



THE LONDON SCHOOL
OF ECONOMICS AND
POLITICAL SCIENCE ■



UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY

Berkeley Social Welfare

International Network for Social Policy Teaching and Research Annual Meeting

Agenda

Wednesday, 3 June

18:30: Business Dinner

President's Dining Room

5th floor

Old Building, LSE

(As per instructions in accompanying email, please use LSE Main Entrance on Houghton Street)

Welcome

Timo Fleckenstein

Topic: Proposed Locations of Future Network Meetings

2027: Paris

2028: Athens

2029: TBD

Thursday, 4 June

MAR1.08
1st floor, Marshall Building
London School of Economics

9:00: Welcome

Timo Fleckenstein, Neil Gilbert, and Doug Besharov

9:10-10:00: Review of Oxford University Press Volume Proposals

Neil Gilbert

“Funded Pension Systems in Central and Eastern Europe”

“Varieties of Digital Ecosystems: Governance, Connectivity and Inclusion”

“Disability, Employment and Social Policy in Europe: A Comparative Perspective” (maybe)

AI and the Future of Social Welfare: Recent Developments and Future Prospects

MAR1.08
1st floor, Marshall Building
London School of Economics

London, United Kingdom | 4-5 June, 2026

Thursday, 4 June

10:30-11:00 Welcome

Timo Fleckenstein, London School of Economics (co-chair)
Neil Gilbert, University of California, Berkeley (co-chair)
Douglas Besharov, University of Maryland (co-chair)
Sergei Zelenev, International Council on Social Welfare
Kirk Foster, University of Texas-Arlington

11:00-12:15 Using AI in Policy Systems

Moderator: Berry Lalioti, professor, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens

Varieties of Digital Ecosystems: Benchmarking AI-Driven Public Service Transformations

Jacqueline O'Reilly, University of Sussex

AI in Public Employment Services: Efficiency, Equity, and the Future of Welfare Administration

Stewart Butler, Independent Researcher

AI-Driven Personalized SMS Interventions for Social Welfare: A Unified Policy Framework Across Climate-Health, Domestic Violence, and Elderly Care

Sandya Venugopal, Venugopal Eco Health Advisory Services

Designing AI for Reduced Harm: Interdisciplinary Coordination in Modern Social Welfare Systems

Layal Bou Harfouch, Reason Foundation

12:15-13:45: Lunch (on your own)

13:45-15:30: AI in Service Delivery

Moderator: Antonio López Peláez, professor, UNED; and executive director, International Council of Social Welfare

AI-Enabled Social Care in Cyprus: Digital Front Doors, Service Navigation, and the Next Step Toward Predictive, Accountable Provision in Child Protection

Despina Cochliou, University of Nicosia

Reducing Social Workers' Burnout Through AI-Supported Digital Interventions

Tammie Ronen, Tel-Aviv University; and Yair Dangoor, Tel-Aviv University

Supporting communication in paid live-in care settings: understanding factors for the routinization of an AI-supported translation and messenger app

Birgit Trukeschitz, WU Vienna University of Economics and Business; and Ulrike Schneider, WU Vienna University of Economics and Business

Between Organisational Change and Digitalisation: The Dual Transformation of the German Labour Administration

Michaela Schulze, University of Applied Labour Studies

Transforming Intermediate Microeconomics Education: Integrating Generative AI as a Pedagogical Tool for Teaching Intuitive and Quantitative Concepts

Nandita Dasgupta, University of Maryland, Baltimore County

AI as a Mediating Force: Advancing Pro-Social and Integrated Welfare Policies for the 21st Century

Sergei Zelenev, International Council on Social Welfare

15:30-15:55: Coffee Break

16:00-17:00: AI in Systematic Reviews

Moderator: Douglas Besharov, professor, University of Maryland

Evaluating the Efficacy of Two Large Language Models in Literature Reviews

Weilin Li, Child Trends

Using Artificial Intelligence in Evidence Syntheses for International Development: Experiences from Three Systematic Reviews

Thomas de Hoop, American Institutes for Research

Mobilising Evidence Through Artificial Intelligence and User-Informed Synthesis

James Thomas, University College London

17:00-17:30: Close: AI as Policy Actor: Rethinking Expertise and Deliberation in Public Welfare

This session introduces an experimental panel format in which AI systems, representing the viewpoint of a beneficiary, a caseworker and an administrator, act as discussants alongside a human moderator. Bridging research and practice, the session draws on emerging applied work in AI-enabled public services to examine where these tools can add value—such as policy interpretation, case support, and scenario testing—while also confronting risks around bias, accountability, and governance. The discussion invites participants to consider how AI can be responsibly integrated into welfare systems in ways that strengthen, rather than undermine, public trust.

Moderator: Stewart Butler, Independent Researcher

Speakers: Wade Horn, Deloitte; and Hariharan Murthy, Deloitte

18:30: Dinner

Coopers

49 Lincoln's Inn Fields

Friday, 5 June

9:00-9:15 Welcome

Timo Fleckenstein, London School of Economics

Antonio López Peláez, professor, UNED; and executive director, International Council of Social Welfare (discussing possible publication plans)

9:15-10:30 AI in Qualitative Research

Moderator: Elisabetta Mughini, research director, INDIRE

Survey-Driven Contextualization and Active Historical Memory for LLM-Assisted Qualitative Coding: The Qualinode Architecture

Zeqiang Wang, University of Surrey

Too Big to Code? Limits and Possibilities of ChatGPT for Large-Scale Political Text Classification

Jakub Sowula, University of Tübingen

Integrating Large Language Models into Text-as-Data Research: Methods, Workflows, and Standards for Social Science

Zachary Courser, Claremont McKenna College

This Candidate is [MASK]: Prompt-based Sentiment Extraction and Reference Letters

Fabian Slonimczyk, Higher School of Economics

10:30-10:55 Coffee Break

11:00-12:30: AI in Education

Moderator: Guido Merzoni, professor, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore - Milano

Personalisation and Generative AI: Supporting Teachers in Developing Students' Potential

Jessica Niewint-Gori, INDIRE; and Sara Mori, INDIRE

Evaluating the Impact of AI in Education: Developing Informed Policy

Sara Mori, INDIRE

AI and the Evolution of Innovative School Systems

Lydia Zampolini, INDIRE

Contextualising School Staff Digital Competences. The Case Study from Text-Based to LLM-Personalised Scenarios

Margherita Di Stasio, INDIRE

AI as a Pedagogical Tool Looking for Critical Thinking in Social Work Education

Antonio López Peláez, UNED; and Gloria Kirwan, RCSI

12:30-14:00: Lunch (on your own)

14:00-15:30: Governance of AI Systems

Moderator: Fernando Burgos, professor, Getulio Vargas Foundation

Governing AI in Welfare Decision Systems: A Multi-Layer Ethical Framework for Bias Mitigation and Accountability

Imen Ameer, Hult International Business School

Who Governs AI for Social Welfare? Workforce Capacity, Institutional Design, and the Erosion of Democratic Oversight

Deb Donig, University of California Berkeley

Bridging the Gap: AI Governance for Equitable Adaptive Social Protection in the Face of Climate Shocks

Stiene Praet, SPRI Global

What the Data Inherited: Trans and Nonbinary Refugee Resettlement, Predictive Welfare AI, and the Long Life of Binary Data Infrastructure

LJ Connolly, University of Central Florida

Beyond Standardizing Language: How LLMs are Changing the Role of Social Workers

Janne Petroons, KU Leuven

15:30-15:55: Coffee Break

16:00-17:15 Ethical Considerations for AI in Social Welfare

Moderator: Sagrario Segado, professor, UNED

Exploring the Ethical, Legal and Societal Issues (ELSI) of Medical AI in South Korea

Saebyoul Yun, University of Edinburgh

Algorithmic Fairness as Administrative Compliance

Georgia van Toorn, University of New South Wales

Will AI Increase Ambivalent Feelings and Experiences with Digital Welfare for Women in Vulnerable Contexts?

Fernando Burgos, FGV EAESP

The Generative Balanced Move to Humanistic Welfare in the AI-Era

Kyungbae Chung, SES