

CALL FOR PAPERS: ADVANCING THE WEBAI PARADIGM IN INNOVATION RESEARCH



RESEARCH WORKSHOP 2025

Mannheim, Germany, Nov 12

OVERVIEW

For the 4th annual edition of our ISTARI.AI Research Workshop, we invite scholars to explore the transformative potential of the WebAI paradigm in innovation studies. This approach conceptualizes how AI-based processing of organizational web data can reveal elusive aspects of economic systems, particularly regarding the application of technologies, intangible goods, and the distributed nature of modern innovation processes.

WebAI enables new insights into innovation activities, inter-organizational networks, and systemic patterns of change. Yet the reliability of web data for capturing substantive innovation activities remains to be validated at scale. The emergence of WebAI methods raise important questions about representativeness, biases, and indicator robustness across contexts. This workshop aims to deepen both theoretical and methodological foundations of WebAI, with a focus on sustainability transitions, emerging technologies, and economic development.

KEY THEMES

WebAI Foundations: new epistemological and theoretical lenses for studying innovation through WebAI

WebAI Methods: advances in AI/ML for robust, validated WebAI analysis

WebAI Applications: patterns in technology adoption, green innovation, and institutional change

KEY DATES

Submission Deadline: Oct 1, 2025

Notification of Acceptance: Oct 06, 2025

Workshop Date: Nov 12, 2025

SUBMISSION

Extended abstracts (300 - 500 words), max 2 pages incl. graphics & references

Submission and more info:

forms.gle/S5CrKC5VUgYgSXfv5

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Workshop participants can contribute to:

- special issue proposal for a leading innovation journal
- collaborative research agenda for WebAI community
- fostering research networks and partnerships

CONTACT

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ADVANCING THE WEBAI PARADIGM IN INNOVATION RESEARCH



KEYNOTE SPEAKER 2025

ARE WE LOSING THE SIGNAL IN THE NOISE?

BALANCING METHODOLOGICAL ADVANCES AND SUBSTANTIVE DISCOVERY
IN BIG DATA KNOWLEDGE EXTRACTION

We face trade-offs between increasingly abstract methodological advances—such as LLM-based approaches—and the risk of overlooking novel signals hidden in emerging data sources. While discovery from sources such as the web is advancing, much of this progress comes from the accessibility of new methodologies that enable us to sufficiently extract insights from large-scale data, raising important questions about how methods and objectives should be aligned to preserve substantive discovery in innovation studies.



ARASH HAJIKHANI

Research Professor at VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland
Adjunct Professor at LUT University

MANNHEIM, GERMANY, NOV 12

JOIN OUR WORKSHOP

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