

BLAVATNIK SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT

LEADING AI THROUGH CO-CREATION PROGRAMME



Using AI to deliver public goods and services now comes with the expectation of co-creation and stakeholder engagement.

As artificial intelligence becomes increasingly embedded in everyday life and in the delivery of public and private services, expectations around its responsible development and deployment have grown accordingly. Companies, international organisations and public bodies are under growing pressure to embed stakeholder engagement and co-creation in AI governance. Industry and civil society guidance on AI governance stresses the importance of involving diverse stakeholders, including representatives of communities affected by systems, as a core element of responsible AI practice. The Partnership on AI and similar initiatives explicitly call for inclusive research and design processes, early stakeholder engagement, and documentation of those processes as part of responsible deployment.



Regulators are moving in the same direction. The EU AI Act promotes a human-centric, trustworthy approach to AI that protects fundamental rights and requires risk management, human oversight and assessments of impacts on those affected by high-risk systems. The new Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence similarly anchors AI deployment in human rights, democracy and the rule of law, signalling that stakeholder engagement and impact assessment will be part of international expectations for AI projects. UN agencies working on AI and data in social and humanitarian programmes, such as UNICEF and UNHCR, likewise emphasise participation and co-creation with children, refugees and crisis-affected communities as core principles for AI and digital innovation, not optional extras.

This translates into very practical questions: how to design AI projects that meet these expectations:

- How to write and assess co-creation plans
- How to ensure that survivor groups, service users, or vulnerable communities are genuinely involved in design and oversight





LEADING AI THROUGH CO-CREATION



29 November to
4 December



Location: Oxford



Duration: 6 days



Cost: £10,250*

*A limited number of scholarships are
available for civil-society participants

LEARN HOW TO LEAD GENUINE CO-CREATION WITH COMMUNITIES AND STAKEHOLDERS

AI interventions succeed or fail based on whether the communities they serve were involved in shaping them from the outset.

But as a non-technical leader, how do you engage your community in the development of an AI solution in an authentic and meaningful way?

This 6-day executive programme will equip leaders with the tools to understand AI development projects and how to successfully bring communities into the heart of the design, co-creating a responsible solution that resolves the issue at hand.

Benefits to you

- **BUILD PRACTICAL AI LITERACY**

Gain a clear, non-technical understanding of how AI systems, models and datasets are developed, where bias and harm can arise, and how important design decisions are made before deployment.

- **DEVELOP A VALUABLE LEADERSHIP CAPABILITY**

Learn how to design, lead and evaluate genuine AI co-creation processes, combining AI literacy with stakeholder and community engagement skills.

- **LEARN FROM THE EXPERTS**

Engage with expert faculty and external speakers who have led co-creation processes in practice and build relationships with senior leaders working on AI and public interest technology

Benefits for your organisation

- **IMPROVE PROJECT QUALITY**

Bring community and stakeholder knowledge into the process early enough to shape the problem, the proposed solution and the criteria for success.

- **REDUCE THE RISK OF FAILED INTERVENTIONS**

Identify weak assumptions, overlooked harms and implementation barriers before significant time and resources are committed.

- **PLAN FOR LONG TERM SUSTAINABILITY**

Improve how AI interventions are guided through development, implementation, completion and sustainability planning.

IS THE PROGRAMME RIGHT FOR YOU?

Leading AI Through Co-Creation is designed for senior leaders and practitioners responsible for AI strategy, governance, development or implementation, including:

- private sector executives developing and deploying AI in regulated or high-stakes sectors
- regulators or public policy officials working in AI and delivery of public goods and services
- international development officials and consultants
- solutions architects and responsible AI practitioners senior program and project managers managing AI system development
- humanitarian or development programme leads working with affected communities
- local technologists working on expanding access to public goods and services in the Global South



Who need to:

- Translate responsible AI principles into design decisions, procurement criteria, and community engagement processes.
- Understand how to apply operational frameworks to a project to ensure meaningful participation, not just consultation.
- Learn how to turn high-level commitments to ‘human-centric’ and ‘trustworthy’ AI into concrete practice across procurement, service design, implementation, and evaluation.
- Build AI or digital tools to advance women’s rights, expand access to education for girls, fight against child marriage, and similar causes.

No technical background is required.

Participants will establish an ongoing connection with the School and become members of our executive alumni community.



FACULTY



Philippa Webb KC

Professor of Public International Law

Philippa is Co-founder and Director of the Oxford Institute of Technology and Justice and a Fellow of Exeter College, Oxford. As part of the Institute, she has been working on a suite of tools to expand access to justice for women and girls in Malawi, journalists at risk around the world, legal aid lawyers, and judges seeking to conduct fair trials in the age of AI.



Rebecca Kitteridge CVO

Professor of Practice in Public Policy

Directly before joining the School, Rebecca held the role of Deputy Public Service Commissioner, one of three statutory officers responsible for the leadership of the New Zealand Public Service. Rebecca's experience ranges from constitutional issues and legal compliance, which builds on her nine-year legal career, to ethics, institutional reform, government performance, national security, and international partnerships.



Dr Ẹniqlá Ànúolúwapó Sọyemí

Senior Research Fellow in Political Philosophy and Public Policy

Ẹniqlá's research focuses on questions in African and Contemporary political, moral, and legal philosophy. She is particularly interested in topics concerning the nature of freedom, authority, justice/injustice, and deliberative and participatory democracy. Before joining the School, she worked with Professor Neta Crawford and the Costs of War Project.

FACULTY



Thomas Hale

**Professor in Public Policy (Global Public Policy) and
Director of the Master of Public Policy**

Tom's research explores how we can manage transnational problems effectively and fairly. He seeks to explain how political institutions evolve – or not – to face the challenges raised by globalisation and interdependence, with a particular emphasis on environmental, economic and health issues.



Christopher Stone

Professor of Practice of Public Integrity

Chris has blended theory and practice throughout a four-decade career dedicated to justice reform, good governance and innovation in the public sector, working with officials, advocates, and activists in dozens of countries worldwide. His work focuses on the rule of law and building cultures of integrity in public institutions.



Sara Wahedi

Lecturer and Founder of Civaam

Sara Wahedi is the founder of Civaam, an AI startup building community-led innovation across the world in contexts where difficult conditions require covert approaches to deliver healthcare, education, and urgent services. She has nearly a decade of expertise in co-creation and responsible AI development and works as Technology Specialist at the Oxford Institute of Technology and Justice.





THE OXFORD EXPERIENCE

While studying on the programme, you will be immersed in Oxford's academic rigour, learning from some of the world's leading scholars and practitioners. Emphasising a combined focus on academic theory and practical approaches will allow you to gain highly recognised Oxford credentials, renowned globally as a sign of excellence and authority, which could significantly elevate the contribution you make to your public sector organisation.

When you join us in Oxford, there is a variety of unique opportunities and exclusive experiences to benefit from, including:

- Programme dinners and interactive sessions with your fellow participants at historic Oxford colleges.
- Special social events such as college visits, walking tours and refreshments at traditional Oxford pubs.
- Wandering the ancient, cobbled streets and taking in over 900 years of history.





BE PART OF A LIFELONG NETWORK

Upon completion of the Leading AI Through Co-Creation Programme, you will become part of a network of exceptional public leaders who share the same commitment to improve public service globally.

This lifelong community will not only serve as a powerful reminder of a shared desire to make a real difference in the world but also allow you to forge connections that you can turn to as trusted sources of advice and research.

As an executive programme alumnus, your connection to the School will continue beyond the classroom, and there are several ways for you to stay connected with us, including;

- Becoming a mentor for other students.
- Acting as an ambassador for the School, connecting us with future students, partners and donors.
- Collaborating with faculty on future projects.
- Attending and participating in events.
- Participating as a visiting expert, for example at a career-focused seminar or practical skills session.
- Invitations to topical online events throughout the year.



TAKE THE NEXT STEP

INTERESTED IN FINDING OUT MORE?

Please get in touch with our recruitment team for more personalised advice.

Email: leading.ai@bsg.ox.ac.uk