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PRESENTATION LIST

Artificial Intelligence, Human Critical Thinking, and Sustainable Economic Development in Nigeria: Navigating the Challenges of an Automated Future
Kenneth Onyeanuna Ahamba ***(p.4)***

Rethinking Society, Governance, And Urban Futures Through Geoai In The Age Of Intelligent Automation
Onwuka, Cletus Offor ***(p.4)***

Human-Centred Ai Governance In Nigerian Universities: A Predictive Policy Framework For Academic Decision-Making And Ethical Leadership
Leona Eucharia Ekechukwu ***(p.5)***

Sub-theme 4: AI, Workforce and Capacity Building Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Technical Vocational Education and Training: Rethinking Workforce Capacity Building for Industrial Technical Educators in Nigeria
Olawale Opeyemi Olaitan ***(p.6)***

The Unprogrammable Soul: Resilience Of Religiosity In An Age Of Artificial Intelligence
Njobara Nelson Nkibo & Chiambah Charity Zetem ***(p.7)***

Artificial Intelligence, Autonomous Weapons, Disinformation And Critical Infrastructure: Human–Machine Teaming And The Future Of Security Governance
Akin Ademuyiwa & RonkeOgunajo ***(p.8)***

Algorithmic Newsrooms And The Crisis Of Human Judgment: Ai-Driven Journalism, Misinformation, And Democratic Accountability In Nigeria
Ijeoma N. Taiwo ***(p.9)***

Artificial Intelligence as An Agent of Socialization in Nigeria and The Challenge of Declining Human Critical Thinking
Ezinne Ezichi Anya ***(p.10)***

Usage of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Psychological Symptoms in a Sample of Nigerian University Undergraduates
Okwaraji Friday E ***(p.11)***

Artificial Intelligence and Security Governance in Nigeria: Institutional Challenges in Combating Terrorism, Kidnapping and Banditry
Daniel Ukegbu Nene & Nwoko, Ugochi Ngozi & Ifegwu, A. Nduka ***(p.11)***

Artificial Intelligence, Governance And Public Sector Reform In Nigeria: A Policy And Institutional Analysis

Ifegwu, A. Nduka & Nwoko, Ugochi Ngozi & Yillah, Alama Ishaku ***(p.12)***

Artificial Intelligence, Governance And Public Sector Reform In Nigeria: A Policy And Institutional Analysis
Ifegwu, A. Nduka & Nwoko, Ugochi Ngozi & Yillah, Alama Ishaku ***(p.13)***

Artificial Intelligent (A I) And Public Administration/ Service Delivery
Obiegbulem, Faith Chikezie ***(p.14)***

State Capacity and the Political Economy of Artificial Intelligence in Nigeria's Security Sector
Kelechi Okoh ***(p.14)***

Reimagining Religious Practice in the Age of Artificial Intelligence: Between Technological Mediation, Human Agency, and Divine Transcendence
Timothy Olukayode Akanji ***(p.15)***

Hydro-climatic and environmental influences on population vulnerability to typhoid fever in lagoon communities of Douala IV Municipality, Cameroon
Philip Fon Gah and Zephania Nji Fogwe ***(p.16)***

"Test Everything": AI-Generated Knowledge And The Loss Of Human Discernment In Light Of 1 Thessalonians 5:21
Uzoukwu Cynthia Nkechi ***(p.17)***

Biblical Perspective On The Role Of Christian Social Workers In James 2:15-17 For Promoting Human Values In The Ai Era
Adewale David AJEWOLE & Hosea Agboola AJIBOYE ***(p.18)***

Social Work Practice And Community Resillience In The Face Of Technological Change
Ihekoromadu C. H. Ighotomo & Ezugwu H. Ikechukwu & Ezugwu Donatus ***(p.19)***

AI, Morality and the Politics of Narrative Control in Academic Disciplines: A Socio-Economic Perspective
Susan Pembe Ikona ***(p.19)***

Artificial Intelligence, Human Critical Thinking, and Sustainable Economic Development in Nigeria: Navigating the Challenges of an Automated Future

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Abstract

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is transforming economies, education, and workplaces by improving productivity and innovation while raising concerns about declining human critical thinking and increasing dependence on intelligent systems. This paper examines the relationship between AI, human critical thinking, and sustainable economic development through a qualitative review of contemporary literature. It argues that sustainable economic development requires balancing AI-driven automation with the preservation of human cognitive skills. The paper recommends promoting critical thinking, digital literacy, and human-centred AI governance to foster innovation, resilience, and inclusive economic development.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, critical thinking, sustainable economic development, human-centred AI, and digital literacy

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RETHINKING SOCIETY, GOVERNANCE, AND URBAN FUTURES THROUGH GEOAI IN THE AGE OF INTELLIGENT AUTOMATION

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ABSTRACT

The rapid advancement of Artificial Intelligent (AI) is reshaping urban governance, decision-making, and societal interactions, ushering in an era characterized by increasing automation and reduced reliannce on human judgement. Within this context, GeoArtificial Intelligence

(GeoAI), which combines geospatial technologies with AI and machine learning, has emerged as a transformative tool for managing complex urban systems. This paper examines the opportunities and challenges of deploying GeoAI in rethinking society, governance, and urban futures. This paper adopts a qualitative, conceptual approach based on a systematic review, and critical analysis of existing literature on GeoAI, smart cities, urban governance, and responsible AI. It argues that while GeoAI enhances urban planning through predictive spatial analytics, real-time environmental monitoring, disaster risk management, and evidence-based policy formulation, excessive dependence on automated systems may diminish critical human oversight, amplify algorithmic bias, and exacerbate digital inequalities. The paper further explores ethical concerns surrounding data privacy, transparency, accountability, and the concentration of decision-making power within AI-driven governance frameworks. It contends that sustainable urban development requires a balanced governance model in which AI augments, rather than replaces, human intelligence and democratic participation. By synthesizing emerging literature on GeoAI, smart cities, and responsible AI governance, the study proposes a human-centred framework that integrates technological innovation with ethical principles, institutional accountability, and inclusive stakeholder engagement. The paper concludes that the future of urban governance should not be defined by automation alone but by the strategic integration of GeoAI with human expertise to build resilient, equitable, and sustainable cities capable of addressing increasingly complex societal and environmental challenges.

Keywords: GeoArtificial Intelligent, Urban Governance, Intelligent Automation, Smart Cities, Sustainable Urban Development

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HUMAN-CENTRED AI GOVERNANCE IN NIGERIAN UNIVERSITIES: A PREDICTIVE POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR ACADEMIC DECISION-MAKING AND ETHICAL LEADERSHIP

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ABSTRACT

The accelerating integration of artificial intelligence (AI) into Nigerian universities is transforming admissions, assessment, quality assurance, staff evaluation, and student support systems. While these innovations promise efficiency and data-driven governance, they also raise profound concerns regarding algorithmic bias, transparency, accountability, academic autonomy, and the erosion of human judgment in institutional decision-making. This paper interrogates the emerging paradox of AI-enabled university governance in an era increasingly characterized by automated actions and diminished human deliberation. Anchored in socio-technical systems theory and ethical leadership theory, the study proposes a Human-Centred AI Governance Framework (HCAIGF) for Nigerian higher education institutions. A mixed-methods design will be adopted involving survey data from university administrators, deans, heads of departments, ICT directors, and quality assurance officers across selected federal universities, complemented by key informant interviews and institutional policy document analysis. Quantitative data will be analysed using descriptive statistics and structural equation modelling, while qualitative data will undergo thematic analysis. The study is expected to identify critical governance gaps in current AI deployment practices and develop predictive policy indicators for ethical AI adoption, risk management, and institutional resilience. The proposed framework emphasizes human oversight, explainable AI, participatory governance, data ethics, and continuous accountability mechanisms. The paper contributes an innovative governance model capable of guiding the National Universities Commission, university councils, and institutional leaders in balancing technological innovation with human values, academic freedom, and sustainable educational development. By foregrounding human-centred governance, the study offers a strategic pathway for preventing the unintended consequences of excessive automation in Nigerian universities.

Keywords: Artificial intelligence, university governance, ethical leadership, predictive policy, higher education, Nigeria

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Sub-theme 4: AI, Workforce and Capacity Building

Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Technical Vocational Education and Training: Rethinking Workforce Capacity Building for Industrial Technical Educators in Nigeria

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Abstract

As artificial intelligence reshapes industry, Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) must prepare learners for an automated workforce without eroding practical reasoning and craftsmanship. This paper explores capacity-building strategies for industrial technical educators in Nigeria, arguing for curriculum models that balance automated tools with hands-on, human-thinking-driven skill acquisition. It contends that deliberate pedagogical design can keep graduates adaptable, critically engaged, and employable within an increasingly automation-prone industrial and technical education landscape.

Keywords: Artificial intelligence, TVET, workforce capacity building, industrial technical education, automation

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THE UNPROGRAMMABLE SOUL: RESILIENCE OF RELIGIOSITY IN AN AGE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

BY

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The 21st Century is marked by the growth of Artificial Intelligence in all domains. The rapid advancement of Artificial Intelligence has penetrated every sphere of human life, including domains once considered exclusively human such as reasoning, creativity and pastoral care. This study investigates the resilience of religiosity in the age of AI.It explores whether the fundamental dimensions of the human soul, faith, worship, conscience, and the search for transcendence, can be replicated or possibly replaced by machines. A qualitative research approach was adopted. The findings indicate that religiosity is not declining, on the contrary; adapting. The study recommends ethical engagement with AI, digital literacy for clergy, and a renewed theological emphasis on the dignity of the unprogrammable soul.

Keywords:

Artificial Intelligence, Religiosity, Spirituality, Human Soul, Technology, Resilience, Faith, Church

Thank you so much for the interest in our Conference. Please re-write the Abstract to include the problem of the research. Also include your Name, Department, Institution, and your phone number

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Artificial Intelligence, Autonomous Weapons, Disinformation and Critical Infrastructure: Human–Machine Teaming and the Future of Security Governance

by

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ABSTRACT

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is rapidly transforming the modern security environment through its application in information operations, the autonomous weapons as well as the critical infrastructure and human–machine decision-making. While AI provides opportunities for improving security, crisis management and efficiency, its increasing integration also creates major technological, ethical, legal and societal risks. This study examines the interconnected relationship between AI-enabled autonomous weapons, disinformation, critical infrastructure and human–machine teaming, with emphasis on security governance and human oversight/error. The study argues that these areas should not be examined independently because disruption in one domain may generate consequences across other domains. For instance, AI-enabled disinformation may influence public responses during a critical infrastructure crisis, while autonomous systems may create difficult questions concerning responsibility and human control systems. The study adopts a mixed-method research design and quantitative research method. The research draws on Risk Society Theory, Securitisation Theory, Human–Machine Interaction and Complex Interdependence to analyse the evolving security environment. It investigates the challenges of human oversight, accountability, transparency, and automation bias. The study is expected to contribute to knowledge by developing an Integrated Human–Machine Security Governance Framework which is interwoven with the technological, informational, infrastructural and human dimensions of AI-related security risks. The study will provide recommendations for policymakers, security institutions and stakeholder, responsible for AI governance, human oversight/ error, critical infrastructure resilience as well as protection against AI-enabled disinformation.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, Autonomous Weapons, Disinformation, Critical Infrastructure, Human–Machine Teaming, AI Governance

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ALGORITHMIC NEWSROOMS AND THE CRISIS OF HUMAN JUDGMENT: AI-DRIVEN JOURNALISM, MISINFORMATION, AND DEMOCRATIC ACCOUNTABILITY IN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

The rapid adoption of artificial intelligence technologies in news production, content curation, audience analytics, and editorial workflows is reshaping contemporary journalism in Nigeria. Although algorithmic newsrooms enhance speed, personalization, and operational efficiency, they simultaneously intensify the risks of misinformation, deepfake dissemination, automated bias, reduced editorial scrutiny, and declining public trust in the media. This paper examines how AI-driven journalism is generating a crisis of human judgment within Nigeria's democratic communication environment. Guided by the media ecology theory and democratic accountability framework, the study investigates the extent to which automated news systems influence editorial decision-making, fact verification, ethical responsibility, and audience perception. A convergent mixed-methods approach will be employed, combining surveys of journalists and media managers from print, broadcast, and digital media organizations with in-depth interviews of editors, fact-checkers, and communication regulators. Quantitative data will be analysed using inferential statistics, while qualitative data will be subjected to thematic content analysis. The study is expected to reveal significant tensions between algorithmic efficiency and professional journalistic judgment, particularly in relation to misinformation amplification, editorial accountability, and public confidence in media institutions. In response, the paper develops an AI-Resilient Journalism Governance Modelthat integrates human editorial oversight, algorithmic transparency, newsroom ethics protocols, and audience media literacy mechanisms. The findings will provide evidence-based recommendations for media regulators, journalism educators, professional bodies, and news organizations seeking to strengthen democratic accountability in an increasingly automated communication ecosystem. The study advances scholarly discourse on AI,

journalism ethics, and democratic resilience while offering practical strategies for safeguarding human judgment in the future of Nigerian media.

Keywords: Algorithmic journalism, AI-driven newsroom, misinformation, democratic accountability, media ethics, Nigeria

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Artificial Intelligence as An Agent of Socialization in Nigeria and The Challenge of Declining Human Critical Thinking

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Abstract

The emergency of Artificial Intelligence (AI) has significantly transformed the dynamics of socialization by reshaping how individuals acquire knowledge, communicate, form opinions, and make decisions. In Nigeria, the increasing adoption of AI-driven technologies-including generative AI, intelligent search systems, virtual assistants, educational platforms, and social media algorithms-has positioned AI as an emerging agent of socialization that increasingly influences cognitive, social, and behavioural development. While these technologies have expanded access to information, enhance learning opportunities, and improved productivity, they have also generated growing concerns regarding excessive dependence on automated systems and the gradual decline of human critical thinking. This paper examines the role of Artificial Intelligence as an agent of socialization in Nigeria and critically analyses its implications for independent reasoning, reflective judgement, and intellectual autonomy. Employing a qualitative, conceptual research design based on an extensive review of contemporary literature, the study explores the interaction between AI-mediated socialization and critical thinking within the Nigerian socio-technological landscape. The paper argues that although AI has become an indispensable instrument for innovation and socio-economic development, uncritical reliance on AI-generated outputs may encourage cognitive outsourcing, diminish analytical problem-solving skills, reinforce passive information consumption, and weaken the capacity for independent decision-making, particularly among digitally active populations. The study further contends that the challenge lies not in AI as a technological innovation but in the absence of deliberate strategies that promote responsible AI use alongside critical inquiry. It therefore advocates the integration of AI literacy, critical thinking education, ethical AI governance, and human-centred technology policies into

Nigeria's educational institutions and public policy frameworks. The paper contributes to the growing discourse on AI and society by reconceptualizing Artificial Intelligence as a contemporary agent of socialization whose influence should complement, rather than supplant, human cognition, thereby advancing a balanced framework for sustainable technological development in Nigeria.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence; Agent of Socialization; Critical Thinking; Nigeria; Cognitive Outsourcing; AI Literacy; Human-AI Interaction; Digital Society

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Usage of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Psychological Symptoms in a Sample of Nigerian University Undergraduates

Being the abstract of a paper presented during the 2026 International Conference of Society for Research and Academic Excellence, University of Nigeria Nsukka, 3-4 November 2026.

By
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Abstract:

Despite the growing use of AI in both academic tasks and personal activities, empirical studies on its effects on students' mental health are notably scarce. Using the Beck's depression inventory, Generalized anxiety disorder scale, Short screening scale for PTSD and the General Health questionnaire, this study assessed the usage of AI and psychological symptoms in a sample of 520 undergraduates. Result revealed the symptoms of depression, anxiety, psychological distress and post-traumatic stress disorderassociated with frequent use of AI by undergraduates. Recommendations on the usage of AI were made.

Key words

Artificial intelligence, psychological symptoms, undergraduates, Nigeria, mental health

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Artificial Intelligence and Security Governance in Nigeria: Institutional Challenges in Combating Terrorism, Kidnapping and Banditry.

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A PAPER FOR PRESENTATION AT THE INTERNATIONAL HYBRID CONFERENCE 2026 OF THE SOCIETY FOR RESEARCH & ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE, UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA NSSUKA
THEME: THE CHALLENGES OF THE AI FORTHCOMING ERA OF LESS HUMAN THINKING, MORE AUTOMATED PRONE ACTION
Date: 3RD -4TH NOVEMBER, 2026

Abstract

This study examines artificial intelligence (AI) and security governance in Nigeria, focusing on institutional challenges in combating terrorism, kidnapping and banditry. Anchored on Institutional Theory, it explores how institutional capacity, structures and regulatory frameworks influence AI adoption in security operations. The study adopts a qualitative documentary research design, drawing on government policies, security reports, legal documents and scholarly literature. Findings reveal challenges including inadequate digital infrastructure, limited technical expertise, weak inter-agency coordination, poor data governance and regulatory gaps. The study concludes that stronger institutions, coordination and responsible AI governance are essential for improving Nigeria's security response.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, Security Governance, Institutional Theory, Terrorism, Kidnapping, Banditry

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ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, GOVERNANCE AND PUBLIC SECTOR REFORM IN NIGERIA: A POLICY AND INSTITUTIONAL ANALYSIS

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Date: 3RD -4TH NOVEMBER, 2026

Abstract

This study examines the role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in governance and public sector reform in Nigeria. Guided by Institutional Theory, it employs qualitative documentary analysis of policy documents and scholarly literature. The findings indicate that Artificial Intelligence (AI) significantly contribute to improved governance and public sector reform in Nigeria through enhanced administrative efficiency, evidence-based decision-making, transparency, and service delivery, Again, that weak institutional capacity, inadequate infrastructure, limited technical skills, poor coordination, and regulatory gaps remain major barriers to AI adoption in Nigeria. The work demonstrates that the effectiveness of AI depends on the institutions, policies, rules, professional capacities, and organizational structures surrounding its implementation The study recommends among others that stronger governance frameworks and institutional capacity are essential for effective AI-driven public sector reform.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, Governance, Public Sector Reform, Institutional Theory

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ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, GOVERNANCE AND PUBLIC SECTOR REFORM IN NIGERIA: A POLICY AND INSTITUTIONAL ANALYSIS

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A PAPER FOR PRESENTATION AT THE INTERNATIONAL HYBRID CONFERENCE 2026 OF THE SOCIETY FOR RESEARCH & ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE, UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA NSSUKA
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Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, Governance, Public Sector Reform, Institutional Theory

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ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENT (A I) AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION/ SERVICE DELIVERY

BY

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ABSTRACT

Artificial Intelligent (AI) has become a transformative digital tool in contemporary public Administration and service delivery. It improves efficiency, decision-making,transparency, and responsiveness to citizen's needs while reducing administrative delays and bureaucratic bottlenecks through automation, analysis and productive insights. This paper adopts a descriptive approach to examine how AI can strengthen effective, responsive citizen-centered public administrative services. Considering its benefits, the job displacement, poor technological infrastructures and high cost of implementation formed the challenges. The paper concludes with some strategies and recommendations for sustainable adoption of AI in public services.

KEY WORDS

Artificial Intelligent, Public Administration, Service Delivery

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State Capacity and the Political Economy of Artificial Intelligence in Nigeria's Security Sector

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Abstract

This study examines the effectiveness of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in addressing security challenges within contexts of institutional weakness. Anchored on State Capacity Theory and Human Security Theory, the paper argues that state capacity deficits mediate AI effectiveness. Using qualitative documentary analysis, findings show that while AI has technical prospects for intelligence and surveillance, persistent institutional weaknesses, governance deficits, and regulatory gaps constrain its impact. The study concludes that institutional reform must precede technological adoption to achieve sustainable security and human security outcomes.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, State Capacity, Institutional Weakness, Security Sector, Governance Deficit, Human Security

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Reimagining Religious Practice in the Age of Artificial Intelligence: Between Technological Mediation, Human Agency, and Divine Transcendence

Abstract

Artificial intelligence is increasingly present in religious life, from chatbot spiritual counsellors to AI-assisted sermon preparation and worship production. Adopting a qualitative, library-based methodology combining thematic analysis of secondary literature with purposive case illustration, this paper examines how AI mediates religious practice while raising questions of human agency and divine transcendence. Drawing on digital religion theory and three Nigerian case examples, including church-run AI assistants, it argues that AI can extend religious access without displacing the relational and transcendent core of faith, and proposes principles for its discerning use.

Keywords:artificial intelligence, digital religion, religious practice, human agency, divine transcendence, Nigeria

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Hydro-climatic and environmental influences on population vulnerability to typhoid fever in lagoon communities of Douala IV Municipality, Cameroon

By

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Abstract

Lagoon settlements may experience overlapping rainfall, flooding, drainage, water and sanitation hazards that increase opportunities for faecal contamination and exposure to typhoid. This study assessed the relationship between hydro-climatic conditions, environmental exposure pathways and typhoid vulnerability in six lagoon communities of Douala IV Municipality, Cameroon.The analysis used monthly rainfall and temperature observations, 2025 typhoid records from the principal total-case series, complementary field-survey, health-centre and laboratory-confirmed records, household survey data from 180 households, and water-quality observations. Descriptive statistics, Pearson correlation, multiple linear regression, chi-square tests and normalized vulnerability indices were applied. The composite index was calculated as the equal-weight mean of normalized rainfall exposure and normalized typhoid burden.Rainfall increased from 34 mm in January to 742 mm in August, whereas total monthly typhoid cases peaked at 1,715 in April and reached a minimum of 868 in August. Rainfall and total typhoid cases were moderately negatively correlated but not statistically significant ($r = -0.430$, $p = 0.163$; 95% CI −0.805 to 0.191). Temperature showed a moderate positive, non-significant association ($r = 0.474$, $p = 0.119$). Rainfall and temperature together explained 22.5% of monthly variation ($R^2 = 0.225$; $F(2,9) = 1.309$; $p = 0.317$). Frequent flooding affected 72.2% of households ($\chi^2 = 53.71$, $df = 10$, $p < 0.001$), while poor drainage affected 52.8% ($\chi^2 = 27.35$, $df = 10$, $p = 0.002$). Fecal coliforms were detected in 56.45% of tested water samples; 61.1% of households relied on open or closed wells, 51.7% were within 15 m of marshes, 78.33% had water sources within 0–5 m of pit toilets or septic facilities, and 71.6% were within 30 m of waste-disposal points. The annual composite vulnerability index was 0.396, with the highest monthly value in April (0.642).Mean Monthly rainfall alone did not statistically explain reported typhoid occurrence.

The findings instead support a multidimensional vulnerability pathway in which rainfall and flooding interact with drainage failure, water-source contamination, sanitation and household exposure. Public-health and urban-environmental responses should therefore integrate WASH improvement, drainage and flood management, protection of domestic water sources, surveillance and typhoid prevention.

Keywords: typhoid fever; hydro-climatic variability; rainfall; flooding; drainage; marshes; water quality; WASH; vulnerability; Douala IV; Cameroon

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"TEST EVERYTHING": AI-GENERATED KNOWLEDGE AND THE LOSS OF HUMAN DISCERNMENT IN LIGHT OF 1 THESSALONIANS 5:21

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Abstract

The rapid development of Artificial Intelligence (AI) has changed the way people search for information, learn, conduct research, and interpret biblical texts. Although AI provides quick access to knowledge, its increasing use raises concerns about the loss of human discernment, critical thinking, and the ability to distinguish accurate information from false claims. This paper examines the relevance of 1 Thessalonians 5:19–22, particularly verse 21, which instructs believers to "test everything" and hold on to what is good. The problem addressed by this study is the growing tendency among students, researchers, pastors, and other users to accept AI-generated information without carefully examining its accuracy, reliability, and ethical implications. The paper aims to interpret Paul's instruction within its biblical context and apply its message to the responsible use of AI-generated knowledge in contemporary society. It adopts a qualitative research method, using historical-grammatical exegesis and a review of relevant biblical and scholarly literature. The paper also examines the relationship between Paul's teaching on spiritual discernment and the need for critical evaluation of information produced by AI systems. It argues that, although AI can support learning, research, and biblical interpretation, it should not replace human judgment, careful investigation, or personal responsibility. The study expects to show that the principle of testing everything provides a useful biblical foundation for evaluating AI-generated information before accepting or applying it. It recommends that educational institutions,

theological schools, churches, and individual users promote critical thinking, information verification, and ethical AI use. The study concludes that responsible engagement with AI requires users to combine technological opportunities with human discernment, truthfulness, and biblical wisdom.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, human discernment, AI-generated knowledge, critical thinking, New Testament ethics.

BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE ON THE ROLE OF CHRISTIAN SOCIAL WORKERS IN JAMES 2:15-17 FOR PROMOTING HUMAN VALUES IN THE AI ERA

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Abstract

This study examines the biblical perspective on Christian social workers in James 2:15–17, emphasizing **ἀδελφὸς (a*delphos*),** brother, **γυμνοὶ*(gymnoi*)**, naked, **λειπόμενοι (*leipomenoi*)**, lacking, and **πίστις (*pistis*)**, faith. It argues that genuine faith requires **ἔργα (*erga*)**, works, expressed through **ἐλεήμων (*eleēmōn*)** compassion, dignity, justice, and practical care, while responsibly employing AI to promote human wellbeing.

Keywords: James 2:15-17, Christian Social Work, AI Era, Algorithmic Exclusion, Solidarity and Dignity

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SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE AND COMMUNITY RESILLIENCE IN THE FACE OF TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE

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Abstract

Technological change increasingly influences communication, employment, education, social services, and community relationships, creating both opportunities and challenges. This study examined social work practice and community resilience amid technological change, focusing on social workers' roles in promoting adaptation and digital inclusion. Using a qualitative documentary research design, secondary data from scholarly literature, reports, policy documents, and organisational publications were analysed thematically. Guided by Ecological Systems Theory and Social Capital Theory, the study found that social workers can strengthen resilience through empowerment, digital literacy, advocacy, community participation, and improved access to technology and social resources.

Keywords: Social Resilience, Community, Social Work, Technology, Digital Inclusion

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***Theme:*AI, Morality and the Politics of Narrative Control in Academic Disciplines: A Socio-Economic Perspective**

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Abstract

Debates on the widespread use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and morality in academic disciplines are often treated as purely ethical, obscuring the economic structures that shape whose views count. This paper examines"who controls the narrative" on AI and morality in academic disciplines through an economic sociology lens, foregrounding resource dependency and the automation of academic labor. Drawing on fieldwork among University of Buea students on AI tool use, it argues that unequal institutional resources and shifting

divisions of academic labor between human and automated actors structure moral discourse around AI. The study contributes an economic-sociological account of how dependency relations, rather than moral consensus alone, shape narrative authority over AI in higher education.

Key words: AI, morality, politics of narrative control, academic discipline, socio-economic