

## AI & Society International Symposium 2026

*Applied AI for Societal Impact in the Global South  
Celebrating Four Decades of the AI & Society Journal  
AI Akhawayn University Ifrane, Morocco*

### AGENDA

		<b>12 July 2026 ACC</b>
18:00	20:00	<b>Welcome and Early Registration</b> AI Akhawayn University Conference Center
		<b>13 July 2026 Al Akhawayn University (Main Campus)</b>
8:00	8:30	<b>Arrival and Registration</b> (Auditorium Building 7)
8:30	9:30	<b>Welcome &amp; Honorary Speeches</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dr. Amine Bensaid, President AI Akhawayn University Ifrane, Morocco</li> <li>Dr Karim Moustaghfir AVP for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Innovation, AI Akhawayn University, Morocco</li> <li><i>Prof Karamjit Gill, Chief Editor AI &amp; Society Journal, United Kingdon</i></li> <li>Dr Houda Chakiri, Symposium Chair, AI Akhawayn University Ifrane, Morocco</li> </ul>
9:30	11:00	<b>Session 1: Human Values, Rights and Trust in the Age of AI</b> <i>Session Chair: Dr Nasser Assem, Al Akhawayn University, Morocco</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Governance in the Digital Age. By Prof Karamjit Gill, Chief Editor AI &amp; Society Journal, United Kingdon.</i></li> <li>Digital humanism will come true? By Dr Alfredo Ronchi, OCCAM representative at UN ECOSOC, Italy.</li> </ul> <b>Moderated Discussion</b>
11:00	11:20	<b>Coffee Break &amp; Networking</b>
11:20	13:00	<b>Session 2: Governing AI for the Global South</b> <i>Session Chair: Dr Abderrahim Agnaou, Al Akhawayn University, Morocco</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Beyond the Brussels Effect: South Korea's AI Basic Act as a Governance model for societal impact in the global South. By Dr Dora Papadopoulou, European Law &amp; Governance School, Greece.</i></li> <li><i>AI in Public Services of Developing Countries: The Digitalisation–AI Readiness Paradox and the Expert-Validated PRIMA Model, Dr Hajar Hadi, Digital Innovation Lab (WIA Labs), Al Akhawayn University, Ifrane, Morocco</i></li> <li><i>Between Empowerment and Opacity: AI, Open Innovation, and the Governance Challenge in Open Government. By Dr Wiame Bakkali, Ecole des Science de L'information, Morocco.</i></li> <li><i>A fresh Global South Look at the Ethics of AI: broadening AI ethical governance beyond Western parochial schools of thought. By Dr Marc Idelson, HEC Paris, France.</i></li> </ul> <b>Moderated Discussion</b>
13:00	14:00	<b>Lunch Break</b> (Al Akhawayn University)
14:00	16:00	<b>Session 3 AI, Knowledge and the Future of Human Understanding</b> <i>Session Chair: Dr Asmae Bentaleb, Université Ibn Tofail, Morocco.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Why looking into the past is not looking into the future: Critiquing 'Dataism'. By Dr Rajakishore Nath, Indian Institute of Technology IIT Bombay, India.</i></li> <li><i>The Unreasonable Effectiveness of Next-Token Predictions: LLMs and Epistemic Opacity. By Dr Sushruth Ravish, Indian Institute of Technology IIT Kunpur, India</i></li> <li><i>Common Good and Digital Rights,- The Biggest Fake in Modern History? By Dr Caterina Berbenni-Rehm, PROMIS@Service, EC Ethical Review member and EIC Business Coach for Transition and Accelerator, Italy.</i></li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>A human-centered AI system for equitable classroom participation in resource-limited environments. By Dr Adnane Abdelhak, Ibn Tofail University, Morocco</i></li> <li>• <i>Rethinking AI Liability in the Global South: Data Governance, Algorithmic Bias and Risk Based Regulation. Ms Zineb Kharaz, Université Ibn Toufail, Morocco.</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Moderated Discussion</b></p>
16:00	16:30	<b>Coffee Break &amp; Poster Session</b>
16:30	18:30	<p><b>Session 4 : AI for Human Development: Education, Healthcare and Well-being</b>  <i>Session Chair: Dr Hind Lamharhar, Ministry of Finance Morocco.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>From Digital Readiness to AI Governance: Examining Preconditions for Responsible AI Integration in Moroccan Teacher Professional Development Systems. By Dr Aziz Mimoudi, UM6P - University Mohammed VI Polytechnic, Morocco.</i></li> <li>• <i>Smart Learning, Smarter Skills: The AI Revolution in Education. By Dr Karroum Maha, Faculté des Sciences Juridiques, Économiques et Sociales, Fès Morocco.</i></li> <li>• <i>Societal Impact of Resource-Rich Language Models in Healthcare: Toward Lightweight, Culturally-Aware Architectures for Low-Resource Languages. By Dr Meriem Benhaddi, Faculté des Sciences et Techniques de Marrakech (FST Marrakech), Morocco.</i></li> <li>• <i>Copewell: A Multi-Agent Swarm Architecture for Equitable Mental Health Support. By Dr Seren Yenikent (Online), Women in AI Global.</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Moderated Discussion</b></p>
18:30	18:45	<b>Transport from Main Campus to ACC</b> <i>(Transportation pick up at Bus Shelter)</i>
20:00	22:00	<b>Gala Dinner</b> <i>Al Akhawayn University Conference Center</i>
22:00	22:30	<b>Transport from ACC to Main Campus</b> <i>Transportation pick up at ACC Gate)</i>

**14 July, 2026 ( Al Akhawayn University (Main Campus)**

8:00	8:30	<b>Arrival and Late Registration</b> (Event Room Building 2)
8:30	11:00	<p><b>Session 4: Sustainable, Frugal and Responsible AI for Societal Impact</b>  <i>Session Chair : Dr Sofia Ghacham, Women in AI Morocco Ambassador.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Succeeding in RAI Integration in the Finance and Economic Sector: Lessons from Common Failures. By Dr Hind Lamharhar, Ministry of Finance Morocco.</i></li> <li>• <i>AI for conservation-driven orchard management: Integrating probabilistic graphical models and robust optimization under climate uncertainty. By Dr Amine Amar, Al Akhawayn University, Morocco.</i></li> <li>• <i>The development of Frugal AI solutions: A Conceptual Framework for Resources limited contexts in Morocco, By Dr Asmae Bentaleb, Université Ibn Tofail, Morocco.</i></li> <li>• <i>Measuring Who AI Actually Serves: A Leaderboard Architecture for Continuously Observable Language Equity, By Dr Andrew Lizzio, CEO Palorma AI Pty Ltd, Australia.</i></li> <li>• <i>Navigating Divergent AI Ethics Standards: A Framework for Context-Sensitive Responsible AI Deployment by Multinational Corporations Across the Global South, By Dr Zain Moosa, Global Encounters, UAE.</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Moderated Discussion</b></p>
11:00	11:30	<b>Coffee Break &amp; Poster Session</b>
11:30	13:00	<p><b>Session 5: Digital Humanism and the Future of AI &amp; Society</b>  <i>Session Chair: Dean Lakchmi Goel, School of Business Administration, Al Akhawayn University, Ifrane, Morocco</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Ethics as practical as practical Knowledge : for Social Good. By Dr Satinder Gill Managing Editor AI &amp; Society Journal, UN.</i></li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Knowledge Commons, AI, and Digital Humanism: Towards Responsible Stewardship of Collective Intelligence.</i> By Dr Abderrahim Agnaou, Al Akhawayn University, Morocco.</li> <li>• <i>Can we measure a Person's Talent ? AI and Illusionary assessments.</i> By Dr Britta Nordin Forsberg, Mälardalen university, Sweden.</li> <li>• <i>Sociotechnical Imaginaries of Artificial Life,</i> By Dr Thomas Wilkens, Al Akhawayn University, Morocco.</li> </ul> <p><b>Roundtable discussion:</b> Defining priorities for AI &amp; Society research in the global majority.</p>			
13:00	14:30	<b>Lunch &amp; Campus Tour (Digital Innovation Lab Visit &amp; Student Research Poster Exhibition)</b>			
14:30	15:30	<p><b>Session 6: Future-Oriented Dialogue: Building the Global Majority AI Research &amp; Policy Agenda</b> Workshop Hosted and co-organized by EngageAI.org Future-Oriented Dialogue and Agenda Setting Session Chair: Dr Emad Tinawi, CEO EngageAI.org The workshop has three objectives, ordered by priority:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To produce a Priority Research and Policy Agenda, the workshop's central output, identifying the most urgent research questions and policy priorities for the Global Majority in claiming its AI future across three thematic clusters</li> <li>• To propose one concrete initiative that participants commit to advancing beyond the workshop (to be determined through discussion)</li> <li>• To explore, as a potential longer-term mechanism, the case for an international research consortium on AI &amp; Society in the Global Majority, without formally launching it at this stage</li> </ul>			
15:30	16:00	<b>Coffee Break</b>			
16:00	17:00	<p><b>Work Group 1</b> <i>AI Governance, Ethics &amp; Public Policy</i></p>	<p><b>Work Group 2</b> <i>AI for Sustainable Development &amp; Public Services</i></p>	<p><b>Work Group 4</b> <i>AI, Education, Health &amp; Human Development</i></p>	<p><b>Work Group 4</b> <i>AI for Inclusion, Equity &amp; Social Justice</i></p>
17:00	18:00	<p><b>Session 7: The Ifrane Declaration: Priorities for AI &amp; Society in the Global South</b> Setting the Agenda and Looking Ahead. Each group's spokesperson presents their top priorities in five minutes. The convener synthesizes across groups in real time, drafting the Priority Research and Policy Agenda on a shared screen. The final 30 minutes address the concrete initiative and the potential consortium mechanism.</p>			
20:00	22:30	<p><b>AI &amp; Society Board General Meeting</b> (Palais Des Cerisiers, Azrou TBC )</p>			
<b>15 July,2026 ( Social Event)</b>					
9:30	10:00	<p><b>Guided Visit to the imperial City of Fes (Optional )</b> <b>Fees apply (90 USD per person)</b> <b>Transport from Ifrane to Fes</b> <i>(Transportation pick up at ACC)</i></p>			

**Poster Session:**

- Evaluating AI-Generated Image Fidelity for Climate-Resilient Early Warning in Data-Scarce Regions, Rania Khaoudane.
- Toward Sustainable AI Infrastructure: Reinforcement Learning for Energy-Aware Data Center Scheduling and Climate-Conscious Computing, Hassan Hankir
- Machine Learning for Biomass Energy Optimization: Multi-Objective Blend Selection for Regional Sustainability in the Global South, Zaynab Idendel.
- From Soil to Harvest: A Low-Cost, Deployable Machine Learning Pipeline for Fertility Zoning and Crop Recommendation in Sub-Saharan Africa. Mouad Zemzoumi.
- Generative Artificial Intelligence, Teachers' Digital Maturity and Open-Source Adaptive Platforms in Moroccan Education: An Integrative Literature Review with Empirical Data. Abdelkarim Taam
- CiviGuide: A Human-Centered AI Chatbot for Improving Access to Civil Status Services in Morocco, Salma Adbessalam.
- Beyond Image-Based AI: A Human-Centered Biosensor and Digital Identity Approach to Personalized Skincare in the Global South, Lina Oudghiri.

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