The ISC Centre for Science Futures

Introduction, AI, next steps

Virtual, 30 April 2024

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ABOUT THE CENTRE AND ITS ACTIVITIES

An ISC in-house think tank to explore where science and its organization are taking us in the future

Launched in May 2023, with Mathieu Denis and Dureen Eweis

The Centre serves the ISC, its Members, and the global scientific community by:

➢ Carrying out analytical work, and compiling resources
➢ Shaping necessary discussions on the future of science
➢ Providing options and tools for appropriate action

Supported by International Development Research Centre (IDRC)

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Advisory Council

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Former President of the United Nations General Assembly, Ecuador

Derrick Swartz

Special Advisor, Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation, South Africa

PROJECTS

Outputs

- Looking at the Future of Transdisciplinary Research – *April 2023*

- The Future of Research Evaluation – *May 2023*

- The Contextualisation Deficit - Reframing trust in science for multilateral policy – *October 2023*

- Science Fiction and the Future of Science (podcast series) – *November/December 2023*

- Protecting Science in Times of Crisis – How do we stop being reactive, and become proactive? – *February 2024*

- Preparing National Science Ecosystems for AI – *March 2024*

Upcoming:

- More work on AI and science systems (IDRC)

- Pilot mentorship programme for refugee and displaced scientists (IIE-SRF)?

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PREPARING NATIONAL RESEARCH ECOSYSTEMS FOR AI

Goals of the project

- Help shape a discussion among the international scientific and policy communities on the critical issues that AI raises for the organization of science and research

- Gather basic knowledge and information about the issues, and the countries' efforts to prepare science and research systems for AI (literature review and country case studies)

- Help countries as they develop roadmaps for the uptake of AI in their science systems

- Create regional and global networks of people involved in the reflections on adaptation and implementation of AI for science

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FIRST-HAND UNDERSTANDING OF COUNTRIES' EFFORTS

Preparing National Research Ecosystems for AI

STRATEGIES & PROGRESS IN 2024

Countries included in v1:

-Australia, Benin, Brazil, Cambodia, Chile, China, India, Malaysia, Mexico, Oman, Uruguay, Uzbekistan

Countries to be included in v2:

-Canada, France, Jordan, Malawi, Morocco, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Romania, Rwanda, South Africa, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States...

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WORKSHOPS IN MALAYSIA AND CHILE

- Shared awareness and recognition of the importance to work to integrate AI in national research ecosystems

- Countries at different levels of implementation (from observation to fully-fledged roadmap) but all are active

- Very compatible assessments of the opportunities, as well as of the efforts and resources required for AI to work for science in the region

- Spaces for coordinated actions, as well as collaborations in integrating AI in science systems, esp. for small to medium-sized countries.

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CENTRE FOR SCIENCE FUTURES: NEXT STEPS

- Next publication: **policy brief** : *What does the multilateral system need to know about trust in science?* (May 2024)
- On AI: To be decided with the people involved in the paper. Ideas include:
  - A series of **occasional papers** on AI issues spanning across policy and technical issues
  - **Matchmaking** events with AI developers
  - Regional events on given topics, in partnership with regionally-relevant partners
- On protecting science and scientists: Possible collaboration with Scholars Rescue Fund on a **mentorship** programme
- On other areas of work: To be discussed with the **Advisors**

- Change in leadership: As mid-June, ISC Science Director **Vanessa McBride** to become CSF Acting Head

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THANK YOU

We look forward to the next steps.

For any questions, email me at

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