CALL FOR PAPERS

Artificial Intelligence and Economic Transition:
Building a Stable and Resilient Global Economy for a Sustainable Future

Host: Centre for Financing a Sustainable Future, Heriot-Watt University
Date: 6 August 2026
Venue: Panmure House, Edinburgh

Overview

AI is rapidly transforming economic activity, financial markets, and development pathways across the world. This comprehensive adjustment is occurring globally during a perfect storm of disruptive AI, economic deglobalization, and environmental tipping points. From improving risk assessment and capital allocation to enhancing resource efficiency and infrastructure planning, AI offers significant opportunities to accelerate sustainable development and support the transition towards more resilient and inclusive economies. At the same time, it raises pressing questions concerning transparency, accountability, governance, inequality, labour displacement, and systemic risk. These developments are extending to the wider economy, where AI-driven productivity gains coexist with structural displacement, and the transition toward more sustainable economic models must contend with the fact that data-intensive technologies are themselves resource- and energy-intensive. The urgency of the sustainability agenda demands that financial systems become faster, more accurate, and more forward-looking in pricing transition risk, precisely the capabilities AI promises but does not automatically deliver. This workshop addresses the questions at the heart of that transition: *can AI-driven financial and economic systems be steered toward sustainability, stability, and resilience, or does the logic of data-driven optimisation pull in the opposite direction? Can multilateral cooperation on multiple fronts be restored and strengthened to ensure prudential governance of AI and enable realization of the full positive potential of AI?* This workshop will bring together researchers from economics, finance, sustainability sciences, and AI to examine these tensions, and particularly welcome work that goes beyond assuming that technological progress and systemic wellbeing naturally converge.

Themes and Topics

We welcome submissions on topics including, **but not limited to**:

- AI and productivity: structural transformation, sectoral displacement, and distributional impact
- AI and finance: pricing of climate and transition risks, data disclosure, algorithmic trading, and financial stability
- AI and global governance: North-South perspectives on regulation, trade restrictions, and the reform of international institutions (UN, WTO)
- The digital sector in a changing geopolitical, economic and ecological landscape: global governance architecture, AI regulation
- AI-driven economic transformation: digital finance, global institutional reform, geopolitical uncertainty, and the future of multilateral cooperation
- AI in a changing world: managing the interaction between technological innovation, geopolitical tensions, economic reconfiguration, and ecological constraints
- China's economic challenges and global governance: Thucydides Trap, Kindleberger Trap, and the tragedy of the global commons in trade, finance and environment
- Circular economy, sustainability and financial risk: decarbonization, biodiversity, data governance, ESG, greenwashing, and political risk

While the central theme is AI and Economic Transition, the workshop also welcomes outstanding contributions across the broader fields of accounting, economics, finance, and sustainability.

Keynote Speaker *(Listed in Alphabetical Order)*

- **Professor Ming Lu,** Shanghai Jiaotong University
- **Professor Wing Thye Woo,** University of California, Davis
- **Professor Miaojie Yu,** Liaoning University
- **Professor Bohui Zhang,** The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen

Submission

- **Completed papers are preferred**; **extended abstracts** will also be considered.
- **Email submissions to:** htn3000@hw.ac.uk

Registration

- **Register via Eventbrite:** *AI and Economic Transition Tickets, Thursday, August 6 • 9 AM - 5 PM | Eventbrite*
- **Limited spaces available, early registration is encouraged.**

Key Dates

- **Submission deadline**: 10 July 2026
- **Notification of acceptance**: 20 July 2026

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