Technology and Policy

1. Policymaking for Emerging Technologies in the Global South	
Convenor	Devyani Pande, Postdoctoral Fellow, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore
Co-Convenor(s)	Vishnu Sivarudran Pillai, Assistant Professor, Kautilya School of Public Policy, GITAM (Deemed to be University)
Keywords	Technology Policy, Risks, Regulation

Call for Abstracts

In the Global South, technologies such as AI, at the forefront of global transformation and the subsequent improvement of the human standard of living, have a larger scope to address the grand challenges of adoption. This has especially been evident in the case of India and China, where AI is being adopted to improve education, build smart cities, and manufacturing (Ishwarbharath, 2023). Adopting the developed countries' regulations without understanding the contextual economic and technological landscape will lead to regulatory setbacks. Hence, the regulation must not be overly stringent and resist technological advancements. However, it is important to acknowledge that the recent development of these multi-faceted technologies poses cross-border risks due to the "monopoly powers of the multi-national companies" (Kwet, 2019).

In this regard, an intriguing discussion will be whether there is an imbalance in policy growth between the Global South and the North regarding regulating emerging technologies. Can the recent EU-AI Act in the European Union and the Quantum Computing Cybersecurity Preparedness Act in the United States be used to gain policy learning in the Global South context? The panel welcomes theoretical and empirical papers on policy making for emerging technologies within countries in the global south aimed at (but not limited to) the following research questions:

- What are the possible trajectories in policymaking for emerging technologies, such as AI, in different sectors such as health, education, and manufacturing in countries of the Global South? How do they pose a challenge to the current policy landscape?

- How are governments in the global south adopting technologies, and how would governance and administration change as a result?

- What are the dynamics of different policy actors involved in developing and regulating emerging technologies in the global south?

- In what ways can policy insights from countries that are forerunners of technology be assimilated to govern these technologies in the Global South?

- How can policies be designed in the Global South to manage the risks of emerging technologies?

- What are the public perceptions of the emerging technologies in the Global South? Are they different from the public attitudes in the Global North?

2. From Techno-centric to People-centric: Exploring Challenges and Policy's role in fostering Community-oriented Sustainability Solutions

Convenor	Dwarkeshwar Dutt, Principal Project Scientist, IIT Delhi
Co-Convenor(s)	Deep Jyoti Francis, Senior project associate, NIF, Ahmedabad
Keywords	Technology, Policy, Sustainability

Call for Abstracts

We welcome empirical, theoretical, and methodological contributions to the panel 'From techno-centric to people-centric: Exploring challenges and policy's role in fostering community-oriented sustainability solutions'. The panel will explore critical questions on the role of public policy in promoting appropriate technology, frugal innovations and other community-oriented interventions for sustainability. The panel will focus on, but will not be limited to, the following questions:

- How do small-scale technology, frugal innovations etc. promote sustainability and what challenges do they face in being promoted by existing policy frameworks?

- How politics of policy making and implementation shape decision-making on innovation and technology adoption?

- How can policy paradigms be modified to give adequate attention to appropriate technology and frugal innovations?

- How can policy leverage public-private partnerships to support small-scale technology, frugal innovations etc.?