

AI on a Social Mission Conference



Gender Equality in Digital Economies and the Environment

*The workshop takes place over a full day on **November 16, 2022 online between 9 a.m. EST and 13 p.m. EST**. It will be co-chaired by [Valentine Goddard](#), [AI Impact Alliance](#), and [Eleonore Fournier-Tombs](#), [United Nations University Institute in Macau](#). It takes place within the context of the [5th anniversary of the AI on a Social Mission Conference](#). We are grateful to our community partners [Fiana Arbab](#) who is acting in her personal capacity, and [Ali Dunn](#), founder and executive director of the [Data Feminist Network](#).*

The surge of digitisation and AI development of the last decade has accelerated during the COVID-19 pandemic. In parallel, the global community has felt the effects of climate change and environmental degradation, from increases in extreme flooding and heat waves to threats to land and marine species survival. While environmental changes have important socioeconomic effects on women, so does AI. This workshop will therefore explore gender perspectives on the use of AI systems in natural resource and climate management. Our experts have either intersectional and applied approaches, strategies and policies that accelerate the achievement of SDG 5, and/or research gender equality and its intersection with AI systems and natural resource management sectors (maritime, forestry, mining, etc.) and environmental security (climate change, food security). This Round Table aims to be a kick-off for a Working Group that will produce guidelines for the inclusion of a gender-sensitive module in national and international AI policy globally with regards to digital economy and climate security.

The Working Group reflects a diversity of subject-matter backgrounds and perspectives, such as, but not limited to, economics, law, political science, computer science, environmental management, human security and gender studies. For the purpose of our call for proposals and direct invitations to experts on critical issues, research includes action-research, art-based research as well as civil society organization (CSO) led research adopting intersectional, gender-focused, Indigenous, and, or, regional perspectives for Sustainable Digital Economies.

We will facilitate in-depth discussions on: the gendered dynamics and implications for the future of peace and human security (including climate science, food security, marine transport, reconciliation, etc); the operational and national security risks to the underrepresentation of women in AI, especially when it comes to natural resource management; applications of AI and Data governance (policies, standards, norms) that are designed to improve gender equality in sectors such as agriculture, energy, security, climate, migration; the macroeconomic impacts of emerging digital economy policies, digital economy global partnerships, of AI itself and, or of AI regulations; the macrocriticalities that must be included in impact assessments of AI systems to

mitigate bias; impact assessment models that can be used to address data asymmetries, and, or post-deployment bias assessment models.

The founding members of the Working Group are:

1. Valentine Goddard (co-chair)
2. Eleonore Fournier-Tombs (co-chair)
3. Fiana Arbab (community partner)
4. Ali Dunn (community partner)
5. Daniela Chimisso dos Santos (invited expert)
6. Sarah Moritz (invited expert)
7. Kimani Goddard (invited expert)
8. Blair Attard-Frost (accepted proposal)
9. Mercy Atieno Odongo (accepted proposal)
10. Millicent Ochieng' (accepted proposal)
11. Jane Ezirigwe (accepted proposal)

Round Table Schedule

Time	Description	Participants	Comments
9:00-9:15	Opening	Valentine, Eleonore	
9:15-10:15	Self-intro and short talk	WG members	3-5 minutes each
10:15-10:35	Question #1	WG members (one self-nominated note-taker)	Facilitated discussion* (see Questions below)
10:35-10:55	Question #2	WG members (one self-nominated note-taker)	Facilitated discussion
10:55-11:05	Break		
11:05-11:25	Question #3	WG members (one self-nominated note-taker)	Facilitated Discussion
11:25-12:00	Facilitated summarisation	WG members	Regroup for public policy orientations
12:00-1:00	Summary of WG discussion	WG note takers to respondents and public	Respondents prepare 1 question or policy oriented suggestion. Open to public Q&A

Some suggested questions for WG experts:

Question 1.

What are some of the most important opportunities for women, queer, trans, LGBTQ2S individuals, in AI and Data Science for natural resources and climate change management?

Worded differently, what are some of the opportunities or risks of digitization in natural resource management sectors (fisheries, mining, climate) for society, the environment, or security. What should policy makers in government do to grasp the opportunities and avoid the risks? How does this pan out with respect to UNDRIP and Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples?

Question 2.

What are the systemic solutions to address the negative impacts of a gendered digital gap rapidly and effectively?

Question 3.

Climate security and geopolitical stability require international collaboration. How do we align key factors that can contribute to collaboration in a context of conflict and climate crisis? Discussion can range from micro to macro solutions-policies such as AI impact assessment models (or critical elements of), mission-oriented AI and Data partnership collaborations, regulations, funding and investment models, alternative multilateral science and technology diplomacy models, and more.

Technical details

The Round Table will be held online and will be recorded. If and how the recording might be shared will be discussed with the WG. The Zoom link will be sent 24 hours before the event. Please check your email and junk mail. This document is public and can be shared.



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