

EAAMO

Newsletter #5

Spring Semester 2026

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.

Our Plans at the beginning of 2026

At the start of the year, we made a list of goals and promises to ourselves. Now it's time to look back, celebrate what we've achieved, and honestly reflect on the things we haven't completed yet.

- ☑ We are scheduling two colloquium speakers in the first half 2026. Announcements will be here.
- ☑ Plans are underway to select the next location for **ACM EAAMO '26**.
- ☑ We will announce and introduce our Board of Directors as we launch the search for our new Executive Director this spring!
- ☑ We are taking applications to join existing **working groups** or propose new ones.
- ☑ We plan to continue organizing meetups such as the one in New York or at conferences.

Our Plans in second half of 2026

- [ ] We plan to schedule two colloquium talks in the second half of 2026. Announcements will be here.
- [ ] We will organize **ACM EAAMO 2026**. Join us in Munich.
- [ ] We will announce the call for new Executive Director!
- [ ] We are taking applications to join existing **working groups** or propose new ones.
- [ ] We plan to continue organizing meetups such as the one in New York or at conferences.

GET INVOLVED

- [ ] EAAMO is powered by people like *you*. We want to hear your ideas for new working/reading group, colloquium, good news, bad news, confessions, corrections, and shout-outs. Reach out to us **here**.

- [ ] Want to join an **existing working group**? Don't see a group that fits your interest and wondering what it takes to lead (or find co-leaders for) one? Reach out to EAAMO's Working Group Director Mackenzie Jorgensen to discuss.

- [ ] Organize an **EAAMO social** at your next conference or sign up to join one if it is organized.

- [ ] Saw fun pictures from our **NYC EAAMO Meetups** and wish you have one near you? Create your own local EAAMO Meetup! Reach out to bridges@eaamo.org and they will help you organize one!

- [ ] The **conference proceedings** are now live—don't miss them! And check out **YouTube channel** for videos of key sessions.

- [ ] Tell your colleagues about EAAMO and share this newsletter!





Highlights from this semester

ACM EAAMO '26



CHRISTOPH KERN
LMU
GERMANY



CLARA STRASSER CEBALLOS
LMU
GERMANY



HANNAH LI
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
USA



MIRI ZILKA
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE
UNITED KINGDOM

We're excited to announce the upcoming **ACM Conference on Equity and Access in Algorithms, Mechanisms, and Optimization (EAAMO)**, an interdisciplinary gathering dedicated to advancing research and practice at the intersection of computational methods and social impact. EAAMO brings together a global community of researchers, practitioners, policymakers, nonprofit leaders, and advocates who are working to ensure that algorithms, data-driven systems, and optimization tools promote equity, expand opportunity, and address real-world societal challenges.

The conference serves as a unique forum for collaboration across disciplines, welcoming contributions from computer science, economics, operations research, public policy, the social sciences, and related fields. In addition to traditional research papers, EAAMO encourages a diverse range of submissions, including surveys, position papers, practice-focused work, datasets, software demonstrations, and problem pitches. This broad approach reflects the conference's commitment to bridging the gap between theory and practice, fostering meaningful dialogue, and supporting research that can inform policy, guide decision-making, and create positive impact for historically underserved communities.

ACM EAAMO '26

DATES	VENUE	LOCATION
November 5-7, 2026	Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München	Munich, Germany

This year, ACM EAAMO '26 will be held from November 5–7, 2026, at Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München (LMU Munich) in Munich, Germany. One of Europe's leading research universities, LMU provides an ideal setting for the conference's interdisciplinary mission, bringing together scholars and practitioners from diverse backgrounds to exchange ideas and collaborate on challenges related to equity, access, and opportunity. Munich itself offers a vibrant blend of academic excellence, cultural heritage, and innovation, making it a fitting host city for a conference dedicated to advancing socially impactful computational research.

Attendees can look forward to three days of presentations, discussions, poster sessions, and community-building activities that highlight cutting-edge work at the intersection of algorithms, optimization, mechanism design, and the social sciences. As in previous years, the conference will provide numerous opportunities for networking and collaboration, fostering connections among researchers, policymakers, nonprofit organizations, industry professionals, and community advocates from around the world. The event continues EAAMO's commitment to building a global community focused on ensuring that computational tools and technologies serve the public good and expand access to opportunity for historically underserved communities.

Working Groups

Working Groups Lead



MACKENZIE JORGENSEN
DIRECTOR OF
WORKING GROUPS

ALGORITHMS IN HOUSEHOLD FINANCE

The Algorithms in Household Finance Working Group focuses on the expanding role of algorithms and artificial intelligence in household financial decision-making, including how individuals save, borrow, invest, and interact with financial products. The group examines how advances in machine learning and automated decision systems are reshaping the design, pricing, and delivery of financial services, while raising critical questions about efficiency, fairness, consumer welfare, and regulatory oversight. By bringing together researchers and practitioners from economics, computer science, and policy, the group aims to better understand how algorithmic tools influence household well-being and financial inclusion, particularly for populations historically underserved by traditional financial systems.

The group began as a biweekly reading group, with initial sessions centered on credit scoring and automated underwriting. Recent and upcoming discussions draw on work examining manipulation-robust prediction in credit markets, fairness and bias in credit scoring models, and the labor- and welfare-market effects of automated underwriting. Additional readings explore the use of alternative data, such as mobile phone records, in credit assessment, as well as structural critiques of algorithmic lending practices that can entrench borrowers in subprime cycles. Collectively, these papers provide a foundation for interrogating how algorithmic finance systems can both expand access and reproduce inequality, setting the stage for future discussions on policy design, consumer protection, and the responsible deployment of AI in household finance.

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MATTHEW OLCKERS

Decolonization of STEM Curriculum

The Decolonization of STEM Curriculum Working Group continues its work to examine how course syllabi reflect inclusive, diverse, and contextually grounded approaches to science and technology education. The group remains committed to challenging traditional STEM narratives by embedding justice, equity, and decolonial perspectives into teaching practices and content. This month, the group welcomed Dr. Renata Revelo Alonso, who shared her Critical Consciousness and Engineering Design Teaching Framework, offering valuable insights into how engineering education can foster reflection, agency, and transformation.

Currently, the group is developing a syllabi evaluation rubric rooted in principles of algorithmic fairness, with plans to expand this framework across disciplines, including data science, responsible AI, public policy, and economics. As part of this effort, they are actively seeking syllabi from a wide range of courses, regardless of department or institution, and are welcoming new members who share their commitment to rethinking how STEM is taught.

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KENYA ANDREWS

Urban Data Science & Equitable Cities

Follow them on BlueSky

The Urban Data Science Working Group continued to examine how data, computation, and policy intersect in the design and governance of cities. This semester featured a series of talks exploring transportation equity, educational access, and spatial inequality through data-driven research and policy analysis.

Highlights included Unveiling and Mitigating Disparities in the *Ride-Hailing Industry* by Hanyong Xu (MIT), which examined inequities in ride-hailing services and proposed methods for improving fairness in transportation planning. Maria Laura Guerrero Balarezo (Polytechnique Montréal) presented *Equity in Urban Transportation: Gendered Travel Differences in Canada*, exploring how transportation systems can better address the needs and experiences of women. Erica Chiang (Cornell Tech) discussed *Deploying an Informational Intervention to Mitigate Disparities in New York City High School Applications*, demonstrating how access to information can influence educational opportunities and outcomes. The semester concluded with Rachel Franklin (Harvard University Center for Geographic Analysis), whose talk *Spatial Inequality and the Smart City* examined the role of data and technology in shaping more equitable urban futures.

Together, these sessions highlighted the potential of urban data science to better understand and address structural inequalities, reinforcing the working group's commitment to advancing inclusive and evidence-based approaches to urban challenges.

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GABRIEL AGOSTINI



MATT FRANCHI



JENNAH GOSCIAK

INEQUALITY

The Inequality Working Group continued to explore how algorithms, markets, and public institutions shape access to resources and opportunities, with a particular focus on social welfare programs, labor markets, and participatory research. Throughout the semester, discussions examined both the promises and pitfalls of data-driven decision-making in contexts where the stakes are highest for vulnerable populations.

Highlights included Sera Linardi's discussion of participatory and community-engaged research methods, Unai Fischer Abaigar's presentation of *The Value of Prediction in Identifying the Worst-Off*, and Angela Zhou's work *Due Process on Hold: A Queueing Framework for Improving Access in SNAP*. The group also welcomed Nikhil Garg, who presented *Heterogeneous Allocation Skews: When is Choice "Worth It?"*, and the authors of *Two Tickets are Better than One: Fair and Accurate Hiring under Strategic LLM Manipulations*, sparking discussion about the growing role of AI in labor markets. Additional sessions explored mechanism design and social programs through Zi Yang Kang's Optimal In-Kind Redistribution and examined algorithmic decision-making in welfare systems through a case study of bias-aware fraud detection in Amsterdam.

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SAMUEL TAGGART



SERAFINA KAMP

LIVING LABS WITH PRACTITIONERS

The Living Labs with Practitioners Working Group engages in co-experimentation with social impact practitioners through participatory and relationship-centered methods. Rather than treating interviews as extractive data collection exercises, the group approaches them as open-ended, exploratory dialogues that prioritize listening, trust-building, and shared sense-making. Members prepare by learning about each practitioner's background and domain, then conduct semi-structured conversations that allow practitioners to articulate their experiences, challenges, and reflections in their own terms. Follow-up engagements are encouraged to deepen mutual understanding and support sustained collaboration.

This practice-informed approach supports the group's broader research agenda of asking how AI systems of care can be responsibly developed for vulnerable and underserved communities, and what it means for such systems to be "safe enough" in real-world contexts. The work bridges generative AI, human–computer interaction, public policy, and the social sciences, translating practitioner insights into research questions, design principles, and empirical studies. In 2025, papers emerging from this collaborative process were accepted at leading venues including AAAI and APPAM, demonstrating the value of participatory methods in shaping impactful, interdisciplinary research.

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ASHLEY KHOR

WORKING GROUP - ANNOUNCEMENT

We are excited to announce a new **EAAMO initiative led by Juba Ziani and Sanmay Das: Building the Research-to-Practice Pipeline**. Longtime members and friends of the EAAMO community, Juba and Sanmay have each spent years working at the intersection of research and practice, leading projects that engage with policymakers, public institutions, industry partners, and communities. Through these experiences, they have encountered many of the opportunities and challenges involved in translating academic insights into real-world impact. This new initiative seeks to build on those experiences by creating a space to better understand, document, and systematize what it takes for research to move beyond publication and into practice.

The initiative emerges from a central question that has long been at the heart of EAAMO: *how can interdisciplinary research contribute meaningfully to addressing real-world problems?* While many members of the EAAMO community are actively engaged in applied work, there has been relatively little opportunity to collectively reflect on the processes, partnerships, institutional barriers, and success stories that shape this journey. The seminar series will provide a forum for researchers and practitioners to share lessons learned, discuss effective models of collaboration, and identify recurring challenges in deploying ideas, tools, and evidence in practice.

During its first semester, the initiative will operate as a seminar series featuring speakers from across academia, government, industry, and civil society. These conversations will help lay the foundation for a broader community effort focused on strengthening the connections between research, policy, and implementation. Over time, the series is expected to evolve into a full EAAMO working group, creating a sustained venue for collaboration and knowledge-sharing around one of the community's defining goals: ensuring that research not only advances knowledge, but also expands opportunity and contributes to positive social impact.

Working Groups Reflections from Fall 2025

To support knowledge sharing and long-term organizational memory, we documented key activities, insights, and lessons learned through a series of public articles published on Medium and partner platforms. These publications help preserve institutional knowledge, increase transparency, and make our work accessible to a broader community.

By capturing reflections on projects, events, and collaborative initiatives, these articles create a lasting record of our experiences and provide valuable context for future contributors and partners. A notable example is "EAAMO Bridges Working Groups: Reflections from Fall 2025," which highlights the discussions, outcomes, and lessons emerging from the EAAMO Bridges initiative.

A defining feature of the Bridges format was its collaborative ethos. The working groups served as intellectual laboratories where participants could test early ideas, reflect on both challenges and successes, and learn from colleagues working across disciplines and domains. The article captures these exchanges and the insights they generated, while the summaries below highlight the core questions and discussions that animated each group throughout the Fall 2025 semester. Together, these publications serve as a resource for continued learning, ensuring that knowledge generated through our activities remains accessible and can inform future work.

- Algorithms in Household Finance
- Decolonizing STEM Curriculum
- Inequality Working Group
- Living Labs with Practitioners
- Urban Data Working Group

Selected Readings and Videos

Communication Leads



Rhea Tibrewala
Director of Communications



Felipe Verástegui
Colloquium Organizer

EAAMO Colloquium Talks



RACHEL FRANKLIN
HARVARD UNIVERSITY, CENTER FOR GEOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

SPATIAL INEQUALITY AND THE SMART CITY

As part of the Spring 2026 EAAMO Colloquium Series, Rachel Franklin (Harvard University Center for Geographic Analysis) presented Spatial Inequality and the Smart City, examining how data-driven urban systems can both illuminate and reinforce existing inequalities. The talk explored the relationship between emerging smart city technologies, spatial data, and urban decision-making, highlighting the ways in which the collection and use of data are shaped by geography, infrastructure, and unequal access to resources. Franklin encouraged participants to consider not only what data are available, but also whose experiences and communities may be missing from the data used to guide policy and planning.

Drawing on examples from urban analytics and transportation research, the discussion focused on how spatial inequalities can become embedded in ostensibly objective technological systems. The talk emphasized the importance of designing data collection, measurement, and governance processes that account for uneven coverage and representation, particularly for historically underserved populations. By bringing together perspectives from geography, urban studies, and data science, the colloquium highlighted both the opportunities and challenges of using computational tools to create more equitable and responsive cities.

YouTube link

EAAMO Colloquium Talks





JUBA ZIANI
GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

SANMAY DAS
VIRGINIA TECH

FIXED POINTS AND STOCHASTIC MERITOCRACIES: A LONG-TERM PERSPECTIVE

As part of the Spring 2026 EAAMO Colloquium Series, Juba Ziani (Georgia Tech) and Sanmay Das (Virginia Tech) presented Fixed Points and Stochastic Meritocracies: A Long-Term Perspective, exploring how inequalities can emerge and persist even in systems that appear fair at any given point in time. Using the example of merit-based selection processes such as college admissions, the speakers examined how feedback loops across generations can shape long-term outcomes, raising important questions about the limits of traditional fairness frameworks. Their work highlighted how disparities may arise not only from explicit bias, but also from chance, scarcity, and the cumulative effects of past advantages.

The colloquium focused on the dynamic nature of fairness, emphasizing that equal treatment in the present does not necessarily lead to equitable outcomes in the future. Through theoretical analysis and simulations, Ziani and Das demonstrated how small, initially random differences between groups can persist and even become entrenched over time, particularly when access to valuable opportunities is limited. The discussion underscored the importance of studying fairness as a long-term process and offered new insights into the design of algorithmic systems and policies intended to promote equity in education, employment, and other domains involving competitive selection.

YouTube link

EAAMO Colloquium Talks



NADINE KRISHNAMURTHY-SPENCER



MARCIE CHIN



MONOJIT CHOUDHURY

EAAMO LIVING LABS COLLOQUIUM

As part of the Spring 2026 EAAMO Colloquium Series, the EAAMO Living Labs initiative hosted a special panel discussion featuring Nadine Krishnamurthy-Spencer (Chayn), Marcie Chin (U.S. Digital Response), and Monojit Choudhury (MBZUAI), moderated by Ashley Khor. The colloquium explored how researchers and practitioners can work together to design, evaluate, and deploy AI systems that serve vulnerable and historically underserved communities. Bringing together perspectives from generative AI, human-computer interaction, public policy, and social impact practice, the discussion examined the opportunities and challenges of developing technology in close partnership with the communities it aims to support.

Centered on the theme of "Living Labs with Practitioners," the conversation highlighted participatory and co-experimental approaches to innovation, asking what it means for AI systems to be not only effective but also "safe enough" in real-world settings. Panelists reflected on the complexities of building systems of care, balancing technological capabilities with concerns around trust, accountability, and community needs. The colloquium underscored a core EAAMO principle: that meaningful social impact requires sustained collaboration between researchers, practitioners, and affected communities throughout the design and deployment process.

YouTube link

Living Labs with Practitioners Papers

How can responsible AI principles be translated into real-world systems that support vulnerable populations? A recent collaboration between the Living Labs with Practitioners working group and Chayn, a global nonprofit supporting survivors of gender-based violence, offers a compelling set of examples of how AI can be designed, evaluated, and deployed in high-emotion, high-stakes contexts.

Highlights include From Hopes to Healing Systems: Listening at Scale to Survivor Voices in Gender-Based Violence Recovery, presented at APPAM 2025, which explores how LLM-based classification and topic modeling can help organizations better understand survivor perspectives on healing expressed across online platforms. The work demonstrates how AI can support large-scale listening and analysis while preserving the nuance and complexity of lived experience.

The collaboration also supported the launch of Survivor AI, a GenAI tool that assists survivors of image-based sexual abuse in drafting takedown requests. Developed with a strong focus on safety, agency, and care, the tool illustrates how responsible AI principles can be embedded directly into products intended to support individuals navigating difficult and emotionally charged situations.

For readers interested in practical approaches to AI development, Chayn's Guide to Building a Feminist AI presents a trauma-informed, survivor-centered framework for building LLM applications. The guide translates high-level principles into concrete practices that center safety, lived experience, and community expertise throughout the AI development lifecycle.

Complementing this work, Safety is a Process, Not a Score, presented at the AAAI 2025 Fall Symposium, introduces a symbol-aware, sociotechnical methodology for evaluating AI safety in social-good applications. The paper describes participatory testing approaches involving survivors and community allies, proposes new ways of assessing safety beyond benchmark scores, and is accompanied by a public Transparency Hub that documents the ongoing evaluation of Survivor AI.



Organization

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MACKENZIE JORGENSEN
DIRECTOR OF
WORKING GROUPS



EDWIN LOCK
DIR. OF PARTNERSHIP
(EUROPE)



FRANCISCO MARMOLEJO
DIR. OF PARTNERSHIP
(LATIN AMERICA)



Thank you

MATTHEW OLCKERS
DIR. OF PARTNERSHIP
(AFRICA)



SANDRO RADOVANOVIĆ
DIRECTOR OF
OPERATIONS



ANA-ANDREEA STOICA
DIRECTOR OF
FINANCES



RHEA TIBREWALA
DIRECTOR OF
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FELIPE VERASTEGUI-GRUNEWALD
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MATTHEW BOULOS
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JOSE CORREA
UNIVERSIDAD DE CHILE



CELESTINE MENDLER-DÜNNER
ELLIS INSTITUTE TÜBINGEN / MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE FOR INTELLIGENT SYSTEMS



ILLENIN KONDO
FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF MINNEAPOLIS



ARABA SEY
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
RESEARCH ICT AFRICA



BRYAN WILDER
CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN THIS MISSION

JOIN US!

For any questions or thoughts, contact us at bridges@eaamo.com. Share your suggestions for future colloquium speakers here.

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.

AND FOLLOW US