

AI: from code to consequences ✨

<MURPHY-TULANE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM>
APRIL 17-18, 2026 | NEW ORLEANS



THE MURPHY INSTITUTE
TULANE UNIVERSITY



TULANE SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT
TULANE A.B. FREEMAN SCHOOL OF BUSINESS
TULANE CONNOLLY ALEXANDER INSTITUTE FOR DATA SCIENCE
TULANE LAW SCHOOL
TULANE SCHOOL OF PROFESSIONAL ADVANCEMENT
TULANE SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

Symposium Schedule



<SCHEDULE DAY 1 | FRIDAY, APRIL 17 | NOCHI>

11:00 AM WELCOME REMARKS

GARY (HOOV) HOOVER, Executive Director, The Murphy Institute

PAULO GOES, Dean, Tulane A.B. Freeman School of Business

11:15 AM OPENING KEYNOTE | THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE UGL-AI

MICHAEL LITTMAN, Associate Provost for Artificial Intelligence, University Professor of Computer Science, Brown University

MODERATOR: WALTER ISAACSON, Leonard A. Lauder Professor of American History and Values, Tulane University

12:45 PM PANEL 1 | WHAT IS AI? A MULTIDISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVE

2:00 PM PANEL 2 | AI AND THE LABOR MARKET: DISRUPTION, ADAPTATION, AND OPPORTUNITIES

3:15 PM PANEL 3 | RESPONSIBLE AND ETHICAL AI

4:30 PM CLOSING KEYNOTE | AGENTIC AI: DON'T PANIC! ...BUT BE PREPARED

JON KROHN, Host of *SuperDataScience* Podcast, Co-Founder and CEO, Y Carrot

MODERATOR: JOHN RENNE, Henry Shane Professor in Real Estate and Urban Planning, Program Director of Real Estate Development, Tulane University

5:30 PM RECEPTION AT NOCHI

RNDC Beverage Lab & Founders' Terrace



New Orleans Culinary and Hospitality Institute
(NOCHI) | 725 Howard Ave, New Orleans





Steven and Jann Paul Hall for Science and Engineering
Tulane University (Campus Map Building 16)

<SCHEDULE DAY 2 | SATURDAY, APRIL 18 | TULANE UNIVERSITY>

9:00 AM WELCOME REMARKS

GARY (HOOV) HOOVER, Executive Director, The Murphy Institute

IÑAKI ALDAY, Dean, Tulane School of Architecture and Built Environment

9:15 AM SESSION 1 | SMART CITIES

THOMAS SANCHEZ, Professor of Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning,
Texas A&M University

9:45 AM SESSION 2 | AI AND THE NATIONAL SECURITY STATE

ASAF LUBIN, Associate Professor of Law at Maurer School of Law, Indiana University

10:30 AM SESSION 3 | AI CODING REVOLUTION

HARRY WANG, Professor of MIS at the Alfred Lerner College of Business and Economics,
University of Delaware

11:00 AM SESSION 4 | AI AND THE FUTURE OF YOUR MIND

SUSAN SCHNEIDER, William F. Dietrich Distinguished Professor of Philosophy,
Florida Atlantic University

11:45 AM SESSION 5 | DO THE BORING STUFF TO MAKE OPEN SOURCE AI WIN

JOHN DICKERSON, CEO, Mozilla.ai

12:15 PM CLOSING REMARKS + NETWORKING SESSION WITH SPEAKERS

Detailed Agenda Day 1 | NOCHI



11:00–11:15 AM | WELCOME REMARKS

GARY (HOOV) HOOVER

Executive Director, The Murphy Institute | Professor of Economics, Tulane University

PAULO GOES

Dean | Debra and Rick Rees Professor, A.B. Freeman School of Business at Tulane University

11:15–12:30 PM | OPENING KEYNOTE: THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE UGL-AI

Because AI came on so strong and so fast, society has yet to establish clear rules, norms, and expectations about its role in our lives. Michael Littman will share examples of AI causing problems and AI solving problems. He will also report on the progress being made to absorb AI into our culture, changing both in the process.

MICHAEL LITTMAN

Associate Provost for Artificial Intelligence | University Professor of Computer Science, Brown University

MODERATOR: WALTER ISAACSON

Leonard A. Lauder Professor of American History and Values, Tulane University

INTRODUCTION: NICHOLAS MATTEI

Associate Professor of Computer Science | Co-Director, Tulane Center for Community Engaged AI, Tulane University

12:45–1:45 PM | PANEL 1: WHAT IS AI? A MULTIDISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVE

The term “artificial intelligence” (AI) was first used in the 1950s to describe the effort to program the (then new) computers to mimic the human actions we associate with intelligence. Since its inception, the field has been a source of both fear and fascination. It remains a core research area within computer science and a site of emerging technology that touches every aspect of society. In this panel, experts ranging from the technical and social sciences to law and philosophy will discuss how they perceive AI within their respective fields and explore the multidimensional implications this technology holds for our collective future.

AHMED ABBASI

Joe and Jane Giovanini Professor of IT, Analytics, and Operations, University of Notre Dame

SEAN MCSPADEN

Former Oregon Deputy State CIO | Senior Fellow, Center for Digital Government and Public Sector AI

SUSAN SCHNEIDER

William F. Dietrich Distinguished Professor of Philosophy, Florida Atlantic University

ARI EZRA WALDMAN

Professor of Law, University of California, Irvine School of Law

MODERATOR: NICHOLAS MATTEI

Associate Professor of Computer Science | Co-Director, Tulane Center for Community Engaged AI, Tulane University



2:00–3:00 PM | PANEL 2: AI AND THE LABOR MARKET: DISRUPTION, ADAPTATION, AND OPPORTUNITIES

Artificial intelligence is transforming work across industries, occupations, and skill levels. This panel brings together perspectives on technology, organizations, and economic change to explore both the potential disruptions AI creates and the new opportunities it unlocks for workers, firms, and society. The discussion will focus on how labor markets are adapting, what capabilities and institutions matter most in this transition, and how we can shape a more inclusive and resilient future of work. Designed to be timely, forward-looking, and analytically grounded, the panel invites participants to move beyond simple narratives of fear or optimism and engage with the practical and strategic choices that will define the next era of employment.

KEVIN HONG

Professor of Business Technology | Miami Herbert Centennial Endowed Chair | Associate Dean of Research, University of Miami Herbert Business School

GAL OESTREICHER-SINGER

Vice Rector, Tel Aviv University | Professor of Information Systems, Collier School of Management

FRANK PASQUALE

Professor of Law at Cornell Tech and Cornell Law School

PRASANNA (SONNY) TAMBE

Professor of Operations, Information, and Decisions | Co-Director of Wharton Human-AI Research, University of Pennsylvania

GREG WEISS

Co-Chair of the AI Exploratory Committee, National Association of Counties

MODERATOR: YI-JEN (IAN) HO

Associate Professor of Management Science, Tulane A.B. Freeman School of Business

“Like any new technology, we are struggling to properly identify exactly what it is. Without having a clear understanding of what the term ‘AI’ means, we’ll always struggle to know how to properly use it and then how to morally engage with it. Ignorance breeds intolerance. We need to learn.” – GARY “HOOV” HOOVER

3:15–4:15 PM | PANEL 3: RESPONSIBLE AND ETHICAL AI

Artificial intelligence is shaping some of the most consequential decisions in people’s lives: who gets hired, who gets a loan, and on what terms. Yet questions of accountability and fairness remain unresolved. AI systems trained on historical data can automate existing inequities faster than institutions can respond. Courts are only beginning to work out who bears liability when AI causes harm, and policy frameworks like the White House’s Blueprint for an AI Bill of Rights have yet to produce any enforceable obligations. In this session, panelists from industry, academia, and federal policy will discuss where AI is already causing harm and what building truly ethical and responsible AI systems would require.

JOHN DICKERSON

CEO, Mozilla.ai

MARK GEISTFELD

Sheila Lubetsky Birnbaum Professor of Civil Litigation, NYU Law School

FRANCESCA ROSSI

IBM Fellow | IBM Global Leader for Responsible AI and AI Governance

ANJANA SUSARLA

Faculty Director of the Center for Ethical and Socially Responsible Leadership | Omura-Saxena Professor in Responsible AI, Michigan State University

MODERATOR: JOHN LEVENDIS

Professor of Practice | Associate Director of Research Services at the Connolly Alexander Institute for Data Science, Tulane University

4:30–5:30 PM | CLOSING KEYNOTE: AGENTIC AI: DON’T PANIC! ...BUT BE PREPARED

Of the 100 million babies born this year, one will live into the 2140s. What will she witness? Previous generations could predict a decade out, but AI is accelerating at an exponential pace that makes the future genuinely hard to foresee. LLM capabilities that once took years to develop now leap forward in weeks, and the cost of building with AI is plummeting. That speed thrills — but it also unsettles. Will AI reshape my job? All jobs? What should I teach my kids? This talk meets those anxieties head-on with an honest, evidence-based look at the landscape — from jaw-dropping benchmarks to surprising employment trends showing millions of new roles emerging alongside AI adoption. The result is an optimistic but clear-eyed vision for the future, paired with practical takeaways anyone can use to ride the AI wave rather than be swept up by it.

JON KROHN

Host of the SuperDataScience Podcast | Co-Founder and CEO of Y Carrot

MODERATOR: JOHN RENNE

Henry Shane Professor in Real Estate and Urban Planning, Tulane University

5:30–6:30 PM | RECEPTION AT NOCHI

Following the final keynote, please join our speakers and guests for an hour of refreshments and conversation in a relaxed setting overlooking the city.

Detailed Agenda Day 2 | Tulane University



9:00–9:15 AM | WELCOME REMARKS

GARY (HOOV) HOOVER

Executive Director, The Murphy Institute | Professor of Economics, Tulane University

IÑAKI ALDAY

Dean | Richard Koch Chair in Architecture, Tulane School of Architecture and Built Environment

9:15–9:45 AM | SESSION 1: SMART CITIES

THOMAS SANCHEZ

Professor of Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning, Texas A&M University

INTRODUCTION: JOHN RENNE

Henry Shane Professor in Real Estate and Urban Planning, Tulane University

9:45–10:15 AM | SESSION 2: AI AND THE NATIONAL SECURITY STATE

ASAF LUBIN

Associate Professor of Law at Maurer School of Law, Indiana University

INTRODUCTION: MATEUSZ GROCHOWSKI

Associate Professor of Law | Gordon Gamm Faculty Scholar, Tulane Law School

10:30–11:00 AM | SESSION 3: AI CODING REVOLUTION

HARRY WANG

Professor of MIS at the Alfred Lerner College of Business and Economics, University of Delaware

INTRODUCTION: YI-JEN (IAN) HO

Associate Professor of Management Science, Tulane A.B. Freeman School of Business

11:00–11:30 AM | SESSION 4: AI AND THE FUTURE OF YOUR MIND

SUSAN SCHNEIDER

William F. Dietrich Distinguished Professor of Philosophy, Florida Atlantic University

INTRODUCTION: JOHN RENNE

Henry Shane Professor in Real Estate and Urban Planning, Tulane University

11:45–12:15 PM | SESSION 5: DO THE BORING STUFF TO MAKE OPEN SOURCE AI WIN

JOHN DICKERSON

CEO, Mozilla.ai

INTRODUCTION: NICHOLAS MATTEI

Associate Professor of Computer Science | Co-Director, Tulane Center for Community Engaged AI, Tulane University

12:15–12:45 PM | CLOSING REMARKS + NETWORKING SESSION WITH SPEAKERS

A final opportunity for focused dialogue across disciplines before the symposium concludes.



PAUL HALL

Steven and Jann Paul Hall for Science and Engineering, Tulane University

Opening Keynote



<THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE UGL-AI>

BECAUSE AI CAME ON SO STRONG AND SO FAST, SOCIETY HAS YET TO ESTABLISH CLEAR RULES, NORMS, AND EXPECTATIONS ABOUT ITS ROLE IN OUR LIVES.

Michael Littman has been on the front lines of AI research, education, and governance for roughly 40 years. He is currently working as Brown University's first Associate Provost for AI and will share examples of AI causing problems and AI solving problems. Finally, he'll report on the progress being made to absorb AI into our culture, changing both in the process.



<SPEAKER: MICHAEL LITTMAN>

**ASSOCIATE PROVOST FOR ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE,
BROWN UNIVERSITY**

Michael L. Littman is University Professor of Computer Science and Associate Provost for Artificial Intelligence at Brown University. His research focuses on machine learning and decision-making under uncertainty and has been recognized with three best-paper awards and three influential paper awards. He received an outstanding educator award for his contributions to AI teaching and outreach.

Professor Littman is a Fellow of the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence and the Association for Computing Machinery. He recently served as Division Director for Information and Intelligent Systems at the National Science Foundation (NSF). His book, *Code to Joy: Why Everyone Should Learn a Little Programming*, was published in October 2023 by MIT Press. He chaired the panel that authored the 2021 report for *The One Hundred Year Study on Artificial Intelligence (AI100)* and co-chaired and co-authored the *National AI R&D Strategic Plan (2023 update)*.

<MODERATOR: WALTER ISAACSON>

LEONARD A. LAUDER PROFESSOR OF AMERICAN HISTORY AND VALUES, TULANE UNIVERSITY



<AGENTIC AI: DON'T PANIC! ...BUT BE PREPARED>

**OF THE 100 MILLION BABIES BORN THIS YEAR, ONE WILL LIVE INTO THE 2140S.
WHAT WILL SHE WITNESS?**

Previous generations could predict a decade out, but AI is accelerating at an exponential pace that makes the future genuinely hard to foresee. LLM capabilities that once took years to develop now leap forward in weeks, and the cost of building with AI is plummeting. That speed thrills — but it also unsettles. Will AI reshape my job? All jobs? What should I teach my kids? This talk meets those anxieties head-on with an honest, evidence-based look at the landscape — from jaw-dropping benchmarks to surprising employment trends showing millions of new roles emerging alongside AI adoption. The result is an optimistic but clear-eyed vision for the future, paired with practical takeaways anyone can use to ride the AI wave rather than be swept up by it.



<SPEAKER: JOHN KROHN>

**HOST OF THE SUPERDATASCIENCE PODCAST
CO-FOUNDER AND CEO OF Y CARROT**

Dr. Jon Krohn is CEO and co-founder of Y Carrot, a software company that specializes in designing and implementing agentic AI systems for enterprises. He also serves as ML Practice Fellow at Lightning AI and is the host of *SuperDataScience*, the data science industry's most listened-to podcast. He wrote the book *Deep Learning Illustrated*, an instant #1 bestseller that was translated into seven languages. He supervises doctoral research in AI robotics at the University of Auckland, lectures at leading universities (Columbia, NYU), keynotes at top global conferences (Web Summit, Collision) and presents content on Bloomberg TV that is viewed by millions. Jon holds a PhD from Oxford and has been publishing on machine learning in prominent academic journals since 2010.

<MODERATOR: JOHN RENNE>

HENRY SHANE PROFESSOR IN REAL ESTATE AND URBAN PLANNING, TULANE UNIVERSITY



<SYMPOSIUM>

PARTICIPANTS



Panel and Session Speakers



AHMED ABBASI

Ahmed Abbasi is the Giovanini Endowed Chair Professor in the Department of IT, Analytics, and Operations, where he serves as Co-Director of the Human-centered Analytics Lab (HAL) and Director of the Analytics PhD program at The University of Notre Dame. With over twenty years of experience, Dr. Abbasi's research focuses on human-centered analytics and machine learning, particularly as they apply to healthcare, digital user experience, and the integrity of online communities.

A prolific scholar, Professor Abbasi has published more than 130 articles in leading outlets and currently serves as Senior Editor at *Information Systems Research* and Department Editor for Trustworthy and Responsible AI at *IEEE Intelligent Systems*. His research initiatives have been supported by more than a dozen National Science Foundation (NSF) grants, alongside strategic industry partnerships with AWS, Microsoft, eBay, and Oracle.

Dr. Abbasi's contributions have earned him several prestigious honors, including INFORMS ISS Fellow, the IEEE Technical Achievement Award, the INFORMS Design Science Award, ACM Distinguished Member, and the IBM Faculty Award.



JOHN DICKERSON

John Dickerson is the CEO at Mozilla.ai. He brings a wealth of experience in scaling startups, developing practical and robust machine learning methods, and providing broad AI/ML thought leadership in industry, academia, and government. Previously, John was Co-Founder and Chief Scientist at Arthur, as well as a tenured professor at the University of Maryland. At Arthur, he helped scale the company through Series B financing, developing industry-leading technology in data drift and bias detection, as well as GenAI firewall features such as jailbreak and PII leakage detection.

At Maryland, Dickerson led a large lab researching the intersection of ML and economics, securing \$10M+ in funding from agencies including NIST, DARPA, and the NSF. He has worked extensively on theoretical and empirical approaches to organ exchange, where his work has set US-wide policy, and worldwide blood donation markets with Meta. His models have also been deployed in game-theoretic approaches to counter-terrorism and negotiation. John holds a BS in Mathematics and a BS in Computer Science from the University of Maryland, as well as a PhD in Computer Science from Carnegie Mellon University.



MARK GEISTFELD

Mark Geistfeld is the Sheila Lubetsky Birnbaum Professor of Civil Litigation at NYU School of Law, where he has been a member of the faculty since 1991. A nationally recognized authority on Torts and Insurance, his research focuses on the common-law rules governing the prevention of and compensation for physical harms, with a particular emphasis on the interplay between tort liability and insurance mechanisms.

Professor Geistfeld is at the forefront of emerging technology policy, currently serving as the Reporter for the American Law Institute’s (ALI) project, Principles of the Law, Civil Liability for Artificial Intelligence. He has written extensively on the liability implications of automated systems, including his seminal work on autonomous vehicles and the recently released third edition of his casebook, *Product Liability Law in the Age of AI* (2025).

A former editor-in-chief of the *Columbia Law Review*, Professor Geistfeld holds both a JD and a PhD in Economics from Columbia University. His recent scholarship, including “Insurability and Liability for AI Technologies” (2025), provides a vital framework for resolving the doctrinal challenges posed by opaque AI decision-making.



YILI (KEVIN) HONG

Yili (Kevin) Hong is a Professor of Business Technology, the Miami Herbert Centennial Endowed Chair, and Associate Dean for Research at the Miami Herbert Business School, University of Miami. He serves as a Senior Editor at *Production and Operations Management (POM)* and an Associate Editor at *Information Systems Research*. He is currently co-editing a *POM* Special Issue on Social Technologies in Operations.

Dr. Hong’s research explores the Future of Work, digital platforms, digital media, and human-algorithm interactions. His work has appeared in *Management Science*, *Information Systems Research*, *MIS Quarterly*, *Production and Operations Management*, and *INFORMS Journal on Computing*, supported by major grants from the NSF, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, NET Institute, and the Department of Education. His research has earned numerous awards, including the 2025 ISS *Management Science* Best Paper Award and the 2025 *POM* J. George Shanthikumar Best Data Science & E-Operations Paper Award. He is also a recipient of the AIS and INFORMS ISS Early Career Awards.



JON KROHN

Jon Krohn, PhD is CEO and Co-Founder of Y Carrot, a software company that specializes in designing and implementing Agentic AI systems for enterprises. He also serves as Machine Learning (ML) Practice Fellow at Lightning AI and is the host of *SuperDataScience*, the data science industry's most listened-to podcast. He wrote the book *Deep Learning Illustrated*, an instant #1 bestseller that was translated into seven languages.

Dr. Krohn supervises doctoral research in AI Robotics at the University of Auckland, lectures at universities including Columbia and New York University (NYU), and keynotes at global conferences such as Web Summit and Collision. Additionally, he presents content on Bloomberg TV that is viewed by millions. Jon holds a PhD from Oxford University and has been publishing on machine learning in prominent academic journals since 2010.



MICHAEL L. LITTMAN

Michael L. Littman is University Professor of Computer Science and Associate Provost for Artificial Intelligence at Brown University. His research focuses on machine learning and decision-making under uncertainty and has been recognized with three best-paper awards and three influential paper awards. He received an Outstanding Educator Award for his contributions to AI teaching and outreach.

Professor Littman is a Fellow of the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AAAI) and the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM). He recently served as the Division Director for Information and Intelligent Systems at the National Science Foundation (NSF). He co-chaired and co-authored the *National AI R&D Strategic Plan (2023 update)* and chaired the panel that authored the 2021 report for *The One Hundred Year Study on Artificial Intelligence (AI100)*. His book, *Code to Joy: Why Everyone Should Learn a Little Programming*, was published in October 2023 by MIT Press.



ASAF LUBIN

Asaf Lubin, PhD is an Associate Professor at Indiana University Maurer School of Law and an Affiliated Faculty at the Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies. He is also a Faculty Associate at the Berkman Klein Center for Internet and Society at Harvard University and an Affiliated Fellow at Yale Law School's Information Society Project.

Dr. Lubin is the author of *The International Law of Intelligence: The World of Spycraft and the Law of Nations* (Oxford University Press, 2026) and co-editor of *The Rights to Privacy and Data Protection in Armed Conflict* (NATO CCDCOE, 2022).



SEAN MCSPADEN

Sean McSpaden has served in Oregon State Government for the past 27 years. In the Executive Branch, he served for 15 years in a variety of roles, including over five years as Oregon’s Deputy State Chief Information Officer. In the Legislative Branch, he has served for the past 12 years as the Principal Legislative IT Analyst and Committee Administrator for Oregon’s Joint Legislative Committee on Information Management and Technology.

He serves as Oregon’s Representative to the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) Taskforce on Artificial Intelligence, Cybersecurity, and Privacy, and was recently appointed Staff Vice-Chair for the NCSL Standing Committee on Technology and Communications. McSpaden is a Senior Fellow with the Center for Digital Government and Center for Public Sector AI, and is a frequent moderator and speaker at state, national, and international technology forums. He holds a Master’s Degree in Business Administration, a PMI Project Management Professional (PMP) certification, and is an ISACA Certified Information Security Manager (CISM).

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GAL OSTREICHER-SINGER

Gal Oestreicher-Singer serves as Vice Rector of Tel Aviv University and is a Professor of Information Systems at the Collier School of Management. She holds degrees in law and electrical engineering, and received her PhD from NYU’s Stern School of Business. Her research is at the forefront of the digital economy, focusing on the impacts of Generative AI, consumer engagement, and peer influence on online business models.

Professor Oestreicher-Singer’s work is published in premier journals of both information systems and marketing. She has held distinguished editorial roles, including Senior Editor for *Information Systems Research* and *MIS Quarterly*. Her contributions have been recognized with numerous honors, including the AIS Best Dissertation Award, the ISS Distinguished Fellow Award (2025), and the Kadar Family Award for Outstanding Research.

A two-time recipient of the European Research Council (ERC) grant, she has also received notable industry recognition from Google and the Marketing Science Institute. Her multidisciplinary expertise in technical architecture, legal policy, and commerce provides critical insights into how Generative AI is reshaping the global consumer landscape.



FRANK PASQUALE

Frank Pasquale is a leading expert on the law of artificial intelligence, algorithms, and machine learning. He serves as a Professor of Law at Cornell Tech and Cornell Law School, and is a member of the American Law Institute. His foundational research on algorithmic accountability and the regulation of internet platforms has been instrumental in shaping modern AI law and policy.

Professor Pasquale is the author of the landmark study *The Black Box Society* (2015), which analyzed the secret algorithms controlling money and information, and *New Laws of Robotics* (2020), a finalist for the PROSE awards. Recognized as one of the most-cited U.S. scholars in Law and Technology, his work spans across privacy law, health law, and automated decision-making.

Beyond academia, Professor Pasquale has a distinguished record of public service. He has advised the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Federal Trade Commission, and the European Commission. From 2022 to 2024, he served on the U.S. National Artificial Intelligence Advisory Committee. He currently co-edits the *Journal of Cross-Disciplinary Research in Computational Law* and remains a leading advocate for “human-in-the-loop” AI that augments rather than replaces human professionals with automated systems.

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FRANCESCA ROSSI

Francesca Rossi is an IBM Fellow and the IBM Global Leader for Responsible AI and AI Governance. She is based at the T.J. Watson IBM Research Lab in New York. Her research interests focus on artificial intelligence, with special focus on constraint reasoning, preferences, multi-agent systems, computational social choice, neuro-symbolic AI, cognitive architectures, and value alignment. On these topics, she has published over 220 scientific articles.

She is a fellow of both the worldwide Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AAAI) and the European Association for Artificial Intelligence (EurAI). She has served as President of the International Joint Conference on AI (IJCAI) and of the AAAI.

Dr. Rossi has extensive experience in AI governance and best practices for corporate AI ethics and risk assessment, working with numerous multi-stakeholder global organizations. She was a founding member of the board of the Partnership on AI, she co-chairs the OECD Expert Groups on AI Futures and Trustworthy AI Investments, and she served as a member of the European Commission High Level Expert Group on AI.



THOMAS W. SANCHEZ

Thomas W. Sanchez, PhD is a Professor in the Department of Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning at Texas A&M University. He earned his PhD in City Planning from Georgia Tech and has held faculty positions at Iowa State University, Portland State University, the University of Utah, and Virginia Tech. His research and teaching focus on Planning Methods, Technology, and Transportation.

His most recent book, *AI for Urban Planning*, was published by Routledge in 2025 and bridges the gap between technical AI specialists and urban planning professionals. His previous works include *Networks in the Knowledge Economy* (with Denise Bedford) and *Planning Knowledge and Research*. He is a member of the American Planning Association (APA) Artificial Intelligence (AI) Foresight Community and writes a monthly column on AI for *Planetizen*.



SUSAN SCHNEIDER

Susan Schneider is a philosopher and cognitive scientist whose work focuses on AI consciousness, the simulation hypothesis, and the future of intelligence. She is the Founding Director of the Center for the Future of AI, Mind and Society at Florida Atlantic University (FAU) and Co-Director of the MPCR Lab at FAU’s Gruber Sandbox. Previously, she served as the NASA–Baruch Blumberg Chair in Astrobiology and Technological Innovation at NASA and held the Distinguished Scholar Chair at the Library of Congress.

Dr. Schneider’s research explores whether advanced AI systems could be conscious and the nature of alien superintelligence. In her book, *Artificial You: AI and the Future of Your Mind*, she examines the philosophical implications of AI, mind design, and brain-machine interfaces.

Dr. Schneider’s recent work develops “Superpsychism,” the view that our spatiotemporal universe may be structured by a massive qubit-based quantum computer. She serves as an advisor to Prism: The Partnership for Research into Sentient Machines and frequently contributes to *The New York Times*, *Scientific American*, and *The Financial Times*.



ANJANA SUSARLA

Anjana Susarla holds the Omura-Saxena Professorship in Responsible AI at Michigan State University's Broad College of Business, where she also serves as the Faculty Director of the Center for Ethical and Socially Responsible Leadership (CESRL). A leading expert in the socio-economic impacts of technology, her research focuses on the responsible use of artificial intelligence, social media analytics, and algorithmic bias. She earned her PhD in Information Systems from the University of Texas at Austin and holds degrees from the Indian Institute of Technology, Chennai, and the Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta.

Professor Susarla's research is widely published in premier journals such as *MIS Quarterly*, *Management Science*, and *Information Systems Research*, as well as high-profile AI conferences, including NeurIPS and ICLR. Her contributions have earned the Academic Leadership Award from the Responsible AI Institute and the Microsoft Prize from the International Network of Social Networks Analysis. Beyond academia, Professor Susarla is a contributing writer for *Forbes* and a frequent commentator for global media outlets like the BBC, *The New York Times*, and NPR.



PRASANNA (SONNY) TAMBE

Prasanna (Sonny) Tambe is a Professor in the OID group at The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania and Faculty Co-Director of Wharton Human-AI Research. His research spans three core areas: the economics of technical labor markets, the impact of AI on work and skills, and the use of algorithms and data in human resources. His work examines how competition shapes employment and innovation, how emerging AI technologies transform organizations, and how digital signals are reshaping hiring, retention, and workforce management.

Professor Tambe's research draws on Internet-scale data from job platforms and career networks to measure workers' skills and firms' requirements, and has appeared in leading journals including *Management Science*, *Information Systems Research*, *MIS Quarterly*, *California Management Review*, *Communications of the ACM*, and *Information Economics and Policy*. He earned his SB and MEng in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and his PhD from Wharton.



ARI EZRA WALDMAN

Ari Ezra Waldman is a Professor of Law and, by courtesy, Professor of Sociology at the University of California, Irvine. His scholarship excavates the way information is mediated by law, technology, social groups, and institutions. He is the author of three books, including *Privacy as Trust* (Cambridge) and *Industry Unbound: The Inside Story of Privacy, Data, and Corporate Power* (Cambridge), both of which have won numerous awards, and *Advanced Introduction to US Data Privacy Law* (Edward Elgar).

Professor Waldman's scholarship appears in leading law reviews and peer-reviewed journals, including the *Columbia Law Review*, the *Virginia Law Review*, the *California Law Review*, the *Michigan Law Review* (twice), the *University of Chicago Legal Forum*, *Law & Social Inquiry* (twice), and *Law & Business Ethics*. He holds a PhD in sociology from Columbia University and a JD from Harvard Law School.

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HARRY WANG

Harry Wang is a Full Professor of Management Information Systems at the University of Delaware, with over 20 years of experience in AI, Data Science, Social Computing, and Enterprise Systems. He is the Founder and CEO of PaperFox.ai, the first all-in-one AI platform for academic conferences.

Previously, he served as Chief Scientist at Tezign Inc., Independent Director for So-Young International Inc. (NASDAQ: SY), and Founding Director of OneConnect (NYSE: OCFT) U.S. Research Institute. He also served as Vice-President of Technology for the Association for Information Systems and was a JPMorgan Chase Fellow. His research appears in top journals including *MIS Quarterly*, *Information Systems Research*, and *Production and Operations Management*.



GREGG WEISS

Commissioner Gregg Weiss, a retired business executive from California, was elected to the District 2 seat of the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners in November 2018 and reelected in 2022. He serves on a variety of boards at the local, state, and national levels. A champion for technology that works for the people, Commissioner Weiss leads a national committee exploring how local governments can utilize AI responsibly and ethically.

Beyond technology policy, Commissioner Weiss is a dedicated advocate for environmental stewardship, specifically focusing on water quality and the protection of sensitive ecosystems such as the Lake Worth Lagoon. His policy priorities include spearheading local ordinances to combat hate crimes and bigotry, as well as expanding access to mental health services and the Mental Health Court in Palm Beach County.

Commissioner Weiss earned his degree from the University of California, Irvine. He is a member of Temple Israel and resides in West Palm Beach with his wife, Rebecca.

“When used intentionally, AI becomes less about automation and more about intervention, which is where justice actually lives.”

– BILL RIALS

Tulane University Speakers and Participants



IÑAKI ALDAY

Iñaki Alday is the Dean of the Tulane School of Architecture and Built Environment and the Richard Koch Chair in Architecture. A distinguished architect and urbanist, he received his Master of Architecture from the Polytechnic University of Catalonia. He co-founded aldayjover architecture and landscape in Barcelona, a multidisciplinary, research-based practice renowned for its innovative approach to urban river integration, in which the natural dynamics of flooding become part of the public space.

In addition to his practice, Alday has taught at the Polytechnic University of Catalonia, the University of Navarra, and served as the Elwood R. Quesada Professor and Chair of the Department of Architecture at the University of Virginia. Since 2016, he has been the Co-Director and Founder of the Yamuna River Project, a long-term interdisciplinary initiative focused on revitalizing the ecology of the Yamuna River in Delhi. Both in academic research and in practice, Alday promotes a new attitude towards how architecture contributes to the inhabitation of the most challenged areas of the planet, utilizing a multidisciplinary global vision and social and environmental ethics to examine the role of architecture and architects.



PAULO GOES

Paulo Goes is the Dean of the A.B. Freeman School of Business at Tulane University. He is positioning the school as a transformation engine in education and knowledge generation for business students and the New Orleans/Gulf South region. Under his leadership, the school has embraced experiential learning and industry connectivity as defining components of the future of business education. He was previously at the University of Arizona, where he served nearly eight years as Head of Management Information Systems and close to six years as Dean and Halle Chair in Leadership. He received his PhD in Business Administration from the University of Rochester and spent the first part of his academic career at the University of Connecticut.

A leader in the field of Technology and Digital Transformation, Dr. Goes has served as the Editor-in-Chief of *Management Information Systems Quarterly* and as the Senior Editor or Associate Editor of several top-tier journals in Information Systems and Business. Additionally, he has published extensively in top journals in these fields. He has been recognized as a Fellow of both the Association for Information Systems (AIS) and the INFORMS Information Systems Society. In 2022, he received the Presidential Award for Lifelong Service from the INFORMS Information Systems Society.



GARY (HOOV) HOOVER

Gary (Hoov) Hoover is the Executive Director of The Murphy Institute, Professor of Economics at Tulane University, and an Affiliated Faculty Member at Tulane Law School. A nationally renowned economist, his research focuses on the intersection of Economics, Race, and Public Policy, specifically the impact of policy on wealth and income inequality. He is the author of the 2026 book *Ladder or Lottery: Economic Promises and the Reality of Who Gets Ahead*, which examines the complex structures of economic mobility and opportunity in America.

Hoover joined Tulane from the University of Oklahoma, where he served as Department Chair of Economics and held a Presidential Professorship. Previously, he spent 16 years at the University of Alabama as a Distinguished Faculty Fellow and Assistant Dean in the Culverhouse College of Business. Since 2012, Hoover has co-chaired the American Economic Association (AEA) Committee on the Status of Minority Groups in the Economics Profession. He is the Founding Editor of the *Journal of Economics, Race and Policy* and a Fellow at the CESifo Group Munich. His research has appeared in *American Economic Review*, *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, *Public Choice*, and *European Journal of Political Economy*. He has held guest professorships at the University of Wisconsin, University of Hannover, University of Vienna, and Xi'an University. He earned his PhD from Washington University in St. Louis.



MATEUSZ GROCHOWSKI

Mateusz Grochowski is an expert in Contract Law, Digital Economy, and Consumer Protection. He serves as an Associate Professor at Tulane Law School and is an Affiliated Faculty member at The Murphy Institute. Professor Grochowski was recently named the 2026 Gordon Gamm Faculty Scholar, a distinction supporting his research on transnational consumer law in the digital era. His current work explores algorithmic price personalization and the ways global platforms act as de facto lawmakers in AI-driven markets.

An internationally engaged scholar, Professor Grochowski is an Affiliated Fellow at the Information Society Project at Yale Law School and a Council Member of the Louisiana State Law Institute. He recently co-edited *The Cambridge Handbook of Algorithmic Price Personalization and the Law* (2025). Before joining Tulane, he was a Senior Research Fellow at the Max Planck Institute and held fellowships at NYU, Yale, and the European University Institute.

A former member of the Supreme Court of Poland's Office of Studies and Analyses, his multidisciplinary perspective often examines the "digital arms race" between vendors and consumers. In his spare time, he explores the intersections of classical music, jazz, and the law.



YI-JEN (IAN) HO

Yi-Jen (Ian) Ho is an Associate Professor in the A. B. Freeman School of Business at Tulane University. He studies the societal and scientific impact of AI: how algorithmic systems and AI-enabled platforms reshape attention, mobility, marketplace outcomes, and the creation and diffusion of knowledge. His recent working papers examine (1) how AI tools in judicial decision-making interact with human discretion to influence fairness and public safety, and (2) whether AI can accelerate scientific creativity and the production of new ideas.

Professor Ho combines mechanism design and game-theoretic modeling with causal econometrics, randomized field experiments, and machine learning to uncover underlying mechanisms and generate policy-relevant insights. His research has appeared in top business journals and has been recognized with the Gordon B. Davis Young Scholar Award in 2022 and the Nunamaker–Chen Dissertation Award in 2017 from the INFORMS Information Systems Society.



WALTER ISAACSON

Walter Isaacson is a renowned biographer and the Leonard Lauder Professor of American History and Values at Tulane. He is the past CEO of the Aspen Institute, former Chairman of CNN, and was the Editor of *TIME* magazine. In 2023, he was awarded the National Humanities Medal. Isaacson’s bestselling biographies include *Elon Musk*, *The Code Breaker*, *Leonardo da Vinci*, *The Innovators*, *Steve Jobs*, *Kissinger*, and *Einstein*. He is also the co-author of *The Wise Men*.

Beyond his writing, he hosts *Amanpour and Company* on PBS and CNN and the Dell Technologies podcast, *Trailblazers with Walter Isaacson*.

New Orleans native and Rhodes Scholar Isaacson has a long record of public service, including serving as Vice-Chair of the Louisiana Recovery Authority and Chairman of the Broadcasting Board of Governors. He currently serves on the boards of United Airlines, Bloomberg Philanthropies, and the U.S. Defense Department Innovation Board. He is an Advisory Partner at Perella Weinberg and a member of the American Philosophical Society and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.



JOHN LEVENDIS

John Levendis is a Professor of Practice at Tulane University's Connolly Alexander Institute for Data Science, where he teaches classes on Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, and Statistics. He earned a PhD in Economics from the University of Iowa, and also holds advanced degrees in Applied Mathematics and Data Science from Iowa and the University of Texas at Austin.

Professor Levendis has taught at Loyola University, the University of Iowa, Cornell College, the Economics University of Prague, and Southeastern Louisiana University. Dr. Levendis' research focuses on the economic impact of technology and digital infrastructure. He is the author of the textbook *Time Series Econometrics: Learning Through Replication*, currently in its 2nd edition.



NICHOLAS MATTEI

Nicholas Mattei is an Associate Professor of Computer Science at Tulane University and Co-Director of the Tulane Center for Community Engaged AI. His research lies at the intersection of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning with applications in Data Science, Economics, Decision Making, and Psychology. His projects leverage theory, data, and experiments to create novel algorithms, mechanisms, and systems that enable and support individual and group decision making. He has a passion for both studying and educating students on the impacts of these technologies on society.

Dr. Mattei has published over 100 academic articles in top conferences and journals and has received multiple grants from sources including Google, IBM, and the National Science Foundation (NSF), including a 2024 NSF CAREER Award. He is a co-author of the book, *Computing and Technology Ethics: Engaging Through Science Fiction* from MIT Press. Before joining Tulane, he was a Research Staff Member at IBM Research TJ Watson Research Laboratory. He also served as a Senior Researcher at Data61/CSIRO/NICTA and was an Aerospace Technology Engineer at NASA Ames Research Center. He completed his PhD in 2012 at the University of Kentucky.



JOHN RENNE

John Renne is a recognized leader in Transit-Oriented Development (TOD), Sustainable Urbanism, and the application of Artificial Intelligence (AI). He integrates real estate, land use, and technology to build walkable, resilient, and sustainable communities. Dr. Renne is a prolific scholar with four published books, including *Adaptation Urbanism and Resilient Communities* (2021), and has a forthcoming book with Cambridge University Press on Green Transit-Oriented Development.

Recognized as the 2023 Scholar of the Year at Florida Atlantic University, Dr. Renne is currently at the forefront of Urban AI integration. He is pursuing a second Master's Degree in Computer Science (specializing in AI) and recently earned a Certificate in Big Data Analytics.

In the private sector, he serves as Co-CEO and Co-Founder of Priority Funds, LLC, where he drives investment strategies that prioritize walkability and sustainability across the United States. Over the past 25 years, his teaching and research have spanned prestigious institutions, including Oxford University, Rutgers, and the University of New Orleans, empowering the next generation to envision and realize cities defined by sustainability, innovation, and resilience.



WILLIAM (BILL) RIALS

William (Bill) Rials, PhD, is an Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Senior Professor of Practice at Tulane University, where he oversees academic programs. He is also a faculty member teaching classes in information technology, cybersecurity, emerging technologies, and other applied fields.

Beyond higher education, Dr. Rials is recognized nationally as a leading voice at the intersection of government, technology, and education. He serves as a Senior Fellow with both the Center for Digital Government and Education and the Center for Public Sector AI. A frequent keynote speaker, panelist, and moderator, he engages national audiences on topics ranging from AI adoption and cybersecurity resilience to digital transformation in state and local government.

Prior to academia, he held technology leadership roles in state and local governments, where he focused on large-scale modernization and innovation initiatives overseeing enterprise IT strategy, cybersecurity programs, and digital service delivery. His work in government laid the foundation for his ongoing research and national thought leadership on the adoption of emerging technologies in the public sector.

PERSPECTIVES

< ON THE AI FRONTIER >

AS AI MOVES FROM SPECIALIZED LABS INTO THE FABRIC OF PUBLIC POLICY AND INSTITUTIONAL DESIGN, THE NEED FOR RIGOROUS, MULTIDISCIPLINARY ANALYSIS HAS NEVER BEEN MORE URGENT.



PERSPECTIVES ON THE AI FRONTIER, produced in conjunction with the *AI: From Code to Consequences* research symposium, offers a curated look at how these technologies are reshaping our world, not just through technical innovation, but through the lens of ethics, regulation, and long-term social impact.

The collection on the following pages serves as a dialogue between experts across various fields at Tulane University, intended to provoke deeper inquiry

into how we might govern AI systems to serve the public good and promote responsible innovation. This dialogue is an extension of The Murphy Institute’s mission to explore and understand the economic, moral, and political complexities we face collectively. In the context of this symposium, we seek to illuminate how these challenges have become so deeply interconnected in the age of Artificial Intelligence and bridge the gap between theoretical research and practical application.

PERSPECTIVES ON THE OPPORTUNITY FOR SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION

“AI can break down technical barriers and empower ordinary people to better understand complex processes, technical jargon, legal statutes, and more that were previously inaccessible. For example, Large Language Models (LLMs) can revolutionize the real estate development process by allowing the general public to ‘chat with their zoning codes,’ increasing transparency and dialogue about complex zoning codes, and enabling better public processes.”

JOHN L. RENNE

*Henry Shane Professor in Real Estate and Urban Planning
Tulane School of Architecture and Built Environment*

“We spend a lot of time talking about the ethical risks of AI, and we should. But AI is also being used to surface inequities that were previously invisible. In higher education and government, predictive analytics are helping identify students or citizens at risk before failure occurs. When used intentionally, AI becomes less about automation and more about intervention, which is where justice actually lives.”

WILLIAM “BILL” RIALS

*Associate Dean for Academic Affairs | Senior Professor of Practice
Tulane School of Professional Advancement*

PERSPECTIVES ON THE NATURE OF BIAS

“The difficulty in creating unbiased AI stems from the open-ended nature of the technology itself. Because AI can be used in so many different ways, it is hard to put explicit brakes on an unknown and unforeseen future action. This is compounded by the fact that ‘unbiased’ means different things to different people; an AI trained to be fair by one ethical standard may look deeply unethical by another.”

JOHN LEVENDIS

*Professor of Practice | Associate Director of Research Services
Tulane Connolly Alexander Institute for Data Science*

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“The question of why it is hard to make AI unbiased somewhat misses the point. AI – and indeed all computational systems that learn from data to make predictions – either learn from data or encode rules that someone has to decide on. Both are fraught processes. For example, if we only train on [college] admission data from long ago, the system will reproduce the bias present in those human decisions we’ve already made. When a system is rule-based, those rules are written by humans, sometimes with community oversight and guidance, but more often not. The central issue is that not enough stakeholders are involved in the design and deployment of these systems. A core goal of the Tulane Center for Community Engaged AI is to bring these (often-marginalized) stakeholders directly into the creation, design, and oversight processes.”

NICHOLAS MATTEI

Associate Professor of Computer Science | Co-Director, Tulane Center for Community Engaged AI

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“Bias is not found simply in the data; it exists in the labels, the objectives, and the systems we build around the models. When you optimize a system for one metric, you inevitably shift the error elsewhere. The harder truth is that ‘fairness’ itself is a contested social concept, and encoding a fluid social concept or human value into mathematics is an inherently imperfect process.”

WILLIAM “BILL” RIALS

*Associate Dean for Academic Affairs | Senior Professor of Practice
Tulane School of Professional Advancement*

PERSPECTIVES ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT

“I think we will soon see greater use of AI in creating ‘digital twins,’ bringing together all the data available for a problem and providing us with a sandbox with which to explore different climate, socioeconomic, or policy outcomes. Over the next five years, these digital replicas will become essential tools for decision-makers, allowing us to simulate the long-term effects of our choices in a controlled, virtual environment.”

DANIEL FRIESS

*Cochran Family Professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences
Director of The Murphy Institute Center for Public Policy Research*

“AI development will displace certain tasks rather than entire professions, but economic transitions are rarely clean. Productivity gains tend to accrue faster than reskilling systems can adapt. Policy responses should focus on workforce transition funding, portable credentials, and transparency mandates for high-risk systems. Our goal must be to promote responsible innovation while simultaneously preventing a concentration of benefit and diffusion of harm.”

WILLIAM “BILL” RIALS

*Associate Dean for Academic Affairs | Senior Professor of Practice
Tulane School of Professional Advancement*

“Our goal must be to promote responsible innovation while simultaneously preventing a concentration of benefit and diffusion of harm.” – BILL RIALS

“One of the most difficult trade-offs in AI is the choice between showing the world as it is versus the world as we want it.” – JOHN LEVENDIS

PERSPECTIVES ON THE HUMAN TRADE-OFF

“The tension between automation and human discretion is a constant struggle in responsible AI. Automation increases efficiency and consistency; discretion preserves context and equity. To evaluate this trade-off, we should measure not just accuracy but downstream impact, appeal rates, and error reversals. A governance lever in this space is mandatory human review for high-stakes decisions, paired with documented override authority.”

WILLIAM “BILL” RIALS

*Associate Dean for Academic Affairs | Senior Professor of Practice
Tulane School of Professional Advancement*

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“One of the most difficult trade-offs in AI is the choice between showing the world as it is versus the world as we want it. In automating human tasks, we are forced to ask: *do we want AI to be as good (or bad) as we are, biases and all, or do we want it to be better?* And, if we choose the latter, how do we achieve that when we can’t even agree on what ‘better’ means?”

JOHN LEVENDIS

*Professor of Practice | Associate Director of Research Services
Tulane Connolly Alexander Institute for Data Science*

“In five years, the real differentiator won’t be who has AI; it will be who redesigned workflows, governance, and talent around it.” – BILL RIALS

PERSPECTIVES ON THE EVOLUTION OF INTEGRATION

“In the next year, AI will be embedded into every mainstream software platform, whether we ask for it or not. In five years, the real differentiator won’t be who has AI; it will be who redesigned workflows, governance, and talent around it. Tools are accelerating fast, but institutional change remains the bottleneck. In higher education, we’re heading toward tightly integrated ecosystems. CRM systems, learning platforms, identity management, and analytics tools will increasingly talk to one another in real time. The institutions that win will not just adopt tools, they’ll reduce tech sprawl and design coherent digital architecture.”

WILLIAM “BILL” RIALS

*Associate Dean for Academic Affairs | Senior Professor of Practice
Tulane School of Professional Advancement*

“In the next year, specialized tools like Claude Code will revolutionize research, allowing scholars with limited coding experience to collect and wrangle ‘big data,’ and use more complex machine learning and deep learning methods that were once out of reach. Over the next five years, this integration will evolve further: researchers will be able to deploy entire teams of AIs, expanding our data collection and analytical capabilities in ways that are hard to fathom today.”

JOHN L. RENNE

*Henry Shane Professor in Real Estate and Urban Planning
Tulane School of Architecture and Built Environment*

PERSPECTIVES ON THE IMPACT OF INDUSTRY

“In the near term, the most significant impact of AI on industry will come from the field of Computer Science itself. Tools that automate coding are poised to create a major impact – not only within tech, but in every other industry. However, AI does not move at the same speed across every sector. Real estate, for instance, remains a ‘lagging’ industry in this regard because it is not fundamentally a high-technology field. Understanding these variations in adoption is critical to any realistic discussion of AI’s impact.”

JOHN L. RENNE

*Henry Shane Professor in Real Estate and Urban Planning
Tulane School of Architecture and Built Environment*

“Cybersecurity will feel the most immediate impact of the AI transition, as the technology is already accelerating both offense and defense: automated phishing, synthetic identity attacks, and real-time anomaly detection. The reason is simple: cybersecurity runs on pattern recognition and scale, and AI is built for both.”

WILLIAM “BILL” RIALS

*Associate Dean for Academic Affairs | Senior Professor of Practice
Tulane School of Professional Advancement*

“Tools that automate coding are poised to create a major impact – not only within tech, but in every other industry.”
– JOHN RENNE

PERSPECTIVES ON THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION

“We are rushing too quickly into using AI for writing. There is a justified fear that as we become overly reliant on these tools to generate text, we risk losing a fundamental cognitive skill. Writing is not just about the final product; it is a process of thinking and refining ideas. If we outsource that process entirely to AI, we may inadvertently diminish our own capacity for critical thought and original expression.”

JOHN L. RENNE


*Henry Shane Professor in Real Estate and Urban Planning
Tulane School of Architecture and Built Environment*

“In the field of education, and education assessment in particular, we are racing to detect AI use without redesigning what we’re assessing. If assignments can be outsourced to a model in seconds, the problem isn’t just the tool, it’s the task. We need to slow down long enough to rethink learning objectives before we default to surveillance.”

WILLIAM “BILL” RIALS

*Associate Dean for Academic Affairs | Senior Professor of Practice
Tulane School of Professional Advancement*

“We are rushing too quickly into using AI for writing. There is a justified fear that as we become overly reliant on these tools to generate text, we risk losing a fundamental cognitive skill.” – JOHN RENNE



“When AI assigns a risk score, how do we calibrate human override authority so that efficiency gains do not quietly replace professional judgment?” – BILL RIALS

PERSPECTIVES ON THE GOVERNANCE OF AI

“People underestimate the governance work required for AI. It is not primarily a technical problem; it is an organizational design problem. Policies, incentives, training, and accountability structures matter more than model size. The surprise for many leaders is that culture change is significantly harder than model integration.

In a state and local government context, we’ve seen agencies deploy AI-driven risk scoring to prioritize cybersecurity vulnerabilities across hundreds of systems. The intended effect was to focus limited staff time on the highest-risk exposures. The unintended consequence was that teams began over-trusting the score itself, sometimes deferring patching decisions that required contextual knowledge about mission impact or operational constraints. It raised a deeper question: when AI assigns a risk score, how do we calibrate human override authority so that efficiency gains do not quietly replace professional judgment?”

WILLIAM “BILL” RIALS

*Associate Dean for Academic Affairs | Senior Professor of Practice
Tulane School of Professional Advancement*

“The challenge of regulating AI lies in its inherent nature... An algorithm is simply logic written down. Banning a string of code is closer to banning a math equation than confiscating a weapon.” – JOHN LEVENDIS

PERSPECTIVES ON THE REGULATORY CHALLENGE

“The challenge of regulating AI, and digital tools in general, lies in their inherent nature. We know how to regulate objects—taxing cigarettes, licensing drivers, or locking up fertilizer that could make a bomb—but an algorithm is simply logic written down. In this context, regulation becomes a conceptual hurdle: banning a string of code is closer to banning a math equation than confiscating a weapon.”

JOHN LEVENDIS

*Professor of Practice | Associate Director of Research Services
Tulane Connolly Alexander Institute for Data Science*

“Any AI regulatory framework must anchor itself in transparency, proportionality, due process, and human oversight. Public trust depends on explainability where stakes are high and recourse when systems fail. The deeper principle is that AI should augment human agency, rather than obscure it. Regulation should focus on outcomes and risk tiers rather than micromanaging architecture. If we over-prescribe technical design, we stifle iteration; if we under-regulate high-stakes uses, we erode public trust. Smart governance defines firm guardrails around potential harm while maintaining the necessary room for responsible experimentation.”

WILLIAM “BILL” RIALS

*Associate Dean for Academic Affairs | Senior Professor of Practice
Tulane School of Professional Advancement*

PERSPECTIVES ON THE COMPLEXITY OF OVERSIGHT

“We are already seeing the carbon credit industry leaning heavily into tools such as AI and blockchain. While we can make a power plant more efficient or restore an ecosystem, verifying the actual carbon offset generated is notoriously expensive and complex. AI is now being touted as the solution to reduce these verification costs and increase trust in the market, transforming carbon credits from a ‘murky’ asset into a transparent, verifiable tool for global climate action.”

DANIEL FRIESS

*Cochran Family Professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences
Director of The Murphy Institute Center for Public Policy Research*

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“AI systems are uniquely difficult to regulate because they are adaptive, opaque, and deeply embedded within larger software ecosystems. By the time a regulation targets a specific architecture, that architecture has already changed. Furthermore, many harms emerge not from human intent but from scale and interaction effects, which are significantly harder to codify in static rules.”

WILLIAM “BILL” RIALS

*Associate Dean for Academic Affairs | Senior Professor of Practice
Tulane School of Professional Advancement*

“AI systems are uniquely difficult to regulate because they are adaptive, opaque, and deeply embedded within larger software ecosystems. By the time a regulation targets a specific architecture, that architecture has already changed.”

– BILL RIALS

PERSPECTIVES ON THE DEMOCRATIZATION OF TECHNICAL SKILLS

“While AI is linked to myriad issues, one benefit of AI is its ability to democratize both access to information and to the tools that analyze information. For example, there are potential environmental justice benefits to providing communities with synthesized information, access to data, and tools to analyze them that might previously have been inaccessible.”

DANIEL FRIESS

*Cochran Family Professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences
Director of The Murphy Institute Center for Public Policy Research*

“Technology is increasingly being used to manage buildings more efficiently, saving owners the costs associated with building maintenance. Most professionals in the real estate industry do not know how to code. But as coding becomes automated, I think more professionals will be surprised at how these tools can make their jobs more productive and impactful. Building owners will continue to adopt AI to reduce overhead, driving the economic impact of these technologies beyond individual owners and buildings, potentially reshaping the sustainability and financial viability of the built environment.”

JOHN L. RENNE

*Henry Shane Professor in Real Estate and Urban Planning
Tulane School of Architecture and Built Environment*

“Most professionals in the real estate industry do not know how to code. But as coding becomes automated, I think more professionals will be surprised at how these tools can make their jobs more productive and impactful.”

– JOHN RENNE



“One thing that might surprise people is that we’ve been using a type of AI in environmental and climate sciences for decades, just under a different name of ‘machine learning.’” – DANIEL FRIESS

PERSPECTIVES ON THE HISTORIC ROOTS OF AI

“One thing that might surprise people is that we’ve been using a type of AI in environmental and climate sciences for decades, just under a different name of ‘machine learning.’ We’ve long been using it to interpret satellite imagery and the statistical analyses of big data, and we’ve seen big jumps in our understanding of the Earth because of it.”

DANIEL FRIESS

*Cochran Family Professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences
Director of The Murphy Institute Center for Public Policy Research*



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AI: FROM CODE
TO CONSEQUENCES

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