



NETAJI SUBHAS OPEN UNIVERSITY
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SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
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Report of National Seminar on *AI, Society and Social Sciences: Emerging Challenges and Transforming Opportunities* organized by the NSOU Centre for Social Studies (NSOUCSS), School of Social Sciences, NSOU on 8/1/2024 at HQ, NSOU & Online

NSOU Centre for Social Studies (NSOUCSS), School of Social Sciences, NSOU organized a National-level seminar on *AI, Society and Social Sciences: Emerging Challenges and Transforming Opportunities*, on January 8, 2024 held at the Seminar Hall 1st floor, HQ, NSOU and Online on the zoom platform. The event aimed to explore the intricate relationship between artificial intelligence (AI) and its societal impacts on various domains of society, as well as exploring challenges and opportunities in the social sciences.

The seminar sought to provide a platform for academia, researchers, policymakers, and industry experts to deliberate on the emerging challenges and opportunities presented by the integration of AI within social sciences. The discussions revolved around the ethical, cultural, economic, and societal implications of AI adoption, aiming to foster a deeper understanding of its multifaceted effects.

The seminar was conducted in a blended format, combining an in-person event held at the HQ, NSOU premises with an online Zoom platform for remote participants. Esteemed scholars, experts, and delegates from diverse fields such as sociology, education, economics, technology, and other allied disciplines, totalling over **41 participants nationally and 15 selected paper presenters (online and offline)**, actively engaged in the seminar and took forward the academic discourse and societal debates involving the theme.

Welcome Address: The seminar commenced with a welcome address by **Professor Chandan Basu, Director of School of Social Sciences**, highlighting the importance of discussing the ethical and societal dimensions of AI integration within social sciences.

Registrar's Address: **Smt. Ananya Mitra, Registrar Additional Charge**, delivered the address highlighting on the relevance of AI not in only social sciences but much beyond, with the academic pertinence to explore this domain.

Keynote Address: **Professor Santanu Chaudhury, Director, IIT Jodhpur** delivered an illuminating keynote address highlighting the need for democratization of usage and applications of AI, with a caution regarding ethical considerations for AI and the role of social scientists in this regard.

Presidential Address: **Professor Indrajit Lahiri, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor NSOU** delivered the address with focus on the different facets of AI, with due importance to be given to the role of, and contribution by, social sciences in academia and society at large.



Technical Session: **Professor Pujan Kumar Sen , Professor of Public Administration, NSOU**, chaired the technical session of the day which had presentations of fifteen papers, by online and offline authors, along with a very lively discussion and Q&A session followed by a very concise summation and critical observations by the Chair.

The National Seminar on *AI, Society and Social Sciences: Emerging Challenges and Transforming Opportunities* was an enriching platform that brought together experts and stakeholders to deliberate on the challenges and opportunities arising from the integration of AI within social sciences. The event concluded with a consensus on the need for responsible AI development, interdisciplinary collaborations, and continued dialogue to navigate the evolving landscape of AI's impact on society.

The NSOU Centre for Social Studies extends its gratitude to all participants, speakers, authors, and collaborators for their valuable contributions, making the seminar a resounding success and takes encouragement from this success to carry forward greater academic and societal discourse in the realm of AI, public policy, society and social sciences.

Reported by Debajit Goswami, Assistant Professor of Public Administration, SoSS, NSOU and Organizing Secretary of the National Seminar.