

# Social Reproduction and Artificial Intelligence Workshop

SOAS, University of London

24 – 25 June 2026

---

## Concept Note

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is shaping new trajectories of capitalist accumulation and expanding the knowledge frontier. But how is also reshaping how we live, work, and interact more broadly – that is, how is it reorganising social reproduction in its manifold distinct meanings? How is AI impacting on societal organisation, reproductive work and/or reproductive sectors? What is the reproductive impact of varied forms of AI-led digital labour and labour regimes? Which inequalities is regenerating or crafting anew? Can it transform social reproduction for the better, challenging its relentless commodification, neoliberalisation, and depletion, or does it simply deepen these processes, and hence represents a further a threat to it? How does it challenge democracy and/or shape new channels for the transmission of digitised forms of gendered and racist violence? And what can we do to counter AI's darkest impacts?

We understand artificial intelligence (AI) not as 'immaterial' labour/technology, but as an extractive system reshaping society by drawing on natural resources, human labour, and vast quantities of data. Far from replacing work, AI depends on greatly exploited and often hidden forms of labour and reproduces existing inequalities via biased systems of classification and decision-making. Further, AI expands infrastructures of surveillance and concentrates power in the hands of states and corporations, projecting ideas of 'machine intelligence' and 'emotional recognition' that hide how it depends instead on the appropriation, extraction, and reprocessing of inputted human collective knowledge.

We aim to study AI through the lens of pluralising social reproduction approaches (PSRA) (Mezzadri et al, 2025; Rai et al, forthcoming) to fundamentally reframe the debate and focus, from what AI does to and for capitalism to what AI does to life itself in capitalism in its varied forms and locations. We pay attention to demands for data sovereignty, collective ownership, algorithmic accountability; yet, in exploring the extractive logics of AI, we are committed to specifically investigate how they impact on social reproduction, and which social movements and struggles are best geared to confronting AI as a site of accumulation, labour control and reproductive organization. The workshop articulates in six different thematic areas and corresponding panels: AI Social Reproduction & Life-Making; Transformations of Reproductive Labour; Labour Regimes; Depletion; Inequality & Digital Violence; Resistance & Democratisation.

---

## Programme

**24 June**

---

**9.00-9.30 AM – Coffee and Tea**

---

**9:30 AM – Opening Plenary**

**Why Did Artificial Intelligence appropriate the Social Reproduction Sphere?**

**Leopoldina Fortunati** (University of Udine)

**In the scramble for AI-led development, what would global algorithmic justice look like?**

**Anita Gurumurthy** (IT for Change)

---

**11:00 AM – Panel 1: AI Social Reproduction and Life-Making**

**Alexa may know you have Parkinson disease long before you do: Datafication, 'Carebots' and the crisis of Social Reproduction**

**Claire English** (Anglia Ruskin University)

**Algorithmic Care: Child Protection and the Digital Welfare State in Denmark**

**Miriam Bak-McKenna**, Roskilde University, and **Maj Grasten** (Copenhagen Business School)

**AI, Intangible Cultural Heritage, and the Social Reproduction of Oral Narrative: Digital Storytelling in the Serpent and the Princess Project**

**Anita Greenhill, Ibrahima (Sens) Sagna, and Stephanie Ronan-Chlond** (University of Manchester)

**Automating the Crisis: Embodied AI, Care Labour, and Social Reproduction in China**

**Yufei Xue** (Norwegian University of Science and Technology)

**The Critical Political Economy of Anti-AI: a preliminary mapping of resistance, through a social reproduction lens**

**Masoumeh Iran Mansouri and David J. Bailey** (University of Birmingham)

---

**12:30 PM – Lunch**

---

**1:30 PM – Panel 2: Transformations of Reproductive Labour**

**Transforming “women’s work”? Reconciling the techno-futurisms of reproductive and feminized labours in an age of AI**

**Angela Kintominas** (University of New South Wales)

**Beyond Limbo Migrant Women, and the Platformisation of Reproductive Labour in Delhi (NCR)**

**Ambi** (Geneva Graduate Institute)

**Algorithmic Acculturation in Social Care: AI and the Reorganisation of Reproductive Labour among Migrant Workers**

**Neerej Dev** (University of Wolverhampton)

**Bonded to the algorithm: how ratings shape platform-based domestic work in India**

**Eleonora Paesani** (SOAS University of London)

**AI, Reproductive Labour, and the Platformisation of Care: Evidence from Nursing in India**

**Prachi Bansal** (O.P. Jindal Global University)

---

**3:00 PM – Panel 3: Labour Regimes**

**Labour Regimes and Social Reproduction of Data Workers in Nairobi’s “Silicon Savannah”**

**Søren Bøgh Sørensen** (Copenhagen Business School)

**Failing to Abstract, Infiltrating the Concrete: AI Platforms, Subsumption, and Resistance in India's Paid Domestic Work Sector**

**Hitesh Potdar** (King's College London)

**Pluralising Crises of Social Reproduction in AI-driven Annotation Labour Regimes in India**

**Gautam Kumar and Alessandra Mezzadri** (SOAS University of London)

**Homemaking for the Algorithm: Reimagining Households as a Space for ‘Productive’ Work**

**Sneha Roy** (Geneva Graduate Institute)

---

**16:45 PM – Coffee and Tea**

---

**17:00 PM – Panel 4: Depletion**

**Human Cogs or Caregivers in the Loop: AI and the Depletion of Reproductive Knowledge**

**Debarati Sen and Sarasij Majumder** (University of Houston)

**Digital Power and Its Influence on the Bangladeshi Remote Freelancers**

**Nazam Laila** (SOAS University of London)

**From 'Waiting' to 'Management': (In)fertility and Quantification of Reproductive Labour in India**  
**Paro Mishra** (Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology)

**Uneven and dependent processes of Social Reproduction in the age AI: the Latin American case**  
**Belén Villegas Plá** (University of Oxford)

---

**18:30 PM – Break for the day and workshop dinner.**

---

## Programme

**25 June**

---

**9.00-9.30 AM Coffee and Tea**

---

**9:30 AM – Panel 5: Inequality and Digital Violence**

**Who sustains AI? Maldistribution, Laissez-faire Legalism, and the Invisible Labour of Training AI Platforms**

**Serena Natile** (University of Warwick)

**The Paradox of Data Prosumerism: Relocating Reproductive Labor in the Platform Economy**  
**Avantika Tewari** (O.P. Jindal Global University)

**Digital Racial Capitalism and Social Reproduction: AI-Mediated Migrant Labor in Europe's Semi-Periphery**

**Emina Bužinkić** (Zagreb Institute for Development and International Relations)

**The Relationship Between AI-Generated Content and Gender-Based Mass Violence in the Context of the Diverse Ugandan Society**

**Birungi Robert** (Makerere Institute of Social Research)

---

**11:00 AM – Light Refreshment**

---

**11:15 AM – Panel 6: Resistance and Democratisation**

**Machine (un)learning as counterhegemony: emancipatory feminist activism and large language models**

**Frank Maracchione** (SOAS University of London)

**Infrastructures of Care, Coercion and Destruction: AI and Mental Health**

**Dimitra Kotouza** (Labour Research Department)

**Mapping AI Resistance through Social Reproduction**

**Laura Horn** (Roskilde University)

**Platform-as-commons for infectious disease surveillance: Contestations over genomic and viral sovereignty as social reproductive practice**

**Carolyn Prouse** (Queens University)

---

**12:45 PM – Closing Remarks and Future Plans**

**Alessandra Mezzadri and Shirin Rai**