

FALLING WALLS SCIENCE SUMMIT



KEY RESULTS OF THE ROUND TABLE

“FUTURE OF KNOWLEDGE: AI, ETHICS AND GLOBAL INNOVATION”

— Protecting human reasoning in an AI-saturated world

AI is transforming how knowledge is produced and judged, breaking the link between polished text and genuine thinking while concentrating influence in the hands of the few companies that run today's AI infrastructure. The decade ahead must be used to redesign education, regulation and AI tools so they strengthen critical, inclusive human intelligence.

Across research and industry, large language models have unsettled traditional markers of expertise and automated major parts of knowledge work. Uneven datasets, commercial concentration and outdated educational and regulatory systems now shape what AI can generate and what societies can reliably scrutinise or trust. These shifts raise urgent questions about how knowledge is created and evaluated in an age of pervasive automation.

THE PANEL CALL TO ACTION:

1 — Redesign education around critical thinking in an AI-rich world.

Shift schools and universities towards processes that foster justification, causal reasoning and exploratory learning, using AI as a partner in dialogue while explicitly training students to question, verify and refine its outputs.

2 — Build AI systems that nudge users to think, not just consume.

Embed “cognitive forcing” mechanisms into AI tools so they slow down easy shortcuts, for example by asking users for their own reasoning before giving answers, encouraging explanation comparison and challenging blind acceptance of machine-generated suggestions.

3 — Regulate AI providers as critical infrastructure.

Apply robust, enforceable rules to developers and operators of AI systems on issues such as product liability, energy use, transparency and content controls, treating AI less as an abstract existential risk and more as powerful industrial infrastructure that must meet clear public standards.

4 — Tackle bias and inequality in AI at the data and system level.

Mandate that providers monitor and correct for under-representation and performance gaps across regions, genders and ethnic groups, investing in diverse datasets and evaluation frameworks so AI systems do not systematically misserve or exclude entire populations.

This event is assembled in the framework of the Falling Walls Science Summit 2025 in Berlin. The Falling Walls Science Summit is a leading international, interdisciplinary, and intersectoral forum for scientific breakthroughs. It commemorates the fall of the Berlin Wall and aims to promote dialogue between science and society.

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