



Center *for*
Digital Ethics
& Policy

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CRITICAL AI POLICY VIRTUAL FELLOWS 2026



CRITICAL AI POLICY VIRTUAL FELLOWSHIP 2026

The DISC and CDEP Team



Dr Adi Kuntsman, DISC Co-Lead

Reader in Digital Politics, Manchester
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Dr Daniel Joseph, DISC Co-Lead

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Lecturer in Criminology, Manchester
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Dr Florence M. Chee, CDEP Director

Associate Professor of Digital
Communication, Loyola University
Chicago

MEET OUR
CRITICAL AI
POLICY
VIRTUAL
FELLOWS
2026



DR. MAHLA ALIZADEH

UNIVERSITY OF SIEGEN

PROFILE

Mahla Alizadeh is a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Siegen. Her work spans human-computer interaction, socio-technical systems, and AI governance, focusing on trust, accountability, and algorithmic harm in AI systems embedded in everyday life.

Over the past seven years, she has investigated the lived realities of data protection (including GDPR data rights) and opacity of data practices in smart home settings. Her recent research centers on ethics of conversational agents, examining issues of accountability, trust, and invisible data practices. Combining long-term empirical and design-oriented approaches, her work has been published at top-tier HCI venues, including CHI and CSCW. Her book, "A New Framework," published by Palgrave Macmillan, 2014.



FELLOWSHIP OUTPUTS:

DR. ABU J M S A BHUIYAN

UNIVERSITY OF _____

PROFILE

Dr. Abu J M S A Bhuiyan is the founding Chairman and Professor of the Department of Television, Film and Photography at the University of Dhaka, Bangladesh. He completed his Ph.D. in the School of Communication at Simon Fraser University in Canada. His research interests include the political economy of cultural production, global communication, digital media governance, AI policy and governance, and new media and society. He is the author of "Internet Governance and the Global South: Demand for a New Framework," published by Palgrave Macmillan, 2014.



FELLOWSHIP OUTPUTS:

LUCIE ČEJKOVÁ

MASARYK UNIVERSITY

PROFILE

Lucie Čejková is a doctoral researcher at the Department of Media Studies and Journalism at Masaryk University. She focuses on conspiracy thinking, misinformation, and trust and political attitudes of news audiences. Her work integrates empirical audience research with critical perspectives on the governance of social media platforms. During the Critical AI Policy Virtual Fellowship, she will examine platform self-regulation in the context of EU DSA obligations, develop a corpus of platform rules on generative-AI-driven misinformation, and advance literature review and document analysis to better understand how major platforms define and govern mis- and disinformation in the age of generative AI.



FELLOWSHIP OUTPUTS:

CAMILLE CHICHET

SCIENCES PO PARIS

PROFILE

Camille Chichet is a public policy professional trained in public administration at Sciences Po Paris. She has worked across French legislative and executive institutions, including the French Senate, the Constitutional Council, the Ministry of Culture, and the Musée d'Orsay. Her research and policy interests focus on democratic governance, socio-economic inequality, and the political and societal implications of AI infrastructure, corporate responsibility, and digital regulation. She has also collaborated with Harvard-affiliated researchers on AI ethics and supply chains.



FELLOWSHIP OUTPUTS:

NILOU DAVOUDI

UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

PROFILE

Nilou Davoudi (she/her) is a doctoral candidate at the University of British Columbia's School of Information. Her doctoral research explores how death, grief, and memorialisation are mediated, ritualised, and commodified across social media platforms, with particular emphasis on TikTok. She is especially interested in the ethical implications of witnessing death content on social media, and discourses surrounding the digital dignity of the dead and the rights of their survivors. Her current work addresses AI-generated representations of the deceased, focusing on the regulatory gaps surrounding consent, digital personhood, and third-party content creation.



FELLOWSHIP OUTPUTS:

DR. CAMILLE DEMPSEY

PENNWEST UNIVERSITY

PROFILE

Dr. Camille Dempsey is the Director of the PennWest Center for Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technologies and Professor of Education at PennWest University. She holds a doctorate in instructional technology and leadership from Duquesne University and other degrees from Columbia University Teachers College, and the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Dempsey is the founder of the Theory of Virtuality Culture, which examines technology-mediated human presence in the contemporary shift in culture. She has received numerous honors, including ISTE's "20 to Watch" award in educational technology and the Technology Impact Award for her article, The Spirit of the Times: Virtuality Culture and Technology-Mediated Human Presence. Most recently Dr. Dempsey led professional development workshops for professors in Morocco on the topic of AI integration, ethics, and policy.



FELLOWSHIP OUTPUTS:

DR. ARISTEA FOTOPOULOU

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF GREECE

PROFILE

Aristea Fotopoulou is an interdisciplinary academic specialising in digital communications and their role in culture and society. Her current work focuses on critical AI policy, education and ethics, and she is running a pilot on critical AI literacy. She is recipient of the UKRI AHRC Future Leaders Fellowship (Innovation) and former Chair of ECREA's Digital Culture and Communication Section. Fotopoulou has held visiting professorships and delivered keynotes across Europe and North America. Her broader methodological inquiry into embodiment, creativity and digital detachment is informed by a recent practice-based research period in traditional Southeast Asian arts and visual storytelling. During the fellowship she is based at the American College of Greece.



FELLOWSHIP OUTPUTS:

KATHERINE FITZGERALD

QUT DIGITAL
MEDIA RESEARCH
CENTRE

PROFILE

Katherine M. FitzGerald is a PhD Candidate at the Digital Media Research Centre. Kate has an academic background in psychology and digital communications. She uses qualitative and digital ethnography methods to study conspiracy theories, information disorder, and knowledge production on digital platforms. This informs her interest in generative AI technologies and the importance of safety guardrails against harmful content. Kate has published in journals such as the Harvard Kennedy School Misinformation Review and Media and Communication. She has contributed her expertise to edited volumes and both domestic and international media outlets.



FELLOWSHIP OUTPUTS:

AKRITI GAUR

YALE LAW SCHOOL

PROFILE

Akriti Gaur is an Indian lawyer currently pursuing a J.S.D. at Yale Law School where she served as a Tutor in Law from 2022-2024. She obtained her LL.M. degree from YLS in 2022. During her LL.M. year, she assisted the International Refugee Assistance Project Clinic and served on the editorial board of the Yale Journal of Law and Technology. Currently, Akriti is a Resident Fellow at the Yale Information Society Project, Senior Fellow at the Yale Genocide Studies Program (Mass Atrocities in the Digital Era Project). She was awarded the Robina International Human Rights Fellowship in 2024 to spend a year at the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, France where she clerked for Judge Darian Pavli and assisted the Jurisconsult of the Court. Before coming to Yale, Akriti was a policy advisor and an independent researcher focusing on technology and human rights in India. She has worked with think tanks and advised the Indian Government and the Supreme Court of India on contemporary technology policy reforms. She holds bachelor's degrees in laws and arts from National Law University, Jodhpur, India (2015).



FELLOWSHIP OUTPUTS:

JULIA-SILVANA HOFSTETTER

ICT4PEACE

PROFILE

Julia-Silvana Hofstetter is a Senior Advisor at the ICT4Peace Foundation and was until recently a Technology & Human Rights Fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School and a Non-Resident Research Fellow within the AI Security Initiative at UC Berkeley's Center for Long-Term Cybersecurity (CLTC). Previously, she served as an AI for Peace Fellow at Swissnex San Francisco and as an Advisory Board Member at Chatham House for a project on cybersecurity and gender. As an independent consultant, she has advised organizations such as the ICRC, NATO, and the US Department of State on issues of international security and emerging technologies.



FELLOWSHIP OUTPUTS:

DR. STEPHANIE KASAON

ACTION LAB

PROFILE

Stephanie Kasaon, Ph.D. is AI Trust and Safety Lead at Action Lab and the founder and CEO of DAInvolve Technologies, an applied AI research company focused on contextual AI and safety in African settings. Her work centres on AI governance, evaluation, and the development of safety-oriented frameworks and workflows to guide the design and use of AI systems. Drawing on a background in Global Environmental Studies and engineering, she approaches AI as a socio-technical policy domain and collaborates with institutions on context-aware guidelines, benchmarks, and governance processes.



FELLOWSHIP OUTPUTS:

MALCOLM KATRAK

YORK UNIVERSITY

PROFILE

Malcolm Katrak is a York Graduate Fellow at the Osgoode Hall Law School, York University, Canada. His research explores union organizing strategies in the context of algorithmic management and intensified employer opposition. He previously served as a law clerk to Justice (Retd.) S.N. Variava, Former Judge, Supreme Court of India, and has worked as an Assistant Professor at the Jindal Global Law School, O.P. Jindal Global University, India. He holds postgraduate degrees from Erasmus University, Rotterdam, the University of Hamburg, and Osgoode Hall Law School, York University, Canada.



FELLOWSHIP OUTPUTS:

DR. EVA NIETO MCAVOY

KING'S COLLEGE LONDON

PROFILE

Eva Nieto McAvoy is a Lecturer in Digital Media at King's College London, UK. Her research sits at the intersection of technology, memory, and identity, with a current focus on AI and digital remains. She is co-author of *AI Afterlives: Digital Memory and Synthetic Pasts* (Bloomsbury 2026).



FELLOWSHIP OUTPUTS:

DR. LUSIKE MUKHONGO

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

PROFILE

Dr. Lusike Mukhongo is an Associate Professor of Communication and Associate Director in the Office of Faculty Development at Western Michigan University. Her research focuses on digital media, Low-power artificial intelligence, participatory technologies, and community-engaged digital storytelling. Her work explores ethical and non-extractive approaches to co-design of low-power AI tools, particularly among rural and Indigenous communities, and how emerging technologies shape communication, knowledge production, and environmental justice in the Global South. She has led several international research projects, published widely and is also the associate editor of the Journal of African Media Studies.



FELLOWSHIP OUTPUTS:

DMITRY MURAVYOV

THE UNIVERSITY OF DELFT TECHNOLOGY

PROFILE

Dmitry Muravyov is a PhD Candidate working in the AI DeMoS Lab at TU Delft, the Netherlands. His PhD project explores the “algorithmic fallibility”—a collectively shared condition of living with technology’s breakdowns, failures, and errors. He is interested in how practitioners in different fields understand these notions, the philosophical, technical, and historical roots of these concepts, and how people can live with fallible technologies. Dmitry’s research is in conversation with fields such as philosophy of technology, STS, design research, and critical data & algorithm studies.



FELLOWSHIP OUTPUTS:

DR. INÊS NEVES

UNIVERSITY OF PORTO

PROFILE

Inês Neves is an invited Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Law of the University of Porto and an Integrated Researcher at CIJ - Centre for Interdisciplinary Research on Justice. She is currently also an Associate at CEJURE - the Portuguese State Legal Centre, where she advises the Portuguese Government on constitutional, EU, and digital affairs. Her work sits at the intersection of Constitutional law, EU law, Economic law, and digital regulation, with a focus on fundamental rights, artificial intelligence governance, and the regulation of digital markets and services. Alongside academia, she has practiced as a lawyer in EU and competition law, sustainability/ESG, and digital regulation.



FELLOWSHIP OUTPUTS:

DR. PAWEL POPIEL

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

PROFILE

Pawel Popiel is an Assistant Professor at the Edward R. Murrow College of Communication, Washington State University. His work focuses on the political economy and regulation of media and communication technology industries. He leads the US Team of the Global Media & Internet Concentration Project (GMICP), an international research initiative comprising more than 50 scholars tracking media industry concentration across nearly 40 countries. He is also an Affiliated Fellow at the Media, Inequality, and Change (MIC) Center at the University of Pennsylvania and an Affiliate at The Center for Information, Technology, and Public Life (CITAP) at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.



FELLOWSHIP OUTPUTS:

DR. PREETI RAGHUNATH

UNIVERSITY OF _____

PROFILE

Dr Preeti Raghunath is a Lecturer in Digital Media and Society at the School of Sociological Studies, Politics and IR, University of Sheffield, UK. Over the past decade, her interdisciplinary research has focused on communication technology policies and practices, by taking a long view and centring lived experiences. Her current research engages with AI policy through three research projects: (a) expanding the remit of 'AI Safety' from a sociotechnical lens; (b) studying the socio-environmental impacts of AI data infrastructures in India; and (c) exploratory research on AI and progressive chronic conditions. The common thread through these projects is the focus on lived experiences of AI policy, and creative deliberative policy engagement through them.



FELLOWSHIP OUTPUTS:

DR. LORI REGATTIERI

GREEN SCREEN COALITION

PROFILE

Lori Regattieri (they/she) is a public interest technologist working at the intersection of emerging technologies and ecological rights. They hold a PhD in Communication and Culture from UFRJ, and over the past two decades, their investigation has spanned science, technology, and cultural studies, as well as the political economy of AI systems driven infrastructures, testimonial and archives, grounded in decolonial approaches to storytelling inspired by queerness, kinship and world-making. Member of the Green Screen Coalition.



FELLOWSHIP OUTPUTS:

DR. LUIS SEBASTIÁN R. ROSSI

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF ENTRE RÍOS

PROFILE

Luis Sebastián R. Rossi holds a Doctorate of Social Sciences (2017), is a Professor, and Licentiate of Social Communication. He is Assistant Researcher at the Social Studies Institute of the National Council on Scientific and Technical Research and at the National University of Entre Ríos (INES – CONICET/UNER). He is an instructor and professor in the Faculty of Education (FCEdu-UNER). His research primarily focuses on Technology, Communication, and Media Studies. He has published several scientific papers and essays on topics such as gaming, learning, Ubiquitous computing, the software industry, platforms, Artificial Intelligence, French theory, German media theory and Philosophy of Technology.



FELLOWSHIP OUTPUTS:

DR. CINDY TEKOBBE

UNIVERSITY OF _____

PROFILE

Cindy Tekobbe is an assistant professor in Critical Feminist Science and Technology at the University of Illinois Chicago, appointed in Gender and Women's Studies (GWS) and Communication. Her research interests include digital identities and communities, decolonial and anti-colonial methods, storytelling as methodology, artificial intelligence, research ethics, and feminist theories. She has publications in journals such as *Information, Communication & Society*, *Social Media + Society*, and *Present Tense* and is the 2026 recipient of the Conference on College Composition and Communication Research Impact Award for her book, *Indigenous Voices in Digital Spaces*.



FELLOWSHIP OUTPUTS:

DR. SCOTT TIMCKE

UNIVERSITY OF _____

CAPE TOWN

PROFILE

Scott Timcke is a comparative historical sociologist with an interest in class formation, state formation, and high-technology in modernity. He obtained a PhD from Simon Fraser University. He has held positions at The University of the West Indies and Research ICT Africa. He has published several books, including *Algorithms and The End of Politics* and is currently a resident fellow with EthicsLab at the University of Cape Town.



FELLOWSHIP OUTPUTS:

MARCO TRIGOSO

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST

PROFILE

Marco Trigoso is a PhD candidate in the Department of Communication at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. His research examines how Peruvian bureaucrats negotiate digital technology policy models in the context of structural dependence on international actors and technological trends. More broadly, his interests include the environmental implications of AI development, the platformization of social relations in South America, and the depoliticization of digital technologies in the region.



FELLOWSHIP OUTPUTS:

DR. CHIKEZIE E. UZUEGBUNAM

RHODES UNIVERSITY

PROFILE

Chikezie E. Uzuegbunam is a Senior Lecturer and Deputy Head of School (Research) in the School of Journalism and Media Studies at Rhodes University. Dr Uzuegbunam earned a PhD (2019) in Media Studies from the University of Cape Town and has held fellowships at Oxford, Groningen, Bergen, Xiamen, and Qatar. His expertise lies at the intersection of digital sociology, decolonial media studies, and the socio-political implications of emerging technologies. Dr Uzuegbunam is the author/editor of three books, including *Children and Young People's Digital Lifeworlds* (Palgrave, 2024), as well as more than 30 peer reviewed articles in journals and book chapters. His most recent works focus on the decolonization of AI in/for Africa and future-proofing GenAI in Africa. is a member of the editorial boards of various journals, including *Communication Theory*, *Social Media + Society*, *Journal of Media Literacy Education*, *African Journalism Studies*, etc. He is a Vice Chair of the IAMCR Audience Studies Section.



FELLOWSHIP OUTPUTS:

TINA YONG

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

PROFILE

Tina Yong is a PhD student in the Political Science Department at the University of Toronto. Her research sits at the intersection between AI ethics and legal theory, specifically free speech jurisprudence as it applies to AI-generated content. Her work centers on the substantive equality approach to freedom of expression pioneered by Catharine MacKinnon and its contemporary relevance for the regulation of deepfake pornography. She is broadly interested in the gendered implications of generative AI tools and the law's capacity to address the rise of non-consensual sexual material.



FELLOWSHIP OUTPUTS:

DR. TOMMY ROUSSE

INDEPENDENT

PROFILE

Tommy Rousse, J.D., Ph.D., is an attorney and scholar studying how technical affordances, creativity norms, property systems, and legal regimes govern and structure innovation. His research deploys qualitative and quantitative methods alongside legal analysis and advocacy to investigate emerging issues in artificial intelligence, intellectual property, platform governance, and video games.



FELLOWSHIP OUTPUTS:

DR. UROOJ RAJA

LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO

PROFILE

Dr. Raja is an Assistant Professor of Public Communication and Advocacy at Loyola University Chicago, studying how people respond to complex socio-environmental challenges. Dr. Raja's work focuses on public engagement with climate change and reducing environmental harm. Using qualitative, quantitative, and immersive and emerging media tools like virtual reality and AI, Dr. Raja examines psychological distance and its impact on climate action. Dr. Raja's research appears in leading journals and major media outlets, and informs national programs. A recipient of numerous prestigious fellowships, Dr. Raja has worked across academia, policy, and philanthropy. Dr. Raja also has a forthcoming book, [Rising Against the Tide Resisting and Repurposing Hegemonic Tools to Promote Environmental Action](#), being released July 2026 through Bloomsbury Academic.



FELLOWSHIP OUTPUTS:

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