

Editorial

Publisher's Note: *AI for Society*

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It gives me great pleasure to announce the launch of our new MDPI journal, *AI for Society* (<https://www.mdpi.com/journal/aisoc>, accessed on 16 July 2026).

My career began at Huawei, where I was posted to Ghana, West Africa, for three and a half years to participate in local telecommunication infrastructure projects. I witnessed firsthand the widespread network coverage and structural reduction in telecommunications costs driven by digital infrastructure investment [1]. Such foundational digital connectivity has transformed public communication and delivered substantial social benefits across education, healthcare and mobile payment services [2].

I completed my doctoral training at the Division of Emerging Interdisciplinary Areas, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, over the past five and a half years. My research focuses on the dual social value of next-generation digital ecosystems represented by immersive XR technologies and the metaverse. Grounded in practical experience of grassroots digital inclusion, my research balances the innovative dividends and emerging governance risks of cutting-edge digital technologies. It systematically examines emerging ethical and governance challenges, including virtual harm and data security risks in metaverse scenarios, and explores digital ecosystem interoperability and human-centric identity governance, aiming to develop feasible pathways that coordinate technological innovation with public social interests [3].

Today, artificial intelligence stands as the core engine of global digital transformation. While it empowers industrial upgrading and improves public wellbeing, it also brings unprecedented governance challenges including privacy breaches and ethical misalignment [4]. Reconciling technological progress with the interests of society—the core spirit embodied in the title *AI for Society*—has become one of the most critical global agendas of our era.

This core contradiction forms the founding rationale of *AI for Society*. Adopting an interdisciplinary open research perspective consistent with MDPI's academic mission, the journal delves into the deep interplay between artificial intelligence and all layers of society. It addresses both the opportunities and risks brought by intelligent technologies, builds a multi-stakeholder academic exchange platform, and gathers cutting-edge cross-disciplinary research. The journal strives to facilitate standardized, ethical, and sustainable artificial intelligence development, and provides solid academic support for building a secure, inclusive, and human-centered intelligent society.



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