

AI+COMM Symposium: Advancing AI for Social Good

Opening Remarks

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Distinguished guests, scholars, colleagues, and students,

If we look across the skyline of global innovation, we will see the AI race is reaching new heights. Brilliant minds everywhere are asking, “How fast can AI go?” But today, we are asking different questions, such as Where the future of AI is going, who is left behind, and crucially, who is in the driver’s seat.

Welcome to the AI + Comm Symposium: Advancing AI for Social Good.

For too long, AI has been framed as the exclusive domain of computer science. But let us be clear: AI is communication technology. It generates language and images. It persuades, informs, and frames our reality. Therefore, social scientists are not just observers or users of AI; we are an essential partner in AI development and its future.

While IT engineers build AI tools, we provide the social context. While they code the frameworks, we decipher the meaning. We are making sure that AI tools do not just process data but truly understand human conditions.

Understanding human conditions cannot be done in isolation. The challenges AI poses are borderless. Thus, our research efforts must be global. This is why we forge strong, collaborative efforts across continents. I am happy to welcome the scholars who have traveled from the United Kingdom, Germany, the Netherlands, and the United States to join our local experts in Hong Kong. By uniting our diverse academic traditions and cultural perspectives, we ensure that AI technologies reflect human values and produce real-world solutions.

One of the greatest challenges is the **AI Divide**. As AI accelerates, the gulf widens between the “AI-empowered” and the “AI-excluded.” Our philosophy of “**AI for Social Good**” is a commitment to close this gap. To achieve this, our work rests on three critical pillars:

First, we champion **AI Literacy**. We are training students who ensure that people remain the masters of AI, not the servants of the interface.

Second, AI must amplify, not replace, human imagination. **Creativity** is our greatest renewable resource, and AI should expand its possibilities.

Third, we safeguard **Truth and Equity**. We amplify diverse voices so that AI reflects truth, not the biases of the loudest, in the age of deepfakes and polarization. **Truth is virtue**.

Now, I call upon all of you to join us in this mission. From today’s symposium onwards, let us make AI a force that respects humans, empowers the marginalized, and most importantly, retains the warmth that makes all of us human.

Thank you!