Generative AI and the Implications for Science Communication

Standing Committee on Advancing Science Communication

Board on Science Education
Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education

Panelist Biographies

Sophie Bushwick is technology editor at Scientific American, where she covers news topics from digital privacy to jumping robots. Most recently, she has supervised SciAm's coverage of the artificial intelligence boom, exploring how generative AI models are impacting education, economic inequality, health and beyond. Sophie has more than a decade of experience as a science and tech journalist working online and in print, producing podcasts and videos, and making radio and TV appearances.

Melanie Mitchell is Professor at the Santa Fe Institute. Her current research focuses on conceptual abstraction and analogy-making in artificial intelligence systems. Mitchell is the author or editor of six books and numerous scholarly papers in the fields of artificial intelligence, cognitive science, and complex systems. Her 2009 book Complexity: A Guided Tour (Oxford University Press) won the 2010 Phi Beta Kappa Science Book Award, and her 2019 book Artificial Intelligence: A Guide for Thinking Humans (Farrar, Straus, and Giroux) was shortlisted for the 2023 Cosmos Prize for Scientific Writing. Melanie is the recipient of the Senior Scientific Award from the Complex Systems Society, the Distinguished Cognitive Scientist Award from UC Merced, and the Herbert A. Simon Award of the International Conference on Complex Systems.

Sendhil Mullainathan is the Roman Family University Professor of Computation and Behavioral Science at Chicago Booth. His current research uses machine learning to understand complex problems in human behavior, social policy, and especially medicine, where computational techniques have the potential to uncover biomedical insights from large-scale health data. In addition to being a co-PI at the joint Berkeley-UChicago Laboratory for Systems Medicine, Sendhil is the cofounder of the computational medicine initiative, Nightingale. He's also a co-founder of Pique, an app that changes how people read books and learn; and Dandelion, a company that catalyzes AI in healthcare.

Chirag Shah is Professor in Information School (iSchool) at University of Washington (UW) in Seattle. He is also Adjunct Professor with Paul G. Allen School of Computer Science & Engineering as well as Human Centered Design & Engineering (HCDE). He is the Founding Director for InfoSeeking Lab and Founding Co-Director of Center for Responsibility in AI Systems & Experiences (RAISE). He works in the area of intelligent information access systems, focusing on task-oriented search, proactive recommendations, and conversational systems. He is also engaged in work with generative AI, specifically in information access and image classification problems. In addition to creating AI-driven information access systems that provide more personalized reactive and proactive recommendations, he is also focusing on making such systems transparent, fair, and free of biases

Moderator Biography

Sandra González-Bailón is a member of the National Academies Standing Committee on Advancing Science Communication. She is the Carolyn Marvin Professor of Communication at the Annenberg School for Communication, and Director of the Center for Information Networks and Democracy (CIND) at the University of Pennsylvania. She also has a secondary appointment in the Department of Sociology at UPenn. González-Bailón studies communication networks and how they shape exposure to information. Her empirical research spans the analysis of non-institutional forms of civic engagement, the coordination of information campaigns, and the consumption of news and political content.