



EAAMO

NEWSLETTER #2

FALL SEMESTER 2024



EAAMO

Dear EAAMO members,

I hope the beginning of your year has gone on as well as possible. I can still clearly recall 2024 - particularly the amazing time dancing and singing with many of you in the streets of San Luis Potosi during our first international ACM EAAMO conference this last October. In fact when I think of 2024, many EAAMO firsts come to mind: our EJUCIAM-JPAL panel- that brought together our emerging indigenous scientists with policy researchers, our first non-academic doctoral consortium mentoring program, our first lecture series for the Public Interest Technology University Network summer program, Social Hackathon, EAAMO NYC Meetups, and many more! Throughout my travels last year talking to our students, researchers, and practitioners in many cities, what struck me was how much heart, courage, and commitment to rigor is present in every one of you and how grateful we are that you have chosen EAAMO as your research community.





Here in the United States, the first months of 2025 came with a series of executive orders from President Trump that have sent shockwaves through education. There are several that may affect us here. For example, the order titled Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit Based Opportunity called for the termination of programs related to “diversity,” “equity,” “equitable decision-making,” “equitable deployment of financial and technical assistance,” or “advancing equity,” among federal agencies and their contractors. As recipients of federal dollars, most institutions of higher education in the US can be classified as federal subcontractors. As US institutions are scrambling to understand what the executive order means for them, institutions outside of the US are also directly impacted by the uncertainty around the future of funding agencies such as USAID.

While the dust has not yet cleared, we are actively looking for information and ideas on how we can support all of you during this time. The events of the last few weeks reaffirm the necessity of not just our work in Equity and Access but also our rigorous methodology: Algorithms, Mechanism, and Optimization. We are unwavering in our commitment to bring in the perspective of historically marginalized groups into the foundation of algorithmic and resource allocation systems, which we believe advances the benefit for all. We are also aware that the traditional siloed approach to equity and access misses important perspectives, and therefore the holistic view that we champion here is crucial in building bridges across divides. That is exactly what we are here to do. Please share with us how you are, how formal policies and informal norms near you have affected you, and how you wish EAAMO can help.

Looking forward to hearing from you,

Sera Linardi

Executive Director

Equity and Access in Algorithms, Mechanism, and Optimization

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](#).



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THIS SEMESTER



ACM EAAMO '24



The fourth ACM conference on Equity and Access in Algorithms, Mechanisms, and Optimization (EAAMO '24) was held from October 29–31, 2024, at the Autonomous University of San Luis Potosí, Mexico, marking the first international edition of our conference. The conference showcased research and practical contributions addressing inequities and unsafe outcomes, emphasizing interdisciplinary approaches that integrate algorithms, optimization, and mechanism design with social sciences and humanities. This year's submissions included research papers, surveys, and practice-driven contributions aimed at improving access to opportunity for underserved communities.

EAAMO '24 attracted participants from 19 countries, with notable representation from the USA, Mexico, and Peru, alongside attendees from Europe, Africa, Asia, and Canada. Of the 203 participants, 151 attended in person, highlighting a strong preference for on-site engagement, while the virtual option ensured inclusivity for those unable to travel.



ACM EAAMO '24

This year's program featured 26 paper presentations, two compelling keynote talks—Alessandra Fogli (Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis) on Beliefs, Social Context, and Macro Outcomes and Irene Lo (Stanford University) on Mechanisms, Optimization, and Education Policy—and a range of engaging events, including the Bridges Session, Doctoral Consortium, JPAL Panel Discussion, and the Social Hackathon. Additional highlights included a focus on Indigenous Participation and a variety of Social Activities and Inclusion Events.

The conference showcased a poster session with 16 presentations, including 12 in-person and 4 virtual posters. A key highlight was the Summer of Science Program, which welcomed 29 female students from indigenous communities across Mexico and 7 students from the Amazon region of Peru. These participants presented research addressing local challenges in healthcare, education, and environmental conservation, underscoring EAAMO's commitment to inclusivity and supporting underrepresented voices in STEM.

This year's success was made possible by the contributions of numerous individuals and organizations. We extend special thanks to our General Chairs, Program Chairs, Area Chairs, and Executive Committee for their leadership, and to our sponsors, including ACM SIGecom, ACM SIGAI, and local partners such as COPOCYT and UASLP, whose generous support enabled over \$32,000 in travel grants and fee waivers. These efforts helped lower barriers to participation, particularly for attendees from underrepresented groups and the Global South. We are deeply grateful to all authors, speakers, reviewers, student volunteers, and attendees for their invaluable contributions to making EAAMO '24 a resounding success.



SAN LUÍS POTOSÍ, MEXICO 2024



REDNACECYT 2024 SUMMER OF SCIENCE PROGRAM

One of the standout diversity initiatives at EAAMO '24 was the REDNACECYT 2024 Summer of Science Program, which supported 29 female students from indigenous communities across Mexico. Over the summer, these students collaborated with mentors from the EAAMO community on research projects addressing critical challenges in their communities, such as environmental conservation, healthcare access, and education in indigenous languages. Their efforts culminated in impressive poster presentations at the conference, showcasing the unique perspectives and cultural heritage of participants from regions like Michoacán, Oaxaca, and Puebla, representing communities such as the Purépecha, Tének, and Náhuatl.



The program also featured contributions from indigenous students in the Amazon region of Peru, with seven participants presenting their projects.

This initiative, a collaboration between EAAMO and REDNACECYT, aims to empower female indigenous students in STEM fields by combining computational tools with insights from the social sciences and humanities. By fostering equitable opportunities and amplifying indigenous voices, the program reflects EAAMO's commitment to inclusivity and impactful change in STEM.



SOCIAL HACKATHON



The EAAMO '24 Social Hackathon focused on addressing breast cancer in Mexico, the most common cancer among women in the country, with rising incidence rates linked to environmental risks, healthcare gaps, and socioeconomic disparities. Participants worked on innovative solutions targeting early detection, equitable care, and evidence-based policymaking.

A total of 31 individuals expressed interest in participating in this initiative. After a month of intense collaboration, the winning team, Team Sana from Harvard University, developed a tool combining a mobile app and web dashboard to provide personalized breast cancer risk assessments and real-time environmental data, empowering both residents and policymakers.

Other standout projects included ALMA, a data-driven platform leveraging machine learning to categorize risk levels and identify hotspots for intervention, and a third-place solution from a team of Mexican students proposing an AI-powered diagnostic and surveillance system to enhance early detection and care accessibility. An honorable mention went to a budget optimization model addressing resource allocation for breast cancer mortality reduction (team from India). Each project demonstrated the potential of combining computational tools with public health strategies to address critical challenges in underserved communities.

The hackathon exemplifies EAAMO's unique strengths—bridging research and practice, fostering student innovation, and engaging policymakers and we hope to continue with this practice in years that follows. We would like to express our gratitude to institutions such as the Mobile Health Center and the Autonomous University of San Luis Potosí that supported the hackathon with knowledge, data, and energy.



EAAMO '24 JPAL PANEL



The JPAL Panel at EAAMO '24 brought together researchers, policymakers, and indigenous scientists to explore how evidence-based practices can shape public policies while amplifying underrepresented voices. Moderated by Dr. Salvador Ruíz Correa and Dra. Michelle González Amador, the session featured insights from Flor Ángel Pérez Sánchez, Leticia Tituaña, and Vianney Fernández of J-PAL Latin America, who emphasized the importance of fostering a culture of evidence use in policymaking through randomized trials.

Dra. Michelle González Amador highlighted the role of socioeconomic research in advancing equitable human capital investments, while Flor Ángel Pérez Sánchez and Leticia Tituaña from the EAAMO Working Group “Equity and Justice for Indigenous Communities of the Americas” shared how their community-driven approaches to research influence outcomes in education and environmental preservation.

The discussion underscored the importance of collaboration across disciplines, focusing on the intersections of development economics, algorithms for social good, and indigenous knowledge. The panel highlighted opportunities to integrate local perspectives into global research agendas, fostering innovation that is both inclusive and impactful. Closing remarks by Dr. Ruíz Correa emphasized the potential for continued synergies between academic research, indigenous communities, and public policy to drive sustainable development and equity.



EAAMO '24 DOCTORAL CONSORTIUM



The EAAMO '24 Doctoral Consortium brought together 28 students from around the world, including the United States, Canada, Germany, Ethiopia, and Nigeria, to connect with peers, present their research, and explore career paths. Open to PhD, master's, and undergraduate students, the consortium fostered an inclusive, interdisciplinary environment for participants from fields such as computer science, operations research, and economics. The program included dedicated skills sessions, one-on-one mentoring with faculty, and a hybrid format that allowed global participation, ensuring diverse perspectives and accessibility for students across disciplines and career stages.

A highlight of the consortium was an inspiring talk by Dr. Karoline Pershell, COO of SRT Robotics Lab and former Executive Director of the Association for Women in Mathematics. Dr. Pershell shared her journey through unconventional career paths, encouraging participants to challenge traditional notions of success and explore opportunities beyond academia. Her insights emphasized the value of diverse experiences across sectors, reinforcing the consortium's mission to broaden students' horizons and prepare them for impactful, multidisciplinary careers.



EAAMO SIGNS AN AGREEMENT WITH SAN LUIS POTOSÍ MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

We are thrilled to announce a significant milestone for EAAMO—a formal agreement with the San Luis Potosí Municipal Government! This marks the first-ever partnership between EAAMO and a local government, further solidifying our commitment to bridging research and practice to address societal challenges.

This Memorandum of Understanding underscores the collaborative spirit of EAAMO and paves the way for meaningful partnerships that lead to ACM EAAMO 2024. The conference, hosted in collaboration with the Universidad Autónoma de San Luis Potosí, is made possible through substantial support from the San Luis Potosí Institute of Scientific Research and Technology (IPICYT) and the Consejo Potosino de Ciencia y Tecnología (COPOCYT). We look forward to building on this partnership to foster innovative solutions that drive equitable access and inclusion.



A diverse group of three people are smiling and looking towards the camera in what appears to be a meeting or collaborative work environment. In the foreground, a Black man with a beard, wearing a light-colored zip-up sweater, is smiling broadly. Behind him, a woman with dark hair pulled back, wearing a dark green top, is also smiling. To the right, a woman with curly hair, wearing a white top, is smiling and looking towards the man in the foreground. They are gathered around a table with papers and a laptop. The background is a blurred office setting with bookshelves.

WORKING GROUPS

ENVIRONMENT

The Environment Working Group at EAAMO continues to explore innovative ways to address pressing environmental challenges by leveraging cutting-edge research and interdisciplinary approaches. This semester, the group featured three engaging talks showcasing a range of impactful work at the intersection of computational tools, environmental conservation, and sustainable practices.

Dr. Charlotte Chang from the Pomona College presented her research on using natural language processing (NLP) to enhance conservation awareness, demonstrating how technology can amplify efforts to protect biodiversity. Prof. Jon Proctor from the University of British Columbia shared his groundbreaking work on predicting climate vulnerability using satellite imagery. By combining remote sensing, climate data, and causal inference methods, his research offers valuable insights into the effects of environmental degradation and economic development. Prof. Can Zhang from Duke University closed the session with a fascinating presentation on sustainable sourcing in agriculture, examining the trade-offs between fixed and flexible premiums to promote environmentally responsible practices.

ORGANIZERS



IVÁN HIGUERA-MENDIETA



HANNAH MURRAY



ANUSHKA MURTHY



DECOLONIZATION OF STEM CURRICULUM

The Decolonization of STEM Curriculum Working Group has been focused on redefining the narratives and frameworks within STEM education to address historical inequities and empower marginalized and under-represented communities. The group explored critical themes such as justice, equity, and decolonized approaches to teaching STEM disciplines, emphasizing the importance of acknowledging and incorporating diverse perspectives into curricula.

Through discussions on mechanisms, algorithms, and optimization, the group explored how STEM curricula can empower minoritized voices while fostering equality and justice. Central to their efforts is the belief that embedding these principles into STEM education not only promotes fairness but also enhances innovation by drawing on the collective knowledge of diverse populations. By challenging the status quo, the working group is paving the way for a more equitable and inclusive future in STEM fields.

ORGANIZER



KENYA ANDREWS



URBAN DATA SCIENCE & EQUITABLE CITIES

The Urban Data Science and Equitable Cities working groups explored issues at the intersection of urban technology, equity, and policy through a series of discussions and presentations. Topics included defining urban data science and addressing biases in resident crowdsourcing data.

Zhi Liu and Sidhika Balachandar (both from Cornell University) presented innovative models to correct under-reporting in urban crowdsourcing systems, highlighting disparities in reporting rates based on resident demographics and proposing methods to ensure more equitable government services. Additionally, group members worked on collaborative research proposals using datasets like Strava Metro, focusing on urban mobility, housing, and equity-driven policies.

Other highlights included a presentation by AJ Alvero (Cornell University) on sociolinguistic perspectives in AI-generated texts, revealing how large language models replicate social dynamics and stylistic features linked to higher social status. Wonyoung So (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) introduced the concept of reparative urban science, challenging the neutrality of urban technology and advocating for methodologies that confront systemic racism and promote reparations through data-driven narratives.

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GABRIEL AGOSTINI



MATT FRANCHI



JENNAH GOSCIAK



INEQUALITY

The Inequality Working Group engaged in discussions on the role of algorithms, automation, and legal technology in perpetuating or addressing social inequities.

Joel Miller (Rutgers University) led a discussion on Jenna Burrell's "Automated Decisionmaking as Domination," exploring how algorithmic systems reinforce power imbalances and marginalize communities. Dasha Pruss presented her co-authored paper, "Evidence of What, for Whom?" on the contested role of algorithmic bias in predictive policing. Kevin De Liban and David Machledt from the Benefits Tech Advocacy Hub shared case studies from Arkansas, Missouri, and Tennessee, highlighting how legal technology affects access to public benefits and offering resources for fairer systems. Nel Escher (University of Michigan) contributed insights from her research, "Code-ifying the Law," on errors in translating laws into legal software, emphasizing the need for interdisciplinary approaches to ensure technology serves the public equitably.

The group also hosted a Summer Reading Group featuring Ana-Andreea Stoica on the relationship between allocation and inequality and Serafina Kamp on network formation in hiring and opportunity, offering insights into equity, efficiency, and social structures.

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SAMUEL TAGGART



SERAFINA KAMP



CONVERSATIONS WITH PRACTITIONERS

The Conversations with Practitioners Working Group held conversations with various 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 presented a position paper at 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.

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MACKENZIE JORGENSEN



KRISTEN SCOTT



EQUITY AND JUSTICE FOR INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES IN THE AMERICAS

Equity and Justice for Indigenous Communities in the Americas (EJUCIAM) 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 30 female researchers from 11 indigenous communities.

ORGANIZERS



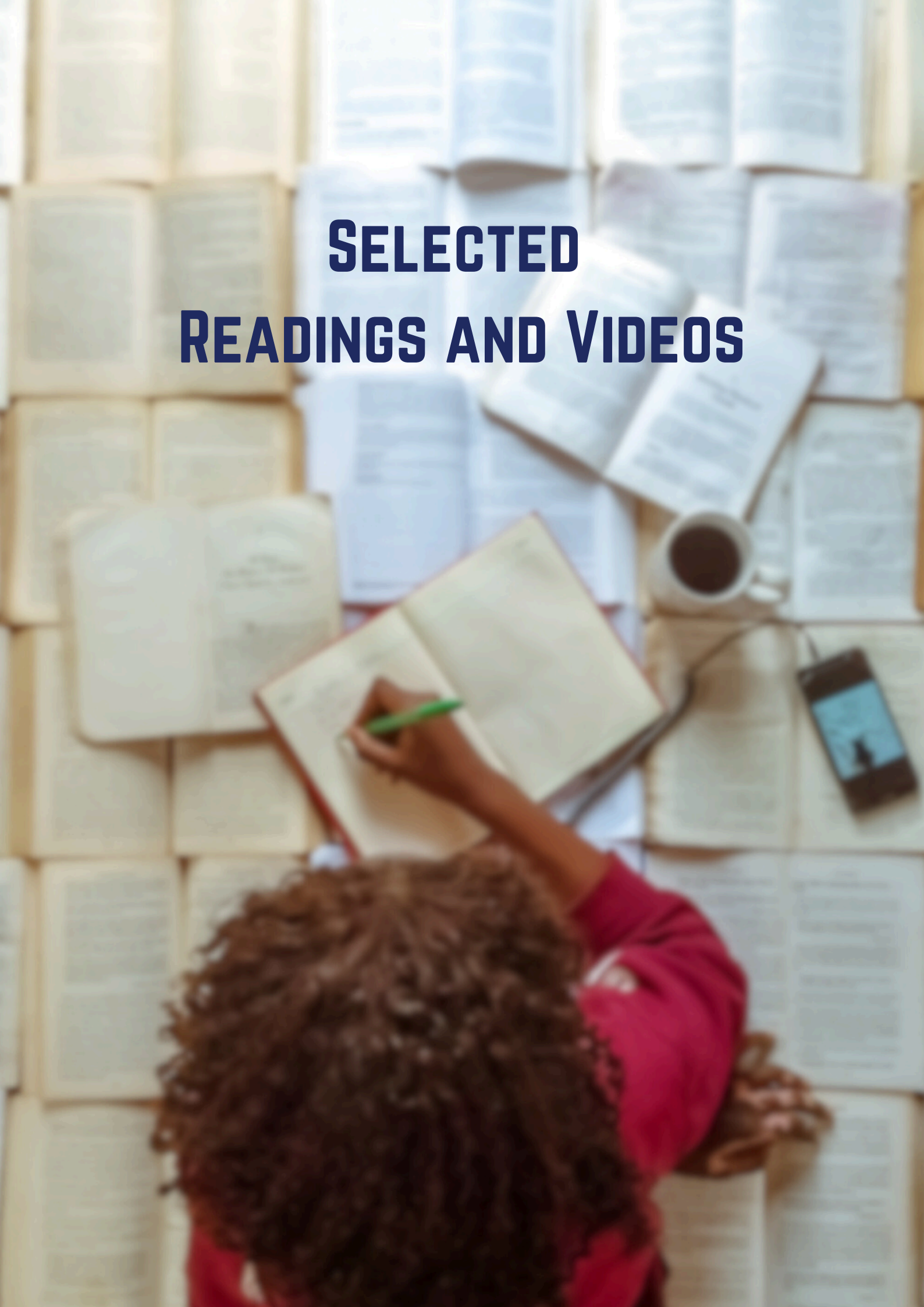
FLOR ÁNGEL
PÉREZ SÁNCHEZ



YÉSICA GÓMEZ
HERNÁNDEZ



SELECTED READINGS AND VIDEOS



EAAMO COLLOQUIUM TALKS



JACQUELINE CALDERÓN

AUTONOMOUS UNIVERSITY OF SAN LUIS POTOSÍ AND VISITING PROFESSOR AT BOSTON COLLEGE

PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL RISK FACTORS IN MEXICO

Dr Calderon explored new databases from Mexico on the link between environmental risk factors and breast cancer to examine how individuals, health specialists, business owners, and policymakers consider environmental risks in shaping public health policies. As stated in the colloquium talk, breast cancer is the most frequent neoplasm in Mexico, contributing to almost 17% of malignant neoplasia in women, with mortality rates increasing over the last 20 years. Dr Calderon argues that disparities in access to screening, diagnosis, and treatment are key determinants of breast cancer survival, while the lack of cancer registries limits understanding of the disease's behavior in younger women.

A recent study linked over 900 chemicals—found in food, air, water, and personal care products—to breast cancer, emphasizing the need for prevention strategies in a rapidly industrializing country like Mexico. The colloquium also outlined the outcomes of the Social Hackathon initiative, which addressed these challenges in the lead-up to the EAAMO 24 conference in San Luis de Potosí.

[YouTube link](#)



EAAMO COLLOQUIUM TALKS

PANEL DISCUSSION: LINKING ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS AND BREAST CANCER

Following the colloquium talk, a panel discussion brought together experts from diverse fields to delve deeper into the challenges and opportunities surrounding breast cancer in Mexico.

Dr. Jacqueline Calderón Hernández shared insights from her research in environmental toxicology, highlighting the impacts of contaminants like arsenic and lead on public health and their potential links to breast cancer. Her findings underscored the urgent need to address environmental exposures in urban-industrial regions, particularly in underserved communities. Dr. Daniel Acosta Díaz de León emphasized the structural disparities in healthcare access, sharing his efforts to improve medical services and infrastructure as part of the IMSS-Bienestar program in San Luis Potosí. Dr. Imelda Flores Vázquez brought a policy-oriented perspective, discussing how advanced analytics and health economics can inform more effective public health strategies to reduce disparities in breast cancer prevention and care. Rounding out the panel, Dr. Willy Tonatiuh Escalante Silva shared his clinical expertise, focusing on the intersection of environmental factors and women's health, and the importance of multidisciplinary approaches to addressing breast cancer.

The discussion highlighted the need for collaboration across research, policy, and clinical practice to translate data into actionable strategies for reducing BC mortality and improving health equity in Mexico.

[YouTube link](#)



PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL RISK FACTORS IN MEXICO – PANEL DISCUSSION SUMMARY

(MEDIUM ARTICLE)

EAAMO hosted an colloquium talk by Dr. Jacqueline Calderón Hernández, a distinguished researcher from the Autonomous University of San Luis Potosí and visiting professor at Boston College. Her presentation, titled "Public Health and Environmental Risk Factors in Mexico," delved into the links between environmental contaminants, such as arsenic and lead, and public health, with a particular focus on breast cancer. Highlighting the rising mortality rates of breast cancer in Mexico, Dr. Calderón emphasized the pressing need to address disparities in access to screening, diagnosis, and treatment, particularly in underserved communities.

The colloquium was followed by a dynamic panel discussion featuring experts from diverse fields. Dr. Daniel Acosta Díaz de León shared his experiences in healthcare management and highlighted efforts to improve medical infrastructure and access in San Luis Potosí. Dr. Imelda Flores Vázquez brought a health economics perspective, discussing how advanced analytics can inform public health policies. Dr. Willy Tonatíuh Escalante Silva offered his expertise on the impact of environmental factors on gynecological health and the importance of collaborative approaches in combating breast cancer. The discussion explored the socio-economic and environmental drivers behind rising breast cancer rates, emphasizing the need for culturally sensitive education, equitable healthcare policies, and greater public awareness.

We found the colloquium and panel discussion deeply insightful and highly relevant to the community, particularly as we worked to advance initiatives like the Social Hackathon on breast cancer. To ensure these critical insights reach a wider audience, we have summarized the key takeaways for the broader EAAMO community in this Medium article.

[Read the article](#)



EAAMO COLLOQUIUM TALKS



ALEJANDRA ECHEVERRI
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR AT UC BERKELEY

POLICY MIXES FOR BIODIVERSITY GOVERNANCE:
GOVERNING COLOMBIA'S BIOCULTURAL DIVERSITY AT THE
NEXUS OF SECTORAL POLICIES

Alejandra Echeverri focused the talk on Colombia's approach to biodiversity governance, examining six decades of policy evolution (1959–2018). During the talk, Alejandra analyzed the interplay of policy mixes, actor roles, and ecosystem management, showcasing how biodiversity has been integrated into sectoral policies, particularly at the intersection of climate change and poverty alleviation. Later, during the discussion Alejandra highlighted the challenges and successes of coordinating efforts across sectors and actors to address environmental and socio-economic challenges effectively.

Using Colombia's biocultural diversity as a case study, Alejandra demonstrated how synergies between nature-based and culture-based tourism can guide ecotourism policies that integrate biodiversity and cultural diversity. This approach emphasized the importance of incorporating cultural and biological variables into tourism planning to create sustainable biocultural destinations. Alejandra underscored how conservation and development goals can be balanced in megadiverse countries like Colombia, offering valuable insights for policymakers working on sustainable tourism and biodiversity conservation worldwide.

[YouTube link](#)



EAAMO COLLOQUIUM TALKS

PANEL DISCUSSION: BRIDGING BIODIVERSITY AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY: GOVERNANCE, CHALLENGES, AND OPPORTUNITIES

After the colloquium talk on biodiversity and cultural diversity governance in Colombia, we hosted a panel discussion with Alejandra Echeverri, Iván Higuera-Mendieta, and Hannah Murray to further explore the complexities of integrating biodiversity and cultural diversity into policymaking. The discussion highlighted the opportunities and challenges in aligning environmental conservation with socio-economic development in biodiversity-rich regions. Panelists tackled critical questions such as: How can cross-sectoral coordination be strengthened to ensure effective biodiversity governance? What role do local and indigenous communities play in crafting policies that balance conservation and development? And how can tourism planning incorporate cultural and biological variables to foster sustainable biocultural destinations?

The panel emphasized the potential of nature-based and culture-based tourism as powerful tools for conservation and local economic empowerment. However, panelists also raised concerns about inequities faced by marginalized communities in these regions, stressing the need for inclusive decision-making processes and equitable benefit-sharing mechanisms. Discussions highlighted the importance of mainstreaming biodiversity into sectoral policies, particularly at the intersection of climate change and poverty alleviation, to address systemic challenges and create coherent governance frameworks.

Panelists concluded by advocating for interdisciplinary approaches to governance that draw on insights from environmental science, economics, cultural studies, and public policy.

[YouTube link](#)



EAAMO COLLOQUIUM TALKS



CESAR HIDALGO

TOULOUSE SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS, DIRECTOR CENTER FOR COLLECTIVE LEARNING
FOUNDER OF DATAWHEEL

WHY DO PEOPLE JUDGE HUMANS DIFFERENTLY FROM MACHINES? THE ROLE OF AGENCY AND EXPERIENCE

Cesar Hidalgo answered the question why people judge artificial intelligence and humans differently, highlighting that individuals often apply a utilitarian moral philosophy to machines and a moral philosophy focused on perceived intentions to humans. Psychological theories suggest that these differences may stem from distinct models of mind perception for humans and machines. To test this, Cesar and his team of researchers conducted a randomized experiment manipulating people's perceptions of machines to determine whether more human-like machines would be judged similarly to humans.

The study revealed that when people perceived machines as having greater agency (e.g., the ability to plan or act), their judgments of machines became more aligned with their judgments of humans. However, perceiving machines as having more experience (e.g., the ability to feel) did not significantly impact their judgments. These findings suggest that differences in moral judgment arise from varying perceptions of agency, supporting the idea that mind perception models play a crucial role. This research adds to the growing body of evidence on how people evaluate machines versus humans and highlights the need for further exploration into the factors shaping these judgments.

[YouTube link](#)



INTERVIEW WITH IVANA FELDFEBER

(MEDIUM ARTICLE)



IVANA FELDFEBER
CO-FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS OF DATA GÉNERO

The Conversations with Practitioners working group had the privilege of interviewing Ivana Feldfeber, feminist activist and co-founder of Data Género, Latin America's first gender-data observatory. Ivana shared her journey of addressing the digital divide while teaching technology to underserved communities in Buenos Aires. Her work evolved into empowering women and marginalized groups through digital literacy, eventually leading to the creation of Data Género. The observatory, guided by feminist and trans-feminist values, focuses on improving gender data collection, engaging with governments, and driving public policies to address systemic inequalities in areas like healthcare, education, and economic access. Ivana emphasized the importance of measuring inequalities through data to challenge misinformation and advocate for impactful policies.

Ivana also discussed the challenges of working in male-dominated spaces, building alliances with stakeholders, and navigating limited government transparency. Data Género's projects, such as AymurAI—a tool recognized by UNESCO for its role in AI and justice—illustrate the observatory's commitment to leveraging technology for social impact. Ivana's message to young activists highlighted the need to create safe, supportive spaces and build movements for collective action. Her insights reinforced the importance of collaboration and resilience in driving systemic change.

[Read the article](#)



A blurred background image of three women smiling and interacting in a social setting. The woman in the center has curly hair and is wearing a striped top. The woman on the left has blonde hair and is wearing a colorful top. The woman on the right is wearing sunglasses and a light-colored top. The overall atmosphere is warm and social.

SOCIAL EVENTS & COMMUNITY BUILDING

EAAMO @INFORMS'24

EAAMO organized a vibrant social event at INFORMS '24, one of the premier conferences for operations research, management science, and analytics professionals. The event provided an opportunity for networking and fostering connections among researchers and practitioners passionate about equity and access in algorithms, mechanisms, and optimization. EAAMO members in attendance included Abraham D. Flaxman, Jerry Anunrojwong, Faidra Monachou, Jing Luo, Irene Lo, Mike Hamilton, Lily Xu, Sera Linardi, Andrew Perrault, Felipe Verastegui Grunewald, Devansh Jalota, Angela Zhou, Anushka Murthy, and Luke Guerdan, who engaged with the broader INFORMS community to share ideas and discuss collaborative opportunities. This gathering underscored EAAMO's commitment to building an inclusive network that bridges research and practice to address societal challenges.



EAAMO @ICML'24

EAAMO hosted an official social event organized by Ana-Andreea Stoica and Sandro Radovanović. The event began with introductory remarks, followed by Celestine Mender-Dünner's presentation on Algorithmic Collective Actions and Luke Guerdan's talk on Counterfactual Prediction under Outcome Measurement Error, which earned the Best Paper Award at FAcCT 2023. The program concluded with interactive discussion tables on key topics: ML Tools for Algorithmic Fairness, Strategic Behavior and Feedback Loops, and LLMs/Generative AI for Social Impact. EAAMO members Paula Rodriguez Diaz, Kate Donahue, Audrey Chang, alongside the organizers and speakers, contributed significantly to the event's success by fostering discussions and networking discussions.



EAAMO NYC MEETUPS

The EAAMO NYC series of meetups, organized by Sera Linardi (Executive Director of EAAMO), Augustin Chaintreau, and Gabriel Agostini, took place on November 7, 2024, and December 12, 2024. These gatherings brought together researchers, practitioners, and advocates to explore interdisciplinary topics at the intersection of equity, access, and computational tools. Featured participants included Matt Franchi, Ian Solano-Kamaiko, and Nikhil Garg, who contributed to vibrant discussions on innovative approaches to tackling societal challenges. The meetups created a collaborative space for exchanging ideas and building partnerships, further strengthening the local EAAMO community in New York City.



HACKHARVARD TALK

Our Executive Director, Sera Linardi, delivered an inspiring talk at HackHarvard titled "Not Knowing as a Doorway." Sera challenged the audience to rethink the intersection of technology and equity by examining the limitations of existing frameworks and emphasizing the need for inclusive innovation. She highlighted how creating spaces that welcome diverse perspectives and unconventional ideas can lead to transformative solutions for marginalized communities. Sera also underscored the importance of long-term engagement, reminding us that sustainable change requires ongoing collaboration with the communities we aim to serve.

Not Knowing as a Doorway

Sera Linardi
Sat 9am ET, 10/12/2024



A top-down view of a stack of books. The pages are visible, and several colorful sticky notes (yellow, orange, green, pink) are placed on the pages. The word "ORGANIZATION" is printed in bold, dark blue capital letters in the center of the image.

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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



DEVELOPMENT



ERIC SODOMKA



YAREN BILGE
KAYA



CHINASA T.
OKOLO



DOCTORAL CONSORTIUM



JUBA ZIANI

INCORPORATION



ALEX
DICHRISTOFANO

COLLOQUIUM ORGANIZER

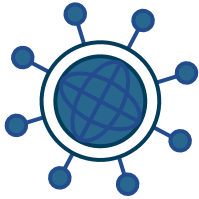


FELIPE VERÁSTEGUI



INITIATIVE-WIDE LEADERS

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



JESSICA FINOCCHIARO

WORKING GROUPS LEADS



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MISSION

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