

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
<p>Call for Abstracts</p> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.? 	

3. Dialectics of Public and Digital Health: Unravelling the Dissociated Associations of Complexity of Digital Health and Digital in Health

Convenor	Manashvi Kumar, Joint Secretary, Gol (MoHFW)
Co-Convenor(s)	Navdeep Mathur, Professor, IIM Ahmedabad Gurneet Tej, School of Public Policy IIT Delhi
Keywords	Digital Health, Public Health, Technological Determinism
<p>Call for Abstracts</p> <p>This panel proposes to probe into the critique of technological determinism. The dominant rhetoric of technology- and often taken, at face value, based on the creators' claims about the efficacy and reliability of their products in various aspects of health care is at loggerheads with the overarching mandate of, 1) continuum of care in alien and remote socio-cultural settings, and 2) preventive health care. While there is a committed reliance on 'point of care devices', there is also an oversimplified belief that technology offers a sure vehicle for a paradigmatic shift in public health systems thinking approach, overlooking difficulties while implementing such digital interventions, and their frequent failures to deliver predicted and desired outcomes. While trying to place a digital intervention at the centre of an 'efficacious' approach to quality health care, a tool should be designed to improve a specific clinical outcome in practice, thereby realizing its</p>	

true clinical value. The panel shall look at domineering efforts for promoting a strong case for adoption of digital in health a) through a feminist lens and b) via social appraisal and social construction of technology. It is expedient to look at the following aspects of a digital intervention in health systems while trying to promote either: a) digital health and/or digital in health:

- Product Selection
- Financial Value
- Clinical Value
- Data Assets
- Internal Champion
- Executive Sponsors
- Institutional Priorities
- Implementation
- A Long-term operational Home for the product/intervention/tool

The panel shall explore the world of digital health while trying to find plausible ways to navigate through the complex maze of digital determinism.