



EAAMO

NEWSLETTER #1

SPRING SEMESTER 2024



Dear community,

This semester, we are excited to share some important updates and accomplishments within our organization. First and foremost, we've rebranded our identity from MD4SG to EAAMO, as well as refined our vision and mission. This new name reflects our expanded focus on methodologies that include algorithms, mechanisms, and optimization, which are fundamental to our mission.

We also continued the tradition of hosting colloquium talks as part of our monthly online series, highlighting innovative work aimed at improving access to opportunities for disadvantaged and marginalized groups. This semester, our colloquium speakers covered topics such as asylum seeking, optical character recognition for low-resource document collections, and large language models in African languages.

Our undergraduate outreach through Harvard ReCompute resulted in an EAAMO reading club and EAAMO Communications internships for undergraduates. We also highlight our inaugural faculty network panel discussion on "Developing and Managing Interdisciplinary Collaborators," as well as EAAMO Core Methods lecture series at the inaugural PIT-NE Summer School in Boston.

Looking ahead, we are thrilled to announce ACM EAAMO 24, which will be held in San Luis Potosi, Mexico—our first international conference outside of the US, October 29-31, 2024.

We extend our deepest gratitude to each of you for your dedication, participation, and support. Your contributions are the backbone of our community's success. Thank you for being a vital part of EAAMO.

Warm regards,
EAAMO Organizers

BRIDGING DIVIDES: OUR JOURNEY FROM MD4SG TO EAAMO

At last year's ACM Conference on Equity and Access in Algorithms, Mechanism, and Optimization ([EAAMO 2023](#)), we announced a significant transformation for our organization, formerly known as Mechanism Design for Social Good (MD4SG). Our new name, EAAMO, reflects the expanded range of methodologies we now encompass, including algorithms, mechanisms, and optimization, all of which are crucial to our work. This change marks a pivotal evolution in our mission and scope.

Under the new structure, EAAMO will consist of two key units: the [EAAMO Conference series](#) and [EAAMO Bridges](#). The conference will continue to serve as a premier venue for bridging research and practice, while EAAMO Bridges will focus on sustained, collaborative research efforts aimed at tackling issues of equity and access. Both units operate under the newly formed non-profit umbrella organization, EAAMO, led by our inaugural Executive Director, [Sera Linardi](#). However, EAAMO is more than just a synergy of the Conference series and Bridges; it also includes numerous activities, including faculty network events, outreach to emerging scholars, feedback sessions with federal agencies such as NIST, events at academic conferences (tutorials, workshop, and socials).

This transformation is more than a rebranding; it's a recommitment to our core values with a broader set of tools and goals. Our new name, EAAMO, reflects not just a diversification of techniques but also a sharpening of our mission to focus on improving equity and access to opportunities for marginalized communities. We have moved beyond the singular goal of working towards social good to include achieving equity and access within our objectives.

With Linardi's leadership, we aim to build a research community that places the perspectives and interests of marginalized groups at the foundation of algorithmic and resource allocation systems. We thank [Cornell Tech's Siegel PiTech Initiative](#) for funding the inaugural Executive Director position and making EAAMO transition to a non-profit possible.

Read more about our vision, goals and guiding principles in the next page.



ABOUT EAAMO

Founded in 2016 as Mechanism Design for Social Good (MD4SG), EAAMO has grown into a significant force within the academic and practitioner communities. EAAMO organizes interdisciplinary working groups, community events throughout the year, and since 2021, the annual ACM EAAMO conference. With over 3,000 members from 150 institutions across 50 countries, EAAMO is a truly global initiative. The organization is currently led by junior researchers from six continents, reflecting its diverse and inclusive ethos.

Our Mission: To build a research community that places the perspectives and interests of marginalized groups at the foundation of algorithmic and resource allocation systems.

Our Vision: A future where the preferences and objectives of historically marginalized groups and their barriers to access are properly accounted for in algorithms and resource allocation systems, resulting in technology that improves equity.

Our Goals:

- 1. Build Community:** To build a community with diverse perspectives around technical systems — interdisciplinary researchers, practitioners, and individuals with lived experiences — to identify and tackle under-resourced areas and inaccessibility.
- 2. Bridge Research and Practice:** To harness mathematical and computational tools towards improving equity and access in the real-world.
- 3. Prioritize Outreach:** To nurture inclusive spaces where historically marginalized communities are empowered to become partners in these conversations.
- 4. Innovate Infrastructure:** To identify systemic gaps between research and deployment of algorithmic policies such as the differences in incentives, funding model, and human capital; and explore creative ways to bridge the gap.

For more information please visit our [website](#).



ACM EAAMO '24



The fourth ACM Conference on Equity and Access in Algorithms, Mechanisms, and Optimization ([EAAMO '24](#)) will take place from **October 29-31, 2024, in San Luis Potosí, Mexico**. Our first international event aims to showcase research where algorithms, optimization, and mechanism design intersect with social sciences and humanities to enhance equity and access for historically disadvantaged and underserved communities.

EAAMO '24 covers a broad range of application areas, including civic participation, data economies, discrimination and bias, digital and economic inequalities, economic development, education, environment and climate, food security, healthcare, housing, infrastructure, labor markets, law and policy, low- and under-resourced computing, social and economic mobility, privacy, public service provision, recommender systems, social work, sustainable development, and transportation. This wide scope highlights the importance of diverse perspectives and interdisciplinary approaches in addressing these critical issues.

Additionally, EAAMO '24 will feature a doctoral consortium for students to network, present their work, and gain valuable insights from mentors in both academic and non-academic tracks. Advisors include Daniel Berger, Lead Scientist from AFL-CIO—the largest federation of unions in the United States—and Karoline Pershell, former Executive Director of the Association for Women in Mathematics. This event is an excellent opportunity for researchers and practitioners to collaborate and advance the mission of improving equity and access through computational research.



The background features a hand holding a magnifying glass over a document. On the document, there is a bar chart with several vertical bars of varying heights. The overall color palette is light and airy, with soft blues, greens, and yellows. The text is centered and rendered in a bold, dark blue font.

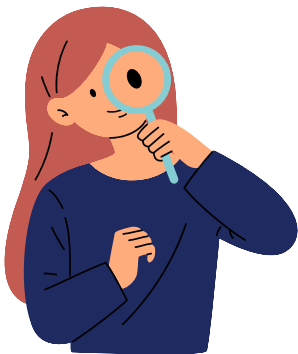
HIGHLIGHTS FROM THIS SEMESTER

DEVELOPING AND MANAGING INTERDISCIPLINARY COLLABORATORS

[Faidra Monahou](#), [Nikhil Garg](#), [Woojin Jung](#), [David Rea](#), and [Tom Hartvigsen](#) organized a panel on "Developing and Managing Interdisciplinary Collaborators" on May 22nd, featuring distinguished experts from both academia and the nonprofit sector.

Our panelists, [Joshua Blumenstock](#) from UC Berkeley School of Information and Public Policy, [Sean Hudson](#) from the nonprofit [412 Food Rescue](#), and [Phebe Vayanos](#) from the University of Southern California Industrial and Systems Engineering Department, provided invaluable insights into successful nonprofit-academia collaborations. The session was specifically designed for junior faculty members, who greatly benefited from the opportunity to connect with more experienced faculty, on the challenges and rewards of interdisciplinary work.

Topics include initiation of partnerships, building professional networks outside one's field and with non-profit organizations, selection of potential publication outlets and conferences. We are delighted with the positive feedback and look forward to organizing more events that support our members in their professional growth.



HARVARD RECOMPUTE AND EAAMO COLLABORATION

We are proud to share the outstanding work of Harvard ReCompute undergraduate students, who have collaborated with EAAMO this past semester. Their efforts focused on reading and highlighting critical questions from papers presented at previous ACM EAAMO conferences (mostly on papers presented in EAAMO '23), contributing valuable insights to the broader community.

In the first week, students explored the use of the [AI Incident Database \(AIID\)](#) to raise awareness of AI harms. Their engagement revealed a significant increase in their understanding of the magnitude of AI harms and the urgency of designing safer AI systems. They also provided actionable recommendations to improve the AIID, emphasizing the need to bridge the gap between technical skills and ethical considerations. During the second week, the students examined studies [addressing bias and fairness in AI systems](#), discussing [feedback loops in automated decision-making](#) and the experiential harms caused by machine learning errors influenced by stereotypes. Their reflections underscored the importance of a comprehensive approach to fairness and bias mitigation in AI. Finally, the students delved into papers on [public participation and transparency in AI](#), analyzing the role of public involvement in democratizing AI and preventing misuse. Their discussions highlighted the need for clear standards, adequate resources, and careful consideration of privacy issues.

Throughout the semester, the Harvard ReCompute undergraduate students demonstrated exceptional dedication and intellectual curiosity. Their work enhances both their own learning and the ongoing discourse on ethical AI practices. We are incredibly proud of their achievements and look forward to their continued impact in the field. However, this is not the only effort from the Harvard University students. We are glad to welcome Neereja Kumar and Alison Delgado as our Communications, Video Production, and Social Media Intern over the summer.

[Article](#)



COMMENTS ON NIST GCTC SMART CITY '24-26 STRATEGIC PLAN

As part of our ongoing effort to be active contributors in the community, we formed a small team to respond to NIST's request for comments on their [GCTC Smart City '24-26 Strategic Plan](#). A team consisting of [Sera Linardi](#), [Jessica Finocchiaro](#), [Sarah Hladikova](#), and [Sandro Radovanović](#) met and consolidated their comments and forwarded them to NIST. It was a fun, efficient, and thoughtful experience, interspersing reading, discussing, and writing. We look forward to more opportunities to provide input to federal strategic plans!

We expressed our strong support for NIST's focus on innovation in smart cities, particularly for rural and Native American communities. We commend the emphasis on trust, integrity, diversity, and equity but caution against prioritizing innovation over interoperability and implementation, which could disrupt existing infrastructure and services. We highlighted the need for sustainable resource consumption, as well as the need for more inclusive foundations by incorporating diverse community insights to address social inequalities and privacy issues. Additionally, we propose refining the definitions and metrics of smart city initiatives to ensure they benefit all community members, especially the historically underserved.

Following up on our comments Sera Linardi had an in-person meeting with NIST in Gaithersburg, MD (read more about it [here](#)). They were thrilled with the thoughtfulness of our feedback and what our community stands for. As a result, they have invited a group from EAAMO to be part of a team to brainstorm the design for the new TIDE program.



AI AND THE EU DIGITAL MARKETS ACT: ADDRESSING THE RISKS OF BIGNESS IN GENERATIVE AI

EAAMO Working Groups are dedicated to promoting collaboration across various disciplines, a mission highlighted by the research of [Ayşe Gizem Yaşar](#) on 'Integration of Generative AI in the Digital Markets Act: Contestability and Fairness from a Cross-Disciplinary Perspective.' This research, conducted with colleagues [Andrew Chong](#), [Evan Dong](#), [Thomas Krendl Gilbert](#), [Sarah Hladikova](#), [Carlos Mougán](#), [Xudong Shen](#), [Shubham Singh](#), [Ana-Andreea Stoica](#), and [Savannah Thais](#), examines the impact of advanced AI technology within the [European Union's Digital Markets Act \(DMA\)](#). The DMA is designed to manage risks associated with large digital market platforms, focusing on areas not typically covered by standard antitrust and competition laws. Its aim is to lower entry barriers and ensure fair competition between dominant platform providers and smaller businesses.

The team's findings, published in an [LSE Legal Studies Working Paper](#), argue for the inclusion of generative AI in the DMA's scope. They suggest that some generative AI services have characteristics similar to those of major platform controllers and should be identified as 'core platform services' in the DMA. The paper outlines three primary ways in which generative AI might act as key influencers: through 1) their computing power, 2) their advantage as early market entrants, and 3) their control over data and integrated systems. The authors recommend a detailed evaluation of the DMA's rules for these influential players to ensure they are appropriately applied to generative AI services. They also propose potential changes to the DMA, aiming to promote a diverse, open, and fair market for generative AI services. Please read the paper to find valuable insights for policymakers considering specific rules for generative AI in the context of the Digital Markets Act.

[Article](#)



EAAMO AND PIT-NE COLLABORATION



EAAMO has partnered with Public Interest Technology – New England (PIT-NE) to advance higher education and workforce development in Public Interest Technology. This collaboration aims to create a robust framework to institutionalize PIT in regional higher education institutions. By providing expertise and training, PIT-NE seeks to equip a workforce capable of leveraging technology to address societal challenges effectively. Jessie Finnochiaro and Brian Brubach presented the EAAMO Core Methods for PIT lecture series, which includes technical techniques such as linear programming and welfare maximization, and conducted individual consulting meetings with each of the six teams.

The PIT-NE Summer Impact Fellowship program hosted around 20 students collaborating with local nonprofits on data science, machine learning, and software engineering projects. EAAMO members presented technical techniques, such as linear programming and welfare maximization, and conducted individual consulting meetings with each of the six teams. Projects included using machine learning to differentiate between data annotation errors and actual changes over a decade, developing a voting information app for City Councillor Brian Worrell, identifying racism in early 20th-century housing deeds, and analyzing biased language in Boston Globe articles.

At PIT-NE All Hands, the first half of the day featured updates on PIT-NE's activities. Currently hosted by BU through BU Spark!, the program received around 150 applicants and accepted a cohort of about 20 students. Discussions addressed the group's racial diversity and overall demographic representation and participants later broke into smaller groups focusing on faculty resources and experiential learning, particularly related to the summer institute.





WORKING GROUPS

ALGORITHMS, LAW, AND POLICY

The Algorithms, Law, and Policy working group led by [Joachim Baumann](#) and [Xudong Shen](#) hosted a series of biweekly meetings featuring notable speakers on a range of topics related to AI regulation and societal impact.

[Jonas Geiping](#) gave a talk on "The Difference between Safety and Security for Watermarking." He talked us into the distinctions between safety measures, which protect systems from unintentional harm, and security measures, which guard against intentional attacks, in the context of digital watermarking. Geiping's insights highlighted the challenges and necessary considerations for effectively safeguarding digital content.

[Angela Zhang](#) presented a talk titled "[The Promise and Perils of China's Regulation of Artificial Intelligence](#)." Angela explored China's AI regulations and the complex interplay of the government's roles as a policymaker, investor, supplier, customer, and regulator. The talk provided us with an analysis that underscored the business-friendly nature of China's regulatory approach and the potential risks of regulatory leniency, emphasizing the need for international dialogue on AI safety.

[Simon Chesterman](#) from the National University of Singapore discussed "[Why, When, and How to Regulate AI?](#)" Simon examined the ethical and legal intersections in AI regulation, stressing the importance of addressing the weaponization and victimization of AI. The talk provided a framework for understanding the necessity, timing, and practical implementation of AI regulations, particularly in the face of emerging technologies like large language models.



ALGORITHMS, LAW, AND POLICY

Sayash Kapoor presented his paper on "The Societal Impact of Open Foundation Models." Sayash focused on the benefits and risks associated with publicly released foundation models, emphasizing their potential for innovation and transparency, as well as the challenges in monitoring misuse. Kapoor introduced a risk assessment framework to better evaluate the marginal risks of these models, calling for more empirical research to substantiate their societal impact.

Jose M. Alvarez discussed "Counterfactual Situation Testing: Uncovering Discrimination under Fairness given the Difference." Jose introduced a causal machine learning framework designed to detect individual discrimination in classifier decisions through counterfactual reasoning. Jose's work highlighted the effectiveness of this approach in uncovering discrimination, demonstrating its potential to enhance fairness in AI systems. This paper was presented at EAAMO '23.

Overall, these meetings facilitated discussions on the complexities and implications of AI regulation, fostering a deeper understanding of how to navigate and address the ethical, legal, and societal challenges posed by advanced AI technologies.

We thank all the speakers and participants for their contributions, and we would like to express our gratitude to Joachim Baumann and Xudong Shen for organizing the Algorithms, Law, and Policy working group this semester and their overall contribution to EAAMO Bridges.



CONVERSATIONS WITH PRACTITIONERS

The Conversations with Practitioners Working Group held conversations with interesting practitioners who work in community advocacy, who generously shared their time and insights on their domain with our members. In addition, several of our Conversations with Practitioners Working Group members jointly worked on a position paper submitted to the EAAMO '24 conference.

Mayra Russo interviewed Ivana Feldfeber from DataGénero. Ivana is an Argentinian feminist activist, a One Young World ambassador, and the co-founder and executive director of DataGénero, the first gender data observatory in Latin America. As an educator, Ivana has spent her career working in the area of technological inclusion and literacy. Via the observatory, she aims to continue in this stride but with a bigger platform and in the company of a group of like-minded colleagues, to give visibility to social inequalities and to gather evidence that can start dialogues with governments and companies to lead the way for changes in public policy.

Sakina Hansen interviewed Dan Sutch, the co-founder and director of CAST, the Centre for Acceleration of Social Technology. Dan works with charities and third-sector organisations to use and adjust to digital technologies to address big social challenges. CAST's focus is determining how to implement digital design with the most social impact. Dan also discussed the technology skills gap in the third-sector and the challenges and risks that they face from emerging technologies such as algorithmic decision making and generative AI.

Conversations with practitioners also published a blog post highlighting Mackenzie Jorgensen's interview with Yolanda Booyzen from HURIDOCS, an NGO that helps human rights groups gather, organise and use information to create positive change in the world.

We would like to thank [Mackenzie Jorgensen](#), [Kristen Scott](#), and [Wendy Xu](#) for organizing the working group this semester.



INEQUALITY

The Inequality Working Group held conversations about how optimization, incentive design, and machine learning can mitigate or magnify social and economic inequality.

[Juba Ziani](#) presented his work, "[Wealth Dynamics Over Generations: Analysis and Interventions](#)." Juba introduced a model examining how wealth changes across generations, influenced by both talent and wealth, with talent uniformly distributed and wealth dependent on one's population.

[Chika Okafor](#) presented his work, "[Seeing through Colorblindness](#)." Chika examined the current civil rights landscape, highlighting how today's questions not only involve normative principles but also empirical evidence.

The Inequality WG also had a discussion on Joel Miller's paper on decentralized fair division, focusing on the mathematical and practical aspects of splitting goods among individuals with different preferences. The group contrasted centralized fair division, typically involving a single decision-making algorithm, with decentralized methods, which leverage local knowledge but introduce randomness and potential suboptimality. The group proposed a new fairness concept, endowment relative envy freeness, where those with lower endowments should not envy those with higher endowments.

[Logan Stapleton](#) led a discussion on the use of predictive modeling algorithms in the child welfare system, focusing on the Allegheny Family Screening Tool, which predicts child removal outcomes. Logan explained that while the algorithm is used to generate risk scores from case information, workers often override its decisions due to perceived racial biases and a focus on the uniqueness of each case. However, there is an organizational pressure for workers to follow the algorithm. The discussion highlighted the complexities of integrating algorithms into child welfare, emphasizing the challenges and disparities these tools may introduce.

We would like to thank [Samuel Taggart](#) for organizing the working group this semester.



EQUITY AND JUSTICE FOR INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES IN THE AMERICAS

This semester we kicked off a new EAAMO Bridges working group on Equity and Justice for Indigenous Communities in the Americas ([EJUCIAM](#)). The WG focuses on addressing the historical and systemic inequalities faced by Indigenous peoples across the region. This collaborative effort brings together researchers, members of indigenous communities, activists, and community leaders to formulate policies, strategies, and programs that promote fairness, access to resources, and the protection of rights for Indigenous communities amongst other topics. Through dialogue, research, and advocacy, this group endeavors to create a more equitable and just society, where the voices of Indigenous peoples are heard, respected, and integrated into the national fabric of countries in the Americas. The language of the WG is Spanish.

The WG is dedicated to empowering female students from indigenous communities in Mexico by supporting their research projects aimed at community improvement. Over the past two years, the program has assisted more than 20 female researchers from 11 indigenous communities. As we commence the call for participation for the third Summer of Science, we plan to integrate the new cohort into EJUCIAM activities over the summer, focusing on themes such as human rights, education, public health, cultural preservation, and environmental conservation.

Throughout the semester, our students have been actively engaged in various key activities. They were keynote panelists at the “Designing Generative AI for Rural Workers” session during the Northeastern University [AI in Action Summit](#), hosted by [Professor Saiph Savage](#). Additionally, the program featured several invited talks, including [Alicia Medea Herrerías Muñoz](#) from Instituto Municipal de las Mujeres de Xalapa discussing advances in women’s rights in Mexico, [Dra. Issis Juárez](#) from Universidad del Valle de Puebla (UVP) addressing trust among university youth during the COVID-19 pandemic, [Dra. Veronica Rivera](#) from Stanford University on perceptions of security and privacy in the Global South, and [Leticia Tituaña](#) sharing her experience founding Warmi STEM.



SELECTED READINGS AND VIDEOS



EAAMO COLLOQUIUM TALKS



SWAPNA REDDY

CO-FOUNDER AND CO-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE ASYLUM SEEKER ADVOCACY PROJECT (ASAP).

PARTICIPATORY DECISION-MAKING: HOW 600,000 ASYLUM SEEKERS WORK TOGETHER TO MAKE CHANGE

Swapna Reddy, co-founder and Co-Executive Director of the Asylum Seeker Advocacy Project (ASAP), leads an organization with over 600,000 asylum seeker members from more than 175 countries. ASAP aims to create a more humane asylum system in the U.S. Swapna has a strong background in artificial intelligence, empirical research, and law. She graduated magna cum laude from Harvard University with a degree in Computer Science and Mathematics, and later earned her law degree from Yale Law School. Her diverse experience includes conducting technical research and providing civil rights and immigration legal services.

ASAP, the largest membership organization of asylum seekers in history, utilized a participatory model where its vast member base sets collective priorities, pursues lawsuits, and leads advocacy campaigns. This approach has resulted in significant successes, such as securing work permits for hundreds of thousands of immigrants. Swapna discussed the opportunities, challenges, and lessons learned from engaging a large member base to drive meaningful change. Swapna provided concrete examples of how ASAP has effectively implemented participatory decision-making and collective action on a large scale.

[YouTube link](#)



EAAMO COLLOQUIUM TALKS



MELLISA DELL

ANDREW E. FURER PROFESSOR OF ECONOMICS AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY

EFFICIENT OCR FOR BUILDING A DIVERSE DIGITAL HISTORY

Professor Dell's research focuses on enhancing access to diverse documentary history through innovative optical character recognition (OCR) technology. Traditional OCR models, which simultaneously learn vision and language, are challenged by low-resource document collections due to their need for extensive labeled data and significant computing power. Dell's approach reimagines OCR as a character-level image retrieval problem, using a contrastively trained vision encoder. This method allows the model to learn the visual features of characters, making it more efficient and adaptable than existing models. The result is a more accurate OCR solution capable of handling a wider variety of historical documents, even those with limited resources.

This new approach to OCR has significant implications for making digital archives more inclusive and representative of diverse histories. By enabling more accurate digitization of historical documents that are otherwise difficult to process, this model facilitates better community engagement with digital archives. The technology empowers users to access a broader range of historical information, helping to democratize knowledge and preserve the richness of documentary history. Through these advancements, Dell's work aims to bridge gaps in historical records and ensure that a wider array of voices and stories are recognized and accessible.

[YouTube link](#)



EAAMO COLLOQUIUM TALKS



DAVID ADELANI

DEEPMIND ACADEMIC FELLOW/RESEARCH FELLOW AT UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

HOW GOOD ARE LARGE LANGUAGE MODELS ON AFRICAN LANGUAGES?

David Adelani's research highlights the challenges and performance disparities of LLMs when applied to African languages. Despite recent advancements in NLP, which have produced models with impressive performance on various tasks, there remains a significant gap in their effectiveness for African languages compared to high-resource languages like English. Dr. Adelani analyzed four popular LLMs—mT0, Aya, LLaMa 2, and GPT-4—across six tasks: topic classification, sentiment classification, machine translation, summarization, question answering, and named entity recognition, involving 60 African languages. The results showed that all LLMs performed worse on African languages, with GPT-4 showing average to good performance on classification tasks but lacking significantly in generative tasks.

The study revealed that mT0 outperformed other models, particularly in cross-lingual question answering, surpassing even fine-tuned models like mT5 and GPT-4. The Aya model demonstrated comparable results to mT0 in most tasks, except for topic classification, where it excelled. On the other hand, LLaMa 2 showed the poorest performance, likely due to its predominantly English and code-centric training data. These findings underscore the need for more focused efforts to improve LLM performance for African languages.

[YouTube link](#)



INTERVIEW WITH YOLANDA BOOYZEN



YOLANDA BOOYZEN
DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS AT HURIDOCS

Yolanda Booyzen shared insights into the organization's work supporting human rights groups through information and technology. HURIDOCS, founded in 1982, aims to bridge the gap between technology and human rights by providing tools like Uwazi, an open-source database application designed to help organizations manage and analyze large amounts of data. Uwazi enables users to organize and uncover patterns in their information, aiding in human rights documentation and advocacy efforts.

HURIDOCS partners with civil society groups and government-adjacent entities, assisting in documenting issues such as indigenous rights in Bolivia and transitional justice projects like the Syrian Oral History Archive. They help grassroots organizations transition from pen and paper to secure digital documentation methods and engage with academics on various human rights research projects. They address digital and physical security concerns for their partners and the lack of internet and electricity in certain regions, partnering with Horizontal to use the Tella app for field data collection.

Yolanda highlights the importance of connecting academic research with practical human rights work, particularly in leveraging AI to make human rights information more accessible and effective. HURIDOCS continuously refines its tools and seeks to align them with international evidentiary standards and practices, emphasizing the need for ongoing research and better communication between academia and the NGO world.

[Read the article](#)



INTERVIEW WITH DAN SUTCH



DAN SUTCH
CO-FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR OF CAST

Dan Sutch explains how CAST helps charities adapt to digital technologies. CAST supports various organizations, including trusts and foundations, by addressing their data needs and incorporating digital design into their processes. One initiative involves a network of 35 trusts exploring generative AI in their work. CAST also helps charities develop digital solutions, such as improving tools for asylum seekers in Manchester, and manages technological challenges to ensure charities can continue their work.

Dan highlights the skills gap within the charity sector. Charities often struggle with limited resources, directing funds to frontline services rather than investing in skills or innovation. CAST collaborates with digital agencies to bridge this gap, though integrating engineering practices with charity work can be difficult. The increasing demand for charity services in the UK, coupled with rapid technological advancements, has widened the gap between support and demand.

Charities also face the harmful consequences of technology. These challenges often require intervention from researchers and data scientists. Dan emphasizes the need for more collaboration between charities and researchers to ensure academic efforts are practical. CAST's survey on AI's impact on charities reveals concerns about governance and economic models, highlighting the need for specific research and knowledge sharing to support the charity sector's digital transformation.

[Read the article](#)





ORGANIZATION

WORKING GROUPS

The EAAMO Algorithms, Law, and Policy Working Group focuses on the complex relationship between algorithms and mechanisms on the one hand and law and policy on the other hand. Some of the topics the group will work on include, but are not limited to, free speech, content moderation, antitrust, the use of “black box” machine learning models, data-driven algorithms, and decision-support tools.

ALGORITHMS, LAW, AND POLICY

ORGANIZERS



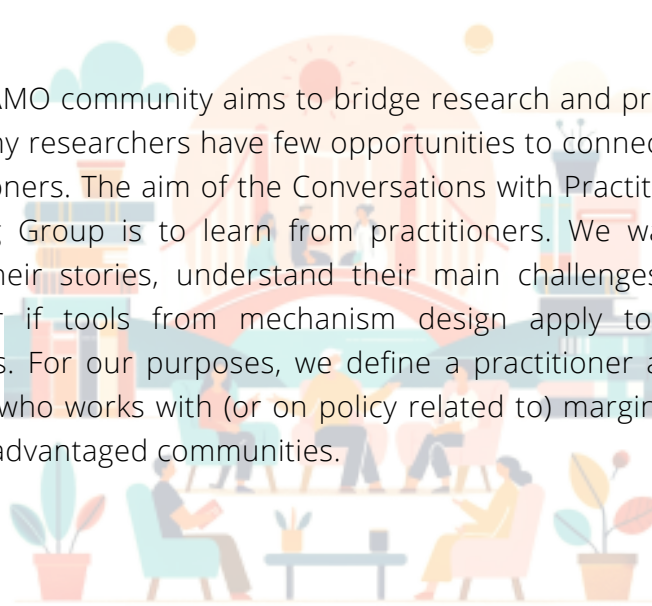
JOACHIM BAUMANN



XUDONG SHEN

CONVERSATIONS WITH PRACTITIONERS

The EAAMO community aims to bridge research and practice, but many researchers have few opportunities to connect with practitioners. The aim of the Conversations with Practitioners Working Group is to learn from practitioners. We want to know their stories, understand their main challenges, and discover if tools from mechanism design apply to their domains. For our purposes, we define a practitioner as any person who works with (or on policy related to) marginalized and disadvantaged communities.



ORGANIZERS



MACKENZIE JORGENSEN



KRISTEN SCOTT



WENDY XU



WORKING GROUPS

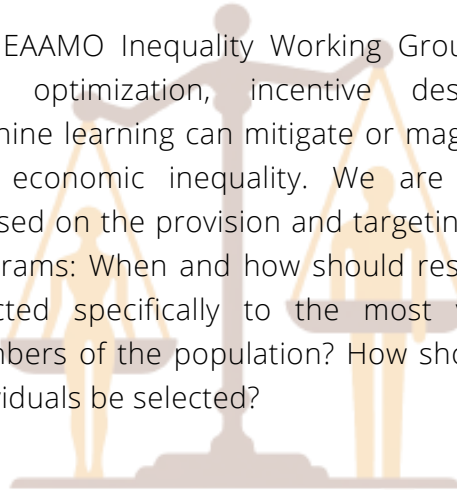
INEQUALITY

ORGANIZERS



SAMUEL
TAGGART

The EAAMO Inequality Working Group studies how optimization, incentive design, and machine learning can mitigate or magnify social and economic inequality. We are especially focused on the provision and targeting of social programs: When and how should resources be directed specifically to the most vulnerable members of the population? How should these individuals be selected?



EQUITY AND JUSTICE FOR INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES IN THE AMERICAS

ORGANIZERS



FLOR ÁNGEL
PÉREZ SÁNCHEZ



YÉSICA GÓMEZ
HERNÁNDEZ

The EAAMO Working Group on Equity and Justice for Indigenous Communities in the Americas focuses on addressing the historical and systemic inequalities faced by Indigenous peoples across the region. This collaborative effort brings together researchers, members of indigenous communities, activists, and community leaders to formulate policies, strategies, and programs that promote fairness, access to resources, and the protection of rights for Indigenous communities amongst other topics. By focusing on critical issues such as land rights, education, healthcare, and cultural preservation, the working group seeks to dismantle barriers and advocate for inclusive development that respects and integrates Indigenous knowledge and traditions. Through dialogue, research, and advocacy, this group endeavors to create a more equitable and just society, where the voices of Indigenous peoples are heard, respected, and integrated into the national fabric of countries in the Americas.



EAAMO WORKING GROUPS SURVEY

Thank you for your commitment to and engagement in our working groups. Your contributions are crucial to advancing our mission to help improve access to opportunity. To better meet your needs, we value your anonymous feedback on how we can improve and enhance the effectiveness of the groups.

We understand your unique perspectives and expectations, and we want EAAMO to accommodate them. Your feedback is valuable in creating a dynamic and inclusive environment.

We genuinely appreciate your input and will carefully consider each suggestion. Our goal is to maximize the value and impact of our working groups. Thank you for being a part of EAAMO's Spring 2024 semester, and we look forward to your feedback.

[Survey](#)



KATHLEEN CACHEL
WORKING GROUPS LEAD



SHUBHAM SINGH
WORKING GROUPS LEAD



ORGANIZERS



SERA LINARDI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



CHARLES CUI
DIRECTOR OF
WORKING GROUPS



FRANCISCO
MARMOLEJO COSSÍO
DIRECTOR OF PARTNERSHIPS



GEORGE OBAÍDO
CO-DIRECTOR OF
OPERATIONS



MATTHEW OLCKERS
CO-DIRECTOR OF
SPECIAL PROJECTS



SANDRO RADOVANOVIĆ
CO-DIRECTOR OF
OPERATIONS



ANA-ANDREEA STOICA
DIRECTOR OF
FINANCES



RHEA TIBREWALA
DIRECTOR OF
COMMUNICATIONS



LILY XU
CO-DIRECTOR OF
SPECIAL PROJECTS



INITIATIVE-WIDE LEADERS

FACULTY NETWORK



NIKHIL GARG



FAIDRA
MONACHOU



ERIC SODOMKA



YAREN BILGE
KAYA



CHINASA T.
OKOLO



DOCTORAL CONSORTIUM



JUBA ZIANI



INCORPORATION

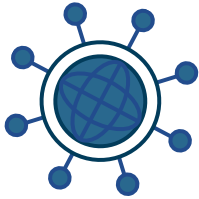


ALEX
DICHRISTOFANO



INITIATIVE-WIDE LEADERS

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



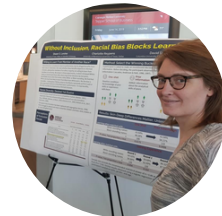
JESSICA FINOCCHIARO



SAKINA
HANSEN



CORINNA
HERTWECK



SARA C.
KINGSLEY



OFENTSE
RICE



ROOZBEH
YOUSEFZADEH



RENZHE
YU

SOCIAL MEDIA



Medium



MIR MASOOD
ALI



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