PMAC PRINCE MAHIDOL AWARD CONFERENCE 2024

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

Swapneel Mehta

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I am a postdoctoral associate at Boston University, staff at MIT, and run a nonprofit advancing digital trust, called SimPPL. I co-founded a startup incubated at MIT and UNICEF, focused on digital health literacy in India. I have been an Atlantic Dialogues Emerging Leader, Google Research Innovator, and a Belfer Fellow, conducting research into platform governance and deploying real-world interventions to limit the effects of online misinformation. Since 2017, I have trained students from the global majority to equip them to lead the Google and Mozilla award-winning projects I am now engaged in, with 20+ nonprofits and local newsrooms in India, Bangladesh, Mongolia, the US, UK, and Germany. I have worked at Twitter, Slack, Adobe, Oxford, Fortune 50 companies, startups, and CERN in various machine learning and data science roles.