Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin

THE FACULTY OF ARTS,
HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
INAUGURAL LECTURE

THE HUMAN IN THE MACHINE:
NAVIGATING THE MYTHS AND REALITIES
OF AI TOWARDS A FUTURE WHERE WE
SHAPE TECHNOLOGY RESPONSIBLY

Professor
Taha Yasseri
Workday Professor of Technology and Society (2023)
School of Social Sciences and Philosophy

2025
APRIL 1

About
Professor Yasseri

Professor Taha Yasseri is the inaugural Workday Professor of Technology and Society at Trinity College Dublin and Technological University Dublin, where he also serves as the Director of the TCD-TU Dublin Joint Centre for Sociology of Humans and Machines (SOHAM). A recognized leader in computational social science and digital sociology, Professor Yasseri's research bridges the fields of technology, society, and policy, with a particular focus on artificial intelligence, digital technologies, and their impact on collective intelligence, decision-making, and social behavior.

Before his current role, Professor Yasseri was Deputy Head of the School of Sociology at University College Dublin. His work examines how AI and online platforms influence democracy, collective actions, and social interactions, with a strong emphasis on the ethical challenges posed by AI, including issues of bias and fairness.

Professor Yasseri is committed to fostering interdisciplinary collaboration between social scientists, technologists, and ethicists to understand the evolving relationship between humans and machines. His research aims to inform public policy, guide the ethical development of technology, and shape industry practices. Through his leadership at SOHAM, he continues to push the boundaries of understanding AI's role in society, promoting responsible, inclusive, and equitable technological advancement.

With a focus on both academic research and community engagement, Professor Yasseri works to ensure that emerging technologies benefit society, guiding their integration into democratic, social, and economic systems.

Professor
Taha Yasseri

Workday Professor of Technology and Society (2023)
B.SC., M.SC. (SHARIF), PH.D. (GÖTT.)

The School of Social Sciences and Philosophy

Abstract

"The Human in the Machine: Navigating the Myths and Realities of AI Towards a Future Where We Shape Technology Responsibly"

In this inaugural lecture, Professor Taha Yasseri explores the critical role of artificial intelligence (AI) in shaping the future of society, highlighting both its transformative potential and the challenges it presents. A central issue in AI development is the widespread tendency to anthropomorphize machines, which can amplify our biases—not only in our interactions with AI but also in how we perceive and engage with other humans, influencing societal dynamics.

Professor Yasseri will address the myths and misconceptions surrounding AI, emphasizing the importance of cultivating a more informed and accurate public narrative. He argues that society's perception of AI plays a crucial role in its acceptance and integration, and that clear, transparent discussions are needed to counteract unrealistic expectations and fears.

The lecture also considers the impact of technology on society, advocating for forward-thinking policies that foster innovation while ensuring that AI aligns with values of social justice, fairness, and ethical responsibility.

Ultimately, Professor Yasseri calls for a future where AI is integrated responsibly, enhancing human capabilities and collective intelligence while safeguarding democratic values and societal well-being.

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The School of Social Sciences and Philosophy

The School of Social Sciences and Philosophy was formed in 2005 and is the third largest School in the University, comprising the Departments of Economics, Philosophy, Political Science and Sociology. With approximately 80 academic staff, the School has a well-deserved international reputation for excellence in both research and teaching. The School is responsible for the delivery of seven undergraduate degree programmes (including BESS and PPES), eight taught postgraduate programmes, and four postgraduate research programmes across its four constituent Departments. Each of the Departments in the School is the top ranked in Ireland. The School of Social Sciences and Philosophy has a strong tradition of internationalisation both in terms of international exchanges for its own students and the admission of non-EU students into its full-time programmes at both undergraduate and postgraduate level. The School also has a long history of outreach and engagement with Irish society. Research conducted by School staff on Irish politics, the economy and society plays an important role in public policy development. The distinguishing feature of the research undertaken in the School of Social Sciences and Philosophy is the combination of important real-world questions, state of the art conceptual models and cutting-edge methods and analytical tools.

Founded in
1740

The School of Social Sciences and Philosphy has over
80
Academic Staff

2025
APRIL 1ST

Welcome

It is the tradition in Trinity College Dublin that newly appointed Professors are invited to give an inaugural lecture.

The lecture provides an opportunity to showcase their achievements in research, innovation, engagement and teaching activities before members of the University community, invited stakeholders and the general public. An inaugural lecture is a significant event in an academic staff member's career.

The Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences is proud to present the inaugural lecture of Professor Taha Yasseri.