

The Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) and the Science for Africa Foundation (SFA Foundation), a pan-African, non-profit and public charity organisation that supports, strengthens and promotes science and innovation in Africa, plan to host a satellite event to discuss **the role of artificial intelligence (AI) in social science and health research**. The event seeks to explore the benefits and challenges of using AI and data science, as well as the related ethics and governance issues in Africa. The event aims to provide a platform for participants to share best practices, innovative approaches, and lessons learned in implementing data science and AI initiatives. It will help identify gaps in knowledge and research and potential collaborations between academia, industry, and government to help address the continent's most pressing development issues. At a continental level, the lack of a regional regulatory or ethical framework for the use of AI may pose a data sovereignty problem within the wider scholarly space of health and social sciences. At the local level, the introduction of AI can make radical changes to the social and health sectors. Therefore, we need to discuss this issue to create a research ecosystem and community of practice that generates excellent research and innovation ideas and enables interdisciplinary collaborations among researchers to produce new, locally relevant knowledge.

Objectives of the satellite event:

- Build an understanding of the gaps in national, regional, and continental policies for the development, application, and governance of AI and data science in Africa
- Discuss and understand the AI and data science gaps in global health from an African perspective, focusing on, but not limited to, genomics, clinical trials/drug development, and epidemics/pandemics.
- To profile the role of social science research in promoting the responsible use and adoption of AI while considering gender and diversity, education, socio-economic development, and contributing towards attaining SDGs in the African context.
- Dissect the opportunities and threats of AI in enhancing research ethics compliance in social science and health research, with a particular focus on Africa.

Meet our keynote speaker

Karabo Maiyane is a lecturer in Philosophy at Nelson Mandela University. His teaching expertise includes moral and political philosophy as well as the history of philosophy. He is a doctoral candidate at the University of Pretoria. His research focus is on the ethics of artificial intelligence (AI). He is interested in AI technologies' impact on human dignity in the context of healthcare, warfare and companionship. His other interests are ethics of technology, just war theory, ethics of care, healthcare ethics and African ethics in general. He has recently published two chapter contributions titled: "Robots and Dignity: An Afro-communitarian Argument in Eldercare" and "Autonomous Weapons and the Future of Warfare in Africa".

INVITATION

Southern African satellite event on artificial intelligence and data use in social science research



Mr Karabo Maiyane

Keynote speaker

The role of Social Science in AI research

18 OCTOBER 2023 | 10H30 – 12H30 | REGISTER HERE



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