



THE LONDON SCHOOL  
OF ECONOMICS AND  
POLITICAL SCIENCE ■



Berkeley Social Welfare

# AI and the Future of Social Welfare: Recent Developments and Future Prospects

## *Preliminary Agenda*

MAR1.08  
1<sup>st</sup> floor, Marshall Building  
London School of Economics

London, United Kingdom | 4-5 June, 2026

### **Thursday, 4 June**

#### **10:30-11:00 Welcome**

Timo Fleckenstein, London School of Economics (co-chair)  
Neil Gilbert, University of California, Berkeley (co-chair)  
Douglas Besharov, University of Maryland (co-chair)  
Sergei Zelenev, International Council on Social Welfare  
Kirk Foster, University of Texas-Arlington

#### **11:00-12:15 Using AI in Policy Systems**

*Moderator:* Berry Lalioti, professor, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens

#### **Varieties of Digital Ecosystems: Benchmarking AI-Driven Public Service Transformations**

Jacqueline O'Reilly, University of Sussex

**The Adoption of AI in Public Employment Services and Its Implications for Social Welfare Delivery**

Stewart Butler, Independent Researcher

**AI-Driven Personalized SMS Interventions for Social Welfare: A Unified Policy Framework Across Climate-Health, Domestic Violence, and Elderly Care**

Sandya Venugopal, Venugopal Eco Health Advisory Services

**Designing AI for Reduced Harm: Interdisciplinary Coordination in Modern Social Welfare Systems**

Loyal Bou Harfouch, Reason Foundation

**12:15-13:45: Lunch (on your own)**

**13:45-15:30: AI in Service Delivery**

*Moderator:* Antonio López Peláez, professor, UNED; and executive director, International Council of Social Welfare

**AI-Enabled Social Care in Cyprus: Digital Front Doors, Service Navigation, and the Next Step Toward Predictive, Accountable Provision in Child Protection**

Despina Cochliou, University of Nicosia

**Reducing Social Workers' Burnout Through AI-Supported Digital Interventions**

Tammie Ronen, Tel-Aviv University; and Yair Dangoor, Tel-Aviv University

**Supporting communication in paid live-in care settings: understanding factors for the routinization of an AI-supported translation and messenger app**

Birgit Trukeschitz, WU Vienna University of Economics and Business; and Ulrike Schneider, WU Vienna University of Economics and Business

**Between Organisational Change and Digitalisation: The Dual Transformation of the German Labour Administration**

Michaela Schulze, University of Applied Labour Studies

**Transforming Intermediate Microeconomics Education: Integrating Generative AI as a Pedagogical Tool for Teaching Intuitive and Quantitative Concepts**

Nandita Dasgupta, University of Maryland, Baltimore County

**AI as a Mediating Force: Advancing Pro-Social and Integrated Welfare Policies for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

Sergei Zelenev, International Council on Social Welfare

**15:30-15:55: Coffee Break**

**16:00-17:00: AI in Systematic Reviews**

*Moderator:* Douglas Besharov, professor, University of Maryland

**Paper Evaluating the Efficacy of Two Large Language Models in Literature Reviews**

Weilin Li, Child Trends

**Using Artificial Intelligence in Evidence Syntheses for International Development: Experiences from Three Systematic Reviews**

Thomas de Hoop, American Institutes for Research

**Mobilising Evidence Through Artificial Intelligence and User-Informed Synthesis**

James Thomas, University College London

**17:00-17:30: Close: AI as Policy Actor: Rethinking Expertise and Deliberation in Public Welfare**

*Moderator:* Stewart Butler, Independent Researcher

*Speakers:* Wade Horn, Deloitte; and Hariharan Murthy, Deloitte

**18:30: Dinner**

Coopers

49 Lincoln's Inn Fields

**Friday, 5 June**

**9:00-9:15 Welcome**

Timo Fleckenstein, London School of Economics

Antonio López Peláez, professor, UNED; and executive director, International Council of Social Welfare (discussing possible publication plans)

**9:15-10:30 AI in Qualitative Research**

*Moderator:* Elisabetta Mughini, research director, INDIRE

**Personalizing Prompts for Qualitative Coding: Aligning Large Language Models with Social Science Research Designs**

Zeqiang Wang, University of Surrey

**Too Big to Code? Limits and Possibilities of ChatGPT for Large-Scale Political Text Classification**

Jakub Sowula, University of Tübingen

**Integrating Large Language Models into Text-as-Data Research: Methods, Workflows, and Standards for Social Science**

Zachary Courser, Claremont McKenna College

**This Candidate is [MASK]: Prompt-based Sentiment Extraction and Reference Letters**

Fabian Slonimczyk, Higher School of Economics

**10:30-10:55 Coffee Break**

**11:00-12:30: AI in Education**

*Moderator:* Guido Merzoni, professor, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore - Milano

**Personalisation and Generative AI: Supporting Teachers in Developing Students' Potential**

Jessica Niewint-Gori, INDIRE; and Sara Mori, INDIRE

**Evaluating the Impact of AI in Education: Developing Informed Policy**

Sara Mori, INDIRE

**AI and the Evolution of Innovative School Systems**

Lydia Zampolini, INDIRE

**Contextualising School Staff Digital Competences. The Case Study from Text-Based to LLM-Personalised Scenarios**

Margherita Di Stasio, INDIRE

**AI as a Pedagogical Tool Looking for Critical Thinking in Social Work Education**

Antonio López Peláez, UNED; and Gloria Kirwan, RCSI

**12:30-14:00: Lunch (on your own)**

**14:00-15:30: Governance of AI Systems**

*Moderator:* Fernando Burgos, professor, Getulio Vargas Foundation

**Governing AI in Welfare Decision Systems: A Multi-Layer Ethical Framework for Bias Mitigation and Accountability**

Imen Ameer, Hult International Business School

**Who Governs AI for Social Welfare? Workforce Capacity, Institutional Design, and the Erosion of Democratic Oversight**

Deb Doing, University of California Berkeley

**Bridging the Gap: AI Governance for Equitable Adaptive Social Protection in the Face of Climate Shocks**

Stiene Praet, SPRI Global

**What the Data Inherited: Trans and Nonbinary Refugee Resettlement, Predictive Welfare AI, and the Long Life of Binary Data Infrastructure**

LJ Connolly, University of Central Florida

**Beyond Standardizing Language: How LLMs are Changing the Role of Social Workers**

Janne Petroons, KU Leuven

**15:30-15:55: Coffee Break**

**16:00-17:30 Ethical Considerations for AI in Social Welfare**

*Moderator:* Sagrario Segado, professor, UNED

**Exploring the Ethical, Legal and Societal Issues (ELSI) of Medical AI in South Korea**

Saebyoul Yun, University of Edinburgh

**How Artificial Intelligence is changing welfare provision: trends in the applications of decision-making algorithms in Dutch social security**

Erwin Gielens, TU Delft

**Algorithmic Fairness as Administrative Compliance**

Georgia van Toorn, University of New South Wales

**Will AI Increase Ambivalent Feelings and Experiences with Digital Welfare for Women in Vulnerable Contexts?**

Fernando Burgos, FGV EAESP

**The Generative Balanced Move to Humanistic Welfare in the AI-Era**

Kyungbae Chung, SES