

SPRINGER NATURE

Hangout with Springer Nature

5 November 2023, 3:45PM – 5:15PM UTC+1 (Berlin time)

In person | Embassy of the Netherlands, Klosterstraße 50, 10179 Berlin

Dear Falling Walls Lab Winners,

Springer Nature has the great pleasure to welcome you to a Hangout session at the Embassy of the Netherlands on 5 November.

The session consists of two parts: a plenary session (3:45pm – 4:05 pm CET) on the meaning and impact of bias on diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) and a 'breakout part' (4:05pm – 5:05 pm CET), during which Springer Nature colleagues will present and interact on publishing-related topics that we hope are of interest to bright and motivated scientists like you. Below is a list of the topics that we will cover during the breakout part. Every topic will be introduced by a knowledgeable Springer Nature colleague, but the main focus will be on an interactive discussion with you — we hope we can pass on some useful information and insights to you, but we are also looking forward to learn from your ideas and thoughts!

See you on 5 November!

Stay healthy and kind regards,

Swati Meherishi
Editorial Director, Applied Sciences & Engineering
Springer Nature

Bart Verberck
Regional Executive Editor, Berlin
Springer Nature

PLENARY TALK

Keynote: DEI, Bias, and AI

Speaker: Swati Meherishi, Editorial Director-Applied Sciences and Engineering, *Springer Nature*

In this keynote we will discuss the meaning and impact of bias on diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI), and review how bias can impact Artificial Intelligence (AI) Systems, especially large language models (LLMs) and generative text tools such as GPT. Finally, we explore the role AI tools can play to mitigate bias in systematic approaches to improve DEI levels in workplaces, academia, and policy making.



Swati Meherishi is currently Editorial Director at Springer Nature, leading the Applied Science and Engineering Books Program Across APAC, Middle East and Africa. She has been working in academic publishing for close to 18 years. She has been with Springer Nature since 2013 in various roles leading engineering books and journal programs in different capacities until taking on her current position in 2020. Prior to Springer Nature, Swati has managed key engineering book portfolios in both India and the United States.

Swati is also involved in initiatives related to the Sustainable Development Goals, the state of engineering education, and women in engineering and STEM. She is often invited to speak on research, publishing, DEI, and scientific communications. Swati is active promoter of Diversity and Inclusion initiatives and serves on the Global SDG Steering Committee at Springer Nature and as a co-Chair of the Springer Nature Disability and Neurodiversity Employee Network. Since 2022 Swati also serves on the Jury of the Lab format at the Falling Walls Conference held each year in Berlin.

She is a member of the Materials Research Society (MRS), Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), and the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE). In her free time she teaches technical communications courses to graduate students at the Indian Institutes of Technology.

GROUP SESSIONS

- 1. What makes an impactful research? — Dr Margherita Citroni, Senior Editor and Team Manager, *Nature Communications***

All scientific research is important, provided it has good data and correct reporting. However, editors at scientific journals often select papers to be published in their journals based on what they think will be the impact of the results. Impact can be defined as the property of being re-usable; impactful research can be built upon, change the thinking in a field, or immediately enable some new technology. However, we can only be certain of the actual impact of a research work sometime after its publication. Editors discuss all the time, and are always looking forward to discussing with scientists, on what they think impact is, and how and if it can be measured, and what the necessary elements are for a research work to represent an impactful scientific advance.
- 2. How green is your research? — Dr Bronwen Dekker, Senior Editor, *Nature Protocols***

The 2023 report on the Sustainable Development Goals set in 2015 by the United Nations showed that many of the targets are unlikely to be met on the current trajectory, including e.g. safe drinking water, food security and reducing green-house gas emissions. With 2030 coming up fast, are scientists/science funders taking climate action and other sustainability targets seriously enough? I would like to discuss these questions, and I am curious to find out what is happening at your educational and research institutions.
- 3. Transparency in publishing: How to open the black box of peer reviewing — Dr Christian Kuttner, Associate Editor, *Nature Communications***

Peer review is pivotal for evaluating scientific work, requiring impartial expert assessments to gauge research quality. To foster transparency and fairness in publishing, it is essential to explore ways to optimize the peer-review process without jeopardizing reviewer anonymity. In our session, we will brainstorm on strategies for advancing peer-review practices in today's dynamic research landscape. These may include enhancing reviewer training, implementing accountability measures, or harnessing AI to accelerate reviews and ensure the timely dissemination of knowledge.
- 4. Publishing in Nature journals: How to clear the editorial hurdle — Dr Danielle Troppens, Senior Editor, *Nature Communications***

Once a paper has been submitted to a journal, the editors decide whether to send it out for formal peer review based on their initial assessment. Depending on the journal, typically about 15-25% of initial submissions are selected for peer review, which means that a large number of papers is returned to the authors without peer review. But why? Especially to first-time authors, it is not always clear what editors assess in a paper – and what they don't assess. Let's demystify the initial editorial assessment and discuss strategies for a paper to clear this hurdle.