PS 2.3

OUR TECH FUTURE AND IMPLICATIONS FOR SOCIETY: PROMISE OR PERIL?

| BACKGROUND

Considerable controversy surrounds the broad societal questions about Artificial Intelligence (AI), even though personal and commercial applications are already reshaping many aspects of life at home and in the workplace. The unaddressed issues linking emerging technologies with national and global outcomes are profound and the stakes could not be higher. Even the nature of truth, the most fundamental elements of democracy, and the drivers of socioeconomic inequality are exposed to poorly considered, extremely powerful, and completely unregulated realities that are already here. In positive terms, AI and other technologies have the potential to automate many tasks, analyze data in volumes that would be impossible otherwise, measure nearly everything, and enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of things as yet unimagined by humans.

| OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this session include identifying some of the major ways that technology is reshaping our future and discussing the possibilities for embracing the positive aspects, limiting threat, and adjudicating the lines between the two. The session will feature speakers who will draw attention to specific opportunities and problems that inform their engagement with the societal implications of emerging and future technologies.

Panelist

Anasuya Sengupta

Co-Director and co-founder

Whose Knowledge?
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Anasuya Sengupta is Co-Director and co-founder of Whose Knowledge?, a global multilingual campaign to centre the knowledges of marginalised communities (the minoritised majority of the world) online. She has led initiatives across the global South, and internationally for over 25 years, to collectively create feminist presents and futures of love, justice, and liberation. She is committed to unpacking issues of power, privilege, and access, including her own as an anti-caste savarna woman. She is a co-founder and advisor to Numun Fund (the first feminist tech fund for and from the Global South), advisor to the Flickr Foundation, the former Chief Grantmaking Officer at the Wikimedia Foundation, and the former Regional Program Director at the Global Fund for Women. Anasuya is a 2017 Shuttleworth Foundation Fellow, and received a 2018 Internet and Society award from the Oxford Internet Institute. She is on the Scholars' Council for UCLA's Center for Critical Internet Inquiry, and the advisory committee for MIT's Center for Research on Equitable and Open Scholarship (CREOS). Anasuya has an honorary doctorate from the University of London, and holds an MPhil in Development Studies from the University of Oxford, where she studied as a Rhodes Scholar. She also has a BA in Economics (Honours) from Delhi University. When not rabble-rousing online, Anasuya makes and breaks pots and poems, takes long walks by the water and in the forest, and contorts herself into yoga poses.