



Innovation, Productivity, and Challenges in the Digital Era: Asia and Beyond

Starting from 6 October 2021

10:00 am – 11:00 am, Wednesday (Beijing-Singapore Time)

7:30 am – 8:30 am, Wednesday (India Time)

10:00 pm – 11:00 pm, Tuesday (US Time / Eastern Time)

9:00 pm – 10:00 pm, Tuesday (Central Time)

Artificial Intelligence (AI), Big Data, multilevel neural nets, the Internet of Things (IoT) and other digital technologies are transforming the world. They are strengthening innovation and productivity and innovation by rendering the future more predictable and reshaping individual, business, social, and government behavior. Asia leads the world in some of these endeavors, e.g., digital platforms. The OECD lists 40% of big new digital technologies as Asian. Almost half of global digital platform business-to-consumer revenues are Asian, versus only 22% from the U.S. and 12% from the Eurozone. Profound new policy challenges arising, in consequence, include: shifting skills demanded in labor markets and “digital divide” inequality, (ii) AI expanding financial inclusion or encoding inequality, expanding or obscuring accountability, increasing transparency or obscuring amoral decision-making, and (iii) digital privacy, unsanctionable on-line libel, misinformation, manipulation, and propaganda. The ABFER, therefore, plans a monthly e-seminar series spotlighting important new research, particularly the Asia-pacific related, into these issues and providing “state-of-the-art” overviews by prominent scholars. We hope policy makers and practitioners will find the e-seminars helpful and will alert researchers to issues needing attention.

INAUGURAL SPEAKER

6 OCTOBER 2021, 10:00 AM (SGT)

Digitization and Artificial Intelligence: Challenges and Opportunities for Policy

Recent advances in digitization have created opportunities for governments and the social sector to use technology to improve the lives of their constituents, with a particular focus on low income and vulnerable groups. Technology allows services, ranging from medicine to education to training, to be delivered to constituents while saving transportation and child care costs, and in a way that is tailored to the individual needs of the constituents. In this talk, Professor Susan Athey will review challenges and opportunities presented by digitization and artificial intelligence, including some case studies that highlight the as-yet untapped potential.



Susan ATHEY

Professor of Economics (by courtesy), School of Humanities and Sciences Senior Fellow, Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research; Founding Director, Golub Capital Social Impact Lab, Stanford; Associate Director, Stanford Institute for Human-Centered Artificial Intelligence Stanford University

Moderator: Pulak GHOSH

IIMB Chair of Excellence and Professor of Decision Sciences Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB)

UPCOMING WEBINARS

3 November

Data-intensive Innovation and the State: Evidence from AI Firms in China

Martin Beraja (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), David Y Yang* (Harvard University) and Noam Yuchtman (London School of Economics and Political Science)

Discussant: Matilde Bombardini (University of California, Berkeley)

1 December

Merger Analysis in the App Economy an Empirical Model of Ad-Sponsored Media

Kohei Kawaguchi* (Hong Kong University of Science and Technology), Toshifumi Kuroda (Tokyo Keizai University) and Susumu Sato (Hitotsubashi University)

Discussant: Ying Fan (University of Michigan)

* *Presenter*

Session Format

The inaugural session lasts for one hour (45 minutes for the presenter and 15 minutes for participants' Q&A). Sessions will be recorded and posted on ABFER's web, except in cases where speakers or discussants request us not to.

Registration

Please register [here](#). A unique Zoom webinar link will be sent to you two days before the event. (Notice: Videos and screenshots will be taken during each session for the purpose of marketing, publicity purposes in print, electronic and social media)