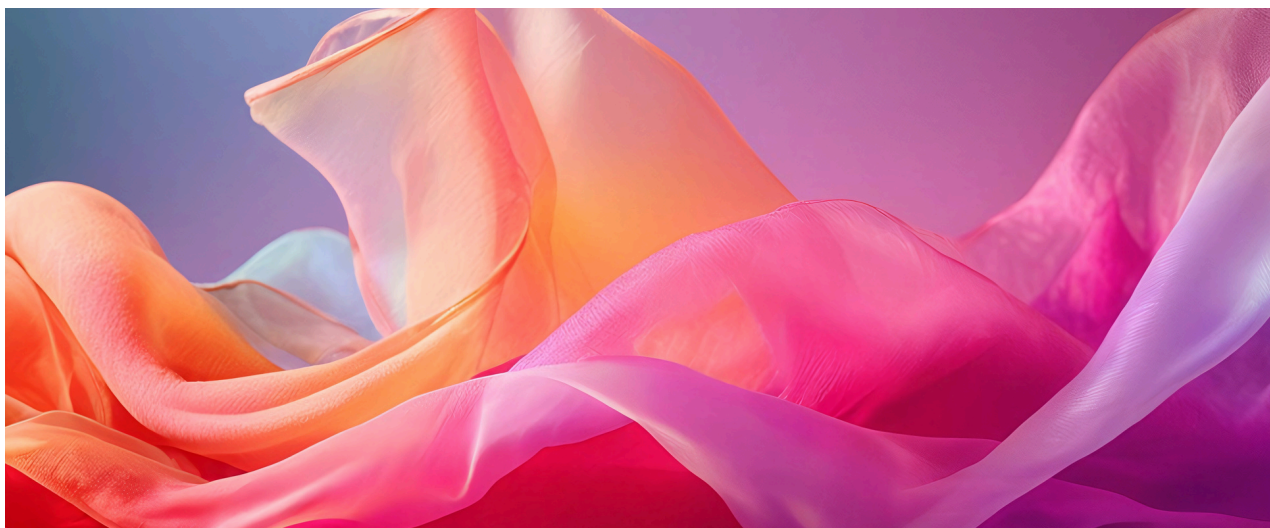
Moderators
• Dariia Opryshko
• Andrea Millwood Hargrave

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EVENT REPORT

INDIA



“Discussion on the International Day for Universal Access to Information with UNESCO”

On 25 September 2025, a satellite event for AI4IA was held in India.

Theme: Tradition in Transition : AI and the Evolution of Indian Arts Introduction The India Satellite Event was organised as part of the 6th global AI4IA Conference hosted by the UNESCO Information for All Programme (IFAP) Working Group on Information Accessibility, in observance of the International Day for Universal Access to Information.

The session was moderated by Samridhi Arora, Member of UNESCO IFAP Working Group on Information Accessibility and Advocate-on-Record, Supreme Court of India, who welcomed participants from across regions and introduced the theme focusing on the intersection of artificial intelligence, culture, and accessibility. The event aimed to demonstrate how AI is increasingly shaping

the way societies create, learn, communicate, and access knowledge, while emphasizing the importance of inclusive and ethical technological development.

Opening Address and Global Context

The event featured a special address by Mr. Cordel Green, Vice-Chair of UNESCO IFAP and Chair of the Working Group on Information Accessibility, who highlighted that satellite events provide platforms for technical, ethical, cultural, legal, and social perspectives on artificial intelligence. He emphasized that such gatherings foster creative expression and contribute regional insights to global AI policy dialogue, thereby strengthening international collaboration in shaping responsible AI ecosystems.

Cultural Showcase: Fusion of Tradition and Artificial Intelligence

A defining feature of the India Satellite Event was its multi-disciplinary cultural showcase, presenting a unique confluence of dance,

semi-classical and classical music, instrumental performance, drama, yoga, and creative storytelling, all integrated with artificial intelligence tools.

The programme illustrated how traditional Indian art forms are evolving through technological innovation while retaining their cultural authenticity. Most performers were school-going students mentored by their teachers, reflecting youth engagement and inter-generational transmission of artistic knowledge.

Kathak Demonstration: Tradition Meets AI-Generated Music

The event commenced with a Kathak performance presented first with human rendered classical music and subsequently with AI-generated musical composition. This comparative presentation offered audiences a visual and auditory understanding of how AI can support artistic experimentation without displacing traditional performance structures.

The segment symbolized the broader theme of “tradition in transition,” highlighting the coexistence of heritage and innovation.

AI-Enabled Creative Fusion Performances

Subsequent performances showcased how AI tools can be used to generate semi classical fusion music, enabling dancers trained in diverse styles such as semi classical and hip-hop to collaborate creatively.

Another segment demonstrated the use of AI-assisted posture correction techniques, illustrating practical applications of technology in promoting physical well-being and improved artistic training outcomes.

A particularly engaging act involved a musical jugalbandi, where AI-generated musical lines were accompanied live by students playing traditional instruments, symbolising harmony between human creativity and machine intelligence.

Drama Presentation: AI for Accessibility and Inclusion

A powerful dramatic performance depicted the journey of a visually impaired girl using AI tools to learn music and prepare for competitions, highlighting how artificial intelligence can remove barriers to education and creative participation.

This segment reinforced the conference’s core objective of promoting inclusive access to information and opportunities through responsible AI deployment.

Youth Participation and Talent Recognition

The cultural programme also included a structured singing competition-style performance segment, demonstrating how AI applications can support learning and performance evaluation in creative education environments.

The event concluded with performances by the youngest participants, including children as young as 3.5 years, symbolizing the continuity of cultural traditions and the growing role of technology in shaping future generations.

Conclusion

The India Satellite Event provided a distinctive cultural perspective to the global AI4IA dialogue, demonstrating that artificial intelligence can function as a supportive

creative partner in preserving, reinterpreting, and disseminating traditional artistic heritage.

By combining youth participation, inclusive storytelling, and technology-enabled artistic expression, the session highlighted the importance of ensuring that AI development remains human-centred, culturally sensitive, and socially inclusive.

The event thus contributed meaningful regional insights to the international discourse on ethical and accessible artificial intelligence ecosystems.

Acknowledgements

The organisers expressed gratitude to Fame Academy and its founders, choreographers, recording partners, and organising team members whose collaborative efforts ensured the successful execution of the event.

Participants were also invited to engage with the broader global AI4IA conference platform and contribute to ongoing discussions on AI accessibility and innovation.



EVENT REPORT

JAMAICA



Jamaica - Focus Airwaves to Algorithms: Empowering Senior Citizens in a Digital Age

On September 24, the Broadcasting Commission of Jamaica (BCJ), in collaboration with UNESCO IFAP and several national partners, hosted the second annual AI4IA Jamaica satellite event. The forum, held under the theme “From Airwaves to Algorithms: Bridging Generational Gaps, Empowering Senior Citizens in the Digital Age,” was a hybrid gathering centered at the Kingston & St. Andrew Parish Library with live streaming to 13 other parish libraries and online platforms. This initiative aimed to address the digital exclusion of older adults by providing them with the tools and confidence to navigate an increasingly algorithmic world.

The event saw a significant turnout of approximately 1,898 senior citizens who participated through various physical and digital channels, demonstrating a high level of interest in emerging technologies. By aligning with National Senior Citizens’ Month and the International Day for Universal Access to Information, the organizers underscored the

necessity of inclusive digital transformation where no generation is left behind.

The core objectives of the event were to empower seniors to manage misinformation, introduce them to AI and neurotechnology innovations, and foster intergenerational digital solidarity.

Professor Denise Eldemire-Shearer delivered a keynote address on the “Silver Dividend,” explaining how AI can enhance independence and health while cautioning against the barriers of affordability and the fear of scams. She was joined by **Debra Berlyn** of Project GOAL, who spoke via Zoom about the practical applications of technology, such as smart home assistants and fall detection wearables, to support cognitive engagement and safety.

These presentations highlighted that while AI offers profound benefits for aging populations, building trust and providing tailored training are essential for adoption. The subsequent open discussion allowed seniors to voice concerns about digital privacy, specifically inquiring about the use of

Virtual Private Networks (VPNs) and the local availability of assistive devices.

A major highlight of the day was an interactive workshop designed to provide hands-on experience with digital literacy. Facilitators used a dramatized video titled “Pinchy Dead” to teach participants to analyze and verify information before sharing it. The workshop explored the differences between misinformation, disinformation, and deepfakes, using real-world case studies like romance scams and fake bank SMS messages to illustrate risks.

Participants engaged in a roleplay exercise where they practiced responding to fraudulent emergency calls, reinforcing the importance of verification before acting on urgent requests. Additionally, the session introduced technical skills, such as Google Reverse Image Search, which was demonstrated using AI-generated images to help seniors distinguish real content from fabricated media.

This practical approach was intended to transform technology from a source of exclusion into a tool for empowerment. The event feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with over 94% of respondents indicating they would attend a similar event in the future. Seniors reported a notable increase in confidence regarding their ability to identify online scams and use mobile devices for daily tasks. Several challenges and limitations were encountered during the execution of the hybrid format. These included budgetary constraints, a late start due to technical and power issues, and overcrowding in certain parish libraries. Some participants also noted a desire for more step-by-step demonstrations and smaller learning

sessions to better grasp complex topics like cybersecurity and government digital services. Despite these hurdles, the event successfully fostered a sense of community, concluding with a musical performance that celebrated the seniors as “national treasures”.

To sustain this momentum, it is recommended to institutionalize the forum as an annual national event and rolling out year-round digital literacy sessions across community centres. It emphasises the need for intergenerational mentorship, where younger or relatives support older adults in their learning journey.

The conclusion of the event asserted that AI4IA Jamaica 2025 has set a strong foundation for inclusive digital engagement in Jamaica. By equipping seniors with the right tools and supportive networks, the initiative ensures that they can continue to make meaningful contributions to society while navigating the digital landscape safely and with autonomy.



EVENT REPORT

LATIN AMERICA



“Between Algorithms and Citizenship: Youth Facing AI”

The Latin American online panel 1 was held 25 September 2025, organized by the AI4IA Working Group on Information Accessibility and MediaB Foundation

Its objectives were:

- To problematise the advancement of AI: its potential and risks, from a Latin American perspective.
- To focus on the relationship between AI and youth.
- To introduce the international AI4IA Conference, on September 28 and promote Latin American participation in this event.

The target group included young people, teachers, and the general public. The first presentation established the conceptual framework of what is understood by Artificial Intelligence, then gave the floor to the other speakers, who discussed the uses of AI in their daily lives, in the classroom and among students who were the subject of a study.

SPEAKERS

Sebastián Waisbrot, from Argentina, presented the topic: “How I Understand AI and How AI Understands Me: AI Processes and Algorithmic Models.” He is a programmer by profession and a teacher of Computer Law at the Chair of Digital Justice at the Faculty of Law of the University of Buenos Aires (UBA). He has worked at major international tech companies such as Twitter and specializes in machine learning. He is a member of the Argentine Computer Law Observatory (ODIA).

He defined what is meant by Artificial Intelligence and Algorithms and described what a model is. He explained how machine learning works with illustrative examples. He advocated for training to understand these processes and called for measures to mitigate errors and prevent algorithmic harm.

He referenced the book “Weapons of Math Destruction” by Cathy O’Neil (2016) and spoke about the need for regulations and a legal framework in the development of AI. He

Isidora Zapata and **Martina Ortega**, both from the “Tremendas” Foundation in Chile, named their presentation, “Curious Girls, Tremendous Scientists.”

They both propose encouraging girls in the sciences, particularly in the field of AI, where female participation does not exceed 22%. They stated that a challenge for the region is inclusion as well as the design of local models.

Laura León holds a PhD in Anthropology from the Catholic University of Peru (PUCP). She is a research professor at the Faculty of Communication and the Doctorate in Communication at the University of Lima 5.

He coordinates the research group on Communication, Education, and Culture 6 . Laura and Julio Cesar presented a study using mixed qualitative-quantitative techniques, which explored the use and perceptions of artificial intelligence among adolescents. The study design had a participatory approach.

The results showed the benefits of AI for school tasks and language learning, and as a means of emotional support. A more controversial finding was a certain tendency to “humanise” chatbots. They identified the issue of control as one of the major challenges in using this technology. They also provided interesting results that distinguished between boys and girls and between students from private and public schools in the use of these technologies.



EVENT REPORT

SOUTH AFRICA



“How Artificial Intelligence (AI) can strengthen the resilience of societies to harmful content spreading online”

On 19 September 2025, UNESCO ROSA, in collaboration with the University of Pretoria, the European Union, UNESCO IFAP Committee and their EU-funded Social Media 4 Peace coalition partners, convened a high-level first-ever panel discussion on “How Artificial Intelligence can strengthen the resilience of societies to harmful content spreading online.” The event brought together experts from academia, government, media, youth and civil society.

The dialogue underscored the transformative potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in promoting safe, inclusive, and rights-based information ecosystems. Participants emphasized that equitable access to AI and data-driven technologies must be grounded in transparency, ethical governance, and

multilingual inclusivity to ensure that innovation benefits all communities.

Discussions explored the 2024 European Union’s AI Act, the first global legal framework for AI, as a model for responsible innovation that balances technological advancement with societal protection.

Participants highlighted that Southern Africa could take a leading role in shaping AI governance through community participation, inclusive policy development, and alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals.



SPEAKERS

Søren Høgsbro Larsen, Policy Officer at the European Union Delegation to South Africa (EU) highlighted that AI plays a pivotal role in shaping online information flows, presenting both opportunities such as detecting disinformation and supporting fact-checking and risks, including amplifying divisive content and deepfakes.

He underscored the EU's Social Media 4 Peace project in South Africa and the importance of the EU AI Act, the world's first major AI regulation, which adopts a risk-based framework grounded in transparency, accountability, and human rights. He concluded that while AI will inevitably shape the future, effective regulation and strong partnerships are essential to steer AI towards peace, resilience, and inclusivity."

Prof Marlene Holmner, a Professor at the University of Pretoria, underscored the importance of transparency, accountability, and intercultural sensitivity in AI-driven content moderation, cautioning against systems that risk silencing legitimate voices.

Dr Scott Timcke, Senior Research Associate, at Research ICT Africa examined Africa's evolving AI landscape, noting that limited internet access and linguistic exclusion continue to constrain digital equity. He called for transparency by design, localized data governance, and the establishment of regional AI safety hubs to ensure that Africa's digital transformation is both democratic and resilient.

Dr Idris Abdulmumin, a Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Pretoria, focused on the contextual challenges of AI in identifying hate speech and misinformation. He presented

ongoing research developing multilingual datasets that integrate African languages and cultural nuances, underscoring the importance of human oversight and contextual understanding in ethical AI deployment.

Lister Namumba-Rikhotso, Programme Manager at Media Monitoring Africa, highlighted the growing digital literacy gap, emphasizing that AI cannot replace human critical thinking. She called for increased collaboration between civil society, academia, and regulators to promote AI literacy, data ethics, and accountability, referencing key African Commission resolutions that strengthen information integrity.



The panel discussion concluded that AI governance must be a shared responsibility among developers, policymakers, educators, and citizens. Speakers advocated for integrating AI literacy into education systems, promoting critical engagement with digital technologies, and ensuring that AI tools reflect African values and protect fundamental human rights.

The event reaffirmed UNESCO and EU's commitment to fostering ethical, inclusive, and human-centered AI systems that strengthen societal resilience, promote information integrity, and advance peace and sustainable development.

EVENT REPORT

ZIMBABWE



“Navigating AI: Rethinking Appliances, Climate, Youth, and Information Access”

On 23 September 2025, the UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa (ROSA), in collaboration with the Zimbabwe National Commission for UNESCO, hosted the Artificial Intelligence for Information Accessibility (AI4IA) Satellite Event in Harare. The conference brought together policymakers, academics, civil society, youth innovators, and AI practitioners to discuss how Artificial Intelligence (AI) can be harnessed to improve access to information, strengthen climate resilience, and promote inclusion, particularly for marginalized groups. The event opened with remarks from Ms. Nisha, Director of UNESCO ROSA, and Ms. Margaret Chirapa, Secretary-General of the Zimbabwe National Commission for UNESCO.

Ms Margaret Chirapa highlighted that Zimbabwe’s national priorities revolve around expanding access to information and empowering young people with the digital skills necessary to thrive in a rapidly changing world. She warned that whilst AI offers tremendous potential for innovation, it also

poses risks, including bias, inequality, and a loss of trust in information systems. “AI must be guided by ethics and inclusivity to ensure it serves all citizens equally,” she emphasized, calling on policymakers, innovators, and civil society to work towards an AI ecosystem that is empowering, sustainable, and climate conscious.



Ms Nisha, Director of UNESCO ROSA, reaffirmed that AI is fundamentally about “people and the planet, not just machines and algorithms.” She commended Zimbabwe’s National AI Strategy for its emphasis on transparency, equity, and ethics, urging stakeholders to bridge the digital divide through inclusive strategies. “AI should ultimately mean ‘All Included,’” she said, envisioning a future where even children in remote areas can access opportunities enabled by AI.

The main panel, moderated by Toneo Toneo, Founder of TechnoMag and President of ZOCC, featured four Zimbabwean experts who discussed AI's impact on society from complementary perspectives:

- **Dr Gilford Hapanyengwi**, ICT Director at the Zimbabwe Council for Higher Education, explored AI's capacity to improve access to information through real-time translation, text-to-speech technologies, and intelligent content summarization. He emphasized the need to integrate AI literacy across all generations and ensure that local data and languages are part of AI solutions.
- **Dr Nancy Kwangwa**, Lecturer at the Women's University in Africa and Chairperson of the Zimbabwe Library Association, analyzed the risks that generative AI poses to information integrity, deepfakes, algorithmic bias, and misinformation, and proposed media and information literacy (MIL), human oversight, and inclusive governance as safeguards. Her intervention highlighted that protecting information integrity is a shared societal responsibility, requiring journalists, educators, and citizens alike to ensure accountability.
- **Dr Tendai Zengeni**, Lecturer at Africa University and member of the Women4Ethical AI network, focused on youth empowerment and the need to embed AI ethics grounded in African values such as Ubuntu. She called for curriculum reform that promotes creativity, critical thinking, and entrepreneurial skills, positioning Zimbabwean youth as ethical innovators rather than passive consumers of technology.

- **Dr Webster Gumindoga**, Researcher at the University of Zimbabwe, presented pioneering work on AI-driven satellite hydrology for sustainable water management. His research demonstrates how AI and Earth Observation data can democratize access to environmental information and strengthen climate resilience in data-scarce regions. He concluded with the reminder that "equitable access to water requires equitable access to information."



The event also featured a youth segment led by students from The Heritage School's Coding and Robotics Club, who showcased AI applications for environmental protection. Their reflections illustrated how AI can inspire young innovators to link technology with social and ecological responsibility.

The AI4IA Zimbabwe Satellite Conference reaffirmed UNESCO's commitment to promoting human-centred, ethical, and inclusive AI that advances access to information and supports sustainable development. The discussions underscored that Zimbabwe, and Africa more broadly, stands at a critical juncture where AI can either widen inequalities or catalyze inclusive growth. As the event concluded, participants agreed that the path forward lies in building trust, investing in digital literacy, and embedding African values in every stage of AI development, transforming the principle of "All Included" into a lived reality for all citizens.

RECOMMENDATIONS & WAY FORWARD

The AI4IA 2025 Conference demonstrated both the transformative potential of artificial intelligence for advancing universal access to information and the urgent need for ethical, inclusive, and context-sensitive governance frameworks. Building on the insights shared across the conference and regional satellite events, the following recommendations are proposed as a way forward for future collaboration, research, and action.

1. Advance Inclusive and Human-Centred AI Governance

Future activities should prioritize the development of AI governance frameworks grounded in human rights, transparency, accountability, and public participation. Particular attention should be given to ensuring that governance approaches are context-sensitive and responsive to the realities of the Global South, including issues of inequality, linguistic diversity, infrastructure limitations, and digital exclusion.

Further research is recommended on:

- ethical AI governance models for developing regions;
- participatory and community-led AI policy approaches;
- data sovereignty and “sovereign AI” initiatives; and
- governance responses to misinformation, deepfakes, and algorithmic harms.

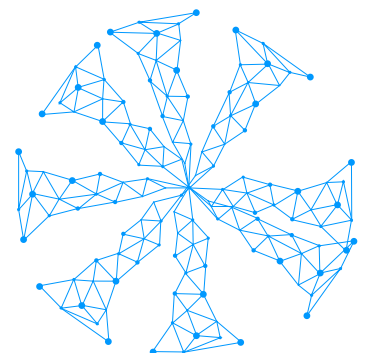
2. Strengthen AI Literacy and Public Awareness

A recurring theme throughout the conference was the growing importance of AI literacy as a foundational civic competency. Future initiatives should support public education programmes that help individuals understand both the opportunities and risks associated with AI technologies.

This should include:

- AI literacy training for educators, journalists, public officials, and civil society;
- accessible educational resources for youth, older persons, and underserved communities;
- critical media and information literacy initiatives; and
- practical guidance on responsible and ethical AI use.

“A recurring theme throughout the conference was the growing importance of AI literacy as a foundational civic competency”



RECOMMENDATIONS & WAY FORWARD

3. Promote Multilingualism and Cultural Inclusion in AI Systems

The conference highlighted the risk that AI systems may reinforce cultural and linguistic exclusion if dominant languages and perspectives continue to shape AI development disproportionately. Future work should therefore prioritise multilingual AI systems, Indigenous knowledge preservation, and culturally grounded AI innovation.

Recommended areas for collaboration and research include:

- AI tools for Indigenous and underrepresented languages;
- community-generated language datasets;
- culturally inclusive datasets and training models; and
- the role of AI in preserving cultural heritage and linguistic diversity.

4. Expand Accessibility-Focused AI Innovation

The practical applications showcased during the conference demonstrated AI's significant potential to improve communication and accessibility for persons with disabilities, ageing populations, and marginalized communities. Future activities should support interdisciplinary collaboration between researchers, developers, disability advocates, educators, and policymakers.

Priority areas include:

- sign-language processing and translation;
- voice-based and low-literacy interfaces;
- assistive technologies for visually impaired users;
- AI applications in speech therapy and education; and
- inclusive public-service delivery systems.

Future research should assess the long-term social impact, affordability, usability, and ethical implications of these technologies.

5. Foster Open, Trustworthy, and Public-Interest Information Ecosystems

Ensuring information integrity emerged as one of the most urgent challenges discussed at AI4IA 2025. Future initiatives should support open data ecosystems, transparent AI systems, and collaborative approaches to combating misinformation and digital manipulation.

This includes:

- promoting open and accessible public-interest datasets;
- strengthening fact-checking and verification systems;
- developing transparency and accountability standards for AI platforms; and
- supporting interdisciplinary research on AI, democracy, trust, and public discourse.

RECOMMENDATIONS & WAY FORWARD

6. Support Youth Participation and Capacity Building

The conference demonstrated the importance of empowering youth not only as users of AI, but as creators, innovators, and ethical leaders shaping future technological ecosystems. Future programmes should expand opportunities for youth participation in AI governance, research, innovation, and entrepreneurship.

Potential actions include:

- youth-led AI innovation programmes;
- regional mentorship and leadership networks;
- AI ethics and coding initiatives in schools and universities; and
- platforms for youth participation in global AI policy discussions.

7. Strengthen Global and Regional Collaboration

Finally, the success of the regional satellite events demonstrated the value of multi-stakeholder and cross-regional collaboration. Future AI4IA initiatives should continue to strengthen partnerships between academia, governments, civil society, the private sector, UNESCO networks, and local communities.

A coordinated global research and collaboration agenda could support:

- comparative regional AI studies;
- shared ethical and governance frameworks;
- collaborative policy development;
- inclusive knowledge-sharing platforms; and
- long-term monitoring of AI's impact on information accessibility and human development.



CONCLUSION

AI4IA 2025 reaffirmed that universal access to information in the age of AI is not solely a technological challenge, but a social, ethical, cultural, and governance imperative. The way forward requires sustained collaboration, inclusive innovation, and a shared commitment to ensuring that artificial intelligence advances human dignity, equity, participation, and human flourishing for all.



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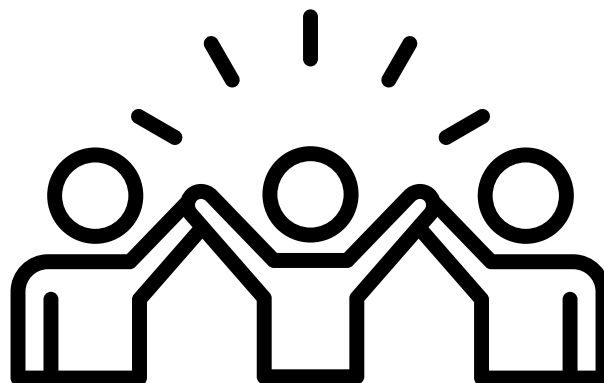
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