

October 10, 2024

Dear Members at International ICT Application Research Society,

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to invite your collaboration on a new paper that builds upon the keynote speech I delivered at the 1st International Conference on ICT Application Research (IAR 2023) on September 11, 2023. The keynote addressed the intersection of data science, ICT, and social inclusion, with a particular focus on how technology can support the inclusion of vulnerable populations such as persons with disabilities.

This paper will expand on the foundational concepts from that keynote, but I would like to include fresh perspectives—such as recent technological advancements, new interventions, or experiences from your own work. Your insights and expertise would greatly enrich the argument and provide a more comprehensive exploration of the topic.

In case you do not recall, the keynote explored the potential for technology to foster inclusion for disabled populations. I emphasized assistive technologies in educational and employment settings, illustrating how new tools can be implemented through effective policy frameworks. The discussion centered on the importance of designing equitable technological solutions that address the unique needs of marginalized communities.

As an equity-focused policy social worker, my work centers on designing and applying technological tools to promote the inclusion of vulnerable populations, especially persons with disabilities. Since assistive technology is becoming more important in various contexts, many of you have been researching these themes.

Aside from this specific paper, there is also a broader, ongoing conversation about the role of ICT and data science in enhancing inclusion and accessibility. In both academic and policy circles, ICT and data science are increasingly recognized as key tools to address inclusion and accessibility challenges. However, research has been lacking in terms of concrete examples and empirical analysis of these solutions in practice. This is where our paper could make a significant contribution: by addressing the discrimination and bias that still exist against disabled populations and showcasing how equitable ICT and data science interventions can bridge this gap.

This paper will not only highlight the need for inclusive technological solutions but will also contribute to the growing discourse on equity, accessibility, and the roles of ICT and data science in creating more inclusive societies. I believe that by coming together, we can push the conversation forward and generate impactful research that will inform both academic and policy communities.

For your reference, I have included the abstract from my keynote:

Abstract: In recent years, there has been a growing emphasis on creating more inclusive environments, with increasing recognition of technology's role in enhancing inclusion. This keynote session aimed to explore how data science and ICT can contribute to the creation of inclusive environments for all, focusing on equity, efficiency, and equality. By addressing the barriers faced by persons with disabilities, we sought to foster a deeper understanding of the meaningful discourse required to realize inclusive technological solutions.

If you are interested in joining me on this project or would like to discuss it further, please feel free to contact me at h.noriko@wustl.edu or +81 90 5803 4761. I look forward to the possibility of working together to advance this important research.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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