Two-Day International Conference

On

Building Information Resilient Society in the Changing Information Ecosystem

March 27-28, 2024

Organised by

University of Calcutta,
College Street, Kolkata, India

&

Institute of Development Studies Kolkata,
Salt Lake City, Kolkata, India

Website: **https://sites.google.com/caluniv.ac.in/irieconf**

In the age of techno-globalization, information acts as the lifeblood, possessing the ability to connect people, promote understanding, empower individuals, and contribute to the creation of a more interconnected and harmonious society. It serves as a tool for making informed choices, thus empowering people. While information is acknowledged as the oxygen of the modern age and a key to empowerment, the effectiveness in addressing new challenges and emerging crises heavily relies on well-functioning information ecosystems. However, in the last few decades, the evolving landscape of information ecosystem has changed rapidly. Drivers of change are multifaceted, multilayered, and multidimensional. Communities must be adaptive to these collective forces of change. History attests that for the last few decades these forces were strengthened and made our society quite vulnerable and defenceless.

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought attention to the vulnerabilities and insufficiencies of worldwide information ecosystems (leading to issues such as the spread of misinformation, disinformation, infodemic), highlighting the importance of information resilience for individuals, organizations, and societies at large.

Resilience means being able to handle and bounce back from challenges, both from outside and inside, to ensure survival and steady changes for the future (UNDP, 2011). The word 'Resilience' was first coined by C.S. Holling in 1973 to describe ecological concepts. Since then, it has been redefined in various ways, considering practical, metaphorical, or normative aspects. When we talk about a resilient community, it means the community can deal with challenges from social, economic, and environmental changes. These challenges might be anthropogenic or natural, and their reasons could be from within the community or from outside. Resilience is key to any crisis-be it individual or collective. We witnessed challenges and crises like the dengue outbreak, COVID-19 pandemic, earthquakes in Nepal & Japan, tsunamis, ongoing Russia-Ukraine war and the Palestine-Israel war, Rohingya refugee crisis, to recent Balasore train accident, disturbance in the North East, landslides in Himachal Pradesh, air pollution in Delhi, devastating super Cyclones like Amphan in West Bengal, and floods in Kerala to name a few. In third-world countries, this challenge is further complicated by the influence of neoliberalism, the intricate nature of communication systems and sub-systems, and the constantly evolving information ecosystem.

The community's ability to handle and respond to situations is called adaptive capacity. Adaptive governance, a part of this capacity, refers to the system's ability to organize itself. This is encouraged by sharing knowledge and experiences through a network of stakeholders, leading to a common understanding and shared policies. To build up a resilient community, it is important to have evidence-based, well-researched, sustainable, trusted, and assured information across disciplines, removing our narrowed perspectives on disciplinary outlook.

In light of this, we propose organizing an international event to bring together a diverse group of experts across multiple disciplines, including social science researchers, academicians, policymakers, and NGOs. The aim is to facilitate meaningful dialogues and develop effective strategies that enhance the capacity of information ecosystems to withstand and overcome future crises while maximizing societal benefits even during non-crisis periods. The conference will unravel the layers of this ecosystem, including individuals, technologies, and institutions engaged in information creation in multiple formats, ubiquity, cumulation and dissemination. The primary focus is to promote a sustainable information ecosystem that can withstand vulnerabilities,crises and stresses fostering an information-resilient society.

Call for Papers:

This transdisciplinary conference invites original, innovative, and insightful research papers (full-length) in the prescribed format with a maximum of 5000 words, short communications (early research results up to 3000 words), demos, and research project reports in English on the theme and sub-themes (but not limited to) from diverse disciplines and groups, including academicians, scholars, policymakers, data analytics professionals, and NGOs. This includes disciplines ranging from environmental science, economics, computer science and applications, GIS & remote sensing to anthropology, sociology, political science, history, media & communication studies, disaster studies and library and information science. The submissions should describe original work and offer insights into new or emerging areas, innovative applications, and state-of-the-art reports. All the submitted papers will be reviewed by a panel of experts in the respective areas. Selected papers will be published in the post conference volume from a reputed international publisher with ISBN.

Authors are encouraged to think out of the box and be creative in showcasing what is happening in their field. The review criteria include the relevance of the agenda, novelty of research, clarity, and originality or significance of the contribution, and quality of presentation.

Keynote Speakers: Keynotes will be announced in due course.

Submission Instructions: We welcome submissions of abstracts for papers (15 minutes). All speakers must participate in person *(online presentation only for exceptional cases)*. Abstracts should be submitted with the title of the presentation, extended abstract (max. 500 words), and 3-5 keywords including the name of the author(s), affiliation(s), and contact details of the author(s).

Submission Deadline: Abstracts should be submitted **here** no later than midnight (IST) on February 05, 2024. Papers should be submitted **here** no later than midnight (IST) on February 29, 2024.No submissions will be accepted via email; only abstracts and papers received via the online platform (provided link) will be considered.

Peer Review Process: All abstracts will undergo a blind peer-review process by the scientific committee of the conference. Applicants will receive notification of acceptance or rejection on or before February 10, 2024.

Important Dates:

- Abstract submission deadline: February 15, 2024

- Notification of acceptance: February 20, 2024

- Full paper submission deadline: March 05, 2024

- Notification of acceptance: March 10, 2024

- Early Bird Registration ends: March 15, 2024

Subtheme: The conference will cover a range of subthemes and topics therein.

Subtheme 1: Building Data Resilient Community

- Data governance, compliance, frameworks for responsible and ethical data use

- Climate data ecosystem for disaster-resilient infrastructure

- Strategies for maintaining resilient data infrastructure

- Challenges in data management, storage, processing, and accessibility during crises

- Promoting data literacy among individuals and communities to enhance their understanding of data use

- Integrating data education into formal and informal learning settings for increased awareness

- Strategies for using data in decision-making for social impact and community development

- Involving communities in the decision-making processes related to data governance.

- Strategies for building community trust and collaboration in data-related initiatives

- Leveraging data for effective crisis response and management

- Farmer-centric data governance models

Subtheme 2: Information Resilience, Big Data and FAIRification of Data

- Big data and open data for better decision making

- Open Government Data (OGD), citizen-generated data, community-driven data, link data, FAIR data

- Frameworks to ensure responsible and transparent use of data in various domains

- Enhancing data systems to support timely and accurate information during emergencies

- Collaborative data-sharing frameworks among different sectors, including public, private, and nonprofit organizations

- Blockchain and decentralized systems for data resilience

Subtheme3: Information Resilience in Crisis Management

- Design of a resilient information system for disaster and crisis response
- Information infrastructure for information production and flow (e.g. media outlet, government, private industry and civil society)
- Information governance and infrastructure sustainability
- Cross-border information challenges and international cooperation
- International standards and best practices in information resilience

Subtheme4: Information Resilience & Public Libraries

- Role of public libraries and community information centers in building information resilient communities
- Strategies for building community trust and collaboration in information-related initiatives
- Information needs (to receive & share), access (channels & factors affects), production (types), use (behavior), influencers (people, organizations, & institutions), and impact across different segments of the population during stress, shock, disruption
- Empowering marginalized communities through information literacy and digital skills

Subtheme5: Information Resilience, SDGs, and Combating Online Harm

- Information system, network and services for advancing the UN2030 agenda (SDGs)
- Frameworks for controlling propaganda, fake news, disinformation, and misinformation on social media
- Fighting against false information and stopping harmful online actions that affect women and minorities.
- Case studies on successful initiatives combating online harm to women and minorities
- Role of different international organizations, associations, groups, initiatives, and programmes like UNFCCC, UNDP, UNDRR, IPCC, WHO, UNEP, C40 Cities, G20, COP28, etc., in building an information-resilient community.

Subtheme6: Information Resilience & Frontier Technologies

- Strategies for ensuring the longevity and resilience of information systems
- Building resilience through people, information, and technology in post-pandemic
- AI and Machine Learning in information resilience

- Equitable and responsible AI systems,
- AI and other digital and emerging technologies for societal well-being
- Case studies, best practices,

Paper Submission Guidelines:

Unpublished research papers are invited for presentation/publication in the conference. We encourage original and high-quality submissions that are not submitted to or accepted by other journals/seminar/conferences. Certificates will be given to all paper presenters. Original/unpublished research work on contemporary issues on the above themes and sub-themes can be submitted. The papers should discuss, analyze, and critique theories and concepts, or report original and unpublished research. The authors are also expected to highlight the relevance, the novelty, and the contribution of the submitted article in the cover letter. Please refer to the following guidelines for paper submission-

- ❖ The paper must be written in MS Word type written in English (Times New Roman, 12-Point Font).
- ❖ First page containing Title of the paper, Author name, ORCID, Designation and Affiliation
- ❖ Maximum three (3) authors can contribute in a paper. **
- ❖ The maximum length for a paper, including title, abstract, references, and appendices, is 5,000 words.
- ❖ All citations and references should be in APA format (7th edition).
- ❖ All papers should be innovative and maintain research integrity (COPE) and follow standard practice.

Submissions will be evaluated by at least three independent reviewers. The review criteria include the relevance to the themes and subthemes, novelty, clarity, originality, the significance of contribution, technical quality, and quality of presentation. The selected papers will be published in the post conference volume from a reputed publisher.

Early Bird Registration – Register Here

Before 15th March, 2024

Faculty/Working Professionals/Research Scholars/Students/Others- (with paper) Rs. 1000/-

Faculty/Working Professionals/Research Scholars/Students/Others- (without paper) Rs. 800/-

Current Students of CU and IDSK- Rs. 500/-

Foreign Participants –

Academicians/ faculty/ Individual-$75.00

Students (including PhD Students)-$ 50.00

Regular Registration – Register Here

After 15th March, 2024

Faculty/Working Professionals/Research Scholars/Students/Others- (with paper) Rs. 1200/-

Faculty/Working Professionals/Research Scholars/Students/Others- (without paper) Rs. 1000/-

Current Students of CU and IDSK- Rs.600/-

The registration fee covers conference kits, tea, snacks, and lunches

**All co-authors who pay the registration fee will get the certificate*
***No TA/DA will be given to the out-station participants selected for presentation.*
****Please take note that students are required to submit a letter that will be endorsed by the head of the department.*

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