ASIA School of Business
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AS THE YEAR CLOSES: RETHINKING EXPERTISE IN THE AGE OF AI

Who do we trust when everyone has the answers?



Professor Sanjay Sarma

Tan Sri Zeti Aziz
Eminent Visiting Professor,
Asia School of Business;
Fred Fort Flowers (1941) &
Daniel Fort Flowers (1941)
Professor in Mechanical Engineering,
Massachusetts Institute of
Technology (MIT)



Professor Yacine Ait-Sahalia

Otto A. Hack 1903 Professor of
Finance and Economics,
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Professor Yuan-Sen Ting

Visiting Professor of Artificial
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Asia School of Business

DEC
7
MONDAY

Khazanah Auditorium, Asia School of Business,
11 Jalan Dato Onn, 50480 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

***3*:00 PM → *4*:30 PM**

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ABOUT THE SESSION

Artificial Intelligence is fundamentally reshaping how we define, teach, and value expertise. When AI can generate scientific hypotheses, solve engineering problems, and construct sophisticated financial models in seconds, what distinguishes genuine expertise from algorithmic imitation? Does AI democratize knowledge or merely create an illusion of understanding? As we enter 2027, these questions confront both universities tasked with educating the next generation and financial institutions making consequential decisions under uncertainty. The challenge is increasingly to distinguish statistical prediction from causal reasoning, meaningful signals from noise, computational sophistication from scientific understanding, and persuasive answers from sound judgment.

Moderated by Professor Ting Yuan-Sen (ASB), an expert in AI and astrophysics, this fireside conversation brings together Professor Sanjay Sarma (MIT), an authority on engineering, AI, and human learning, and Professor Yacine Aït-Sahalia (Princeton University), a leading financial economist specializing in financial econometrics, market volatility, and risk. Drawing on their complementary perspectives, they will explore how AI is transforming higher education, what universities should teach when answers are readily available, and whether AI can generate genuinely new knowledge. They will also examine the opportunities and risks of AI-driven financial decision-making, including the potential for interacting algorithms to amplify market instability and create new forms of systemic risk. As AI systems become increasingly sophisticated yet difficult to interpret, how should leaders evaluate their advice, and where does accountability reside when AI-assisted decisions fail?

A thought-provoking year-end dialogue on the future of expertise, the challenges of educating and leading in the age of AI, and the enduring value of human judgment.

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PROFESSOR YACINE AIT-SAHALIA'S BIOGRAPHY

Yacine Ait-Sahalia is the Otto Hack 1903 Professor of Finance and Economics at Princeton University. His primary area of research is financial econometrics. He served as the founding director of the Bendheim Center for Finance at Princeton University. Prior to joining Princeton, he was an Assistant Professor (1993–1996), Associate Professor (1996–1998), and Professor of Finance (1998) at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business. He earned his undergraduate degree from École Polytechnique in Paris, France, in 1987 and a master's degree from ENSAE ParisTech in 1989. He received his Ph.D. in Economics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in 1993.



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PROFESSOR SANJAY SARMA'S BIOGRAPHY

Sanjay Sarma is a professor of mechanical engineering at MIT and former CEO, President, and Dean of the Asia School of Business. He co-founded the MIT Auto-ID Center, which pioneered the technologies behind modern RFID systems. His work focuses on manufacturing, artificial intelligence, innovation, and digital learning. He received his bachelor's degree from the Indian Institute of Technology, a master's degree from Carnegie Mellon University, and a Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley.

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