

From the Desk of the Editor-in-Chief

Vantage: Journal of Thematic Analysis

A Peer Reviewed Multidisciplinary Publication of Centre for Research, Maitreyi College, University of Delhi.
Volume 7, Issue 1, April 2026. <https://vantagejournal.com> ISSN(E): 2582-7391

*"The rise of powerful AI will either be the best or the worst thing ever to happen to humanity.
We do not yet know which." — Stephen Hawking*

The above quote by Hawking is from the year 2016 when he predicted that Artificial Intelligence will drastically reshape the world. A decade ago, this idea might have seemed a bit far-fetched but today, it stands actualized. AI has transformed nearly every sphere of life and is progressing at a pace that is unprecedented.

Technologies that once took time to develop have been fast tracked. Classrooms are being increasingly redefined by AI, while political dynamics and global economies are also being transformed. Algorithms decide who gets a loan or what content people consume on social media. Increasingly we are observing how AI has made inroads into all aspects of life- from mundane to specialized ones. In this context, questions of ethics, accountability, privacy and consent gain salience. Hence, the present day and age necessitates that we examine our standpoint and attempt to fathom future trajectories.

Current issue of *Vantage: Journal of Thematic Analysis* carries perspectives on some of these concerns, while opening new avenues for thought and discourse.

The Editorial by Guest Editors, Wassan and Badhani, highlights that progress is not about how intelligent machines become, but about how we continue to think and create. Growth lies in curiosity, new perspectives, and original ideas. The Invited Article by Madan explores the complex interplay of social organization and technology, while emphasizing dialogue as a crucial means to construct rational knowledge systems.

In the Review Section, the writeup by Yadav and Khanna elaborates on the application of AI in healthcare including diagnostics, patient management, operational efficiency, and biomedical discovery, while examining methodological limitations. Another review article by Singh and Gupta critically analyzes threats to large language models (LLM). It is a significant reference for researchers, practitioners and policymakers to understand the existence and development of risks in

large language models. The article also emphasizes on the need for building secure and trustworthy AI systems.

In the section on Original Research Articles, Ghorai and the other authors suggest integrating computational and mechanistic approaches to arrive at new applications of existing drugs in cancer therapy. They explore binding of first line anti-diabetic drug metformin to an important cancer signalling molecule γ -Secretase. This study would open avenues for drug repurposing to treat cancer. Dwivedi discusses a potential application of algorithms in predicting crimes on a large-scale. In her article, she proposes that data in the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) can be utilized to predict and prevent crimes. Further, the social impact of AI is analysed by Kishan and Ujwal as they explore digital expressions of experiences of the burn and acid attack survivors. They analyse how identity and reality are constructed and displayed in a digital space. They also investigate ways in which acid attack survivors negotiate privacy and visibility, and how online communities support resilience, offering alternative networks of belonging.

Yadav and Bhadauria's review of Sachin Kumar's book *Artificial Intelligence: Understand, Adapt, and Succeed* carries significant food for thought. The book delves into the history, the present circumstance, and the future of AI and a review of this book aptly concludes this volume on 'Minds and Machines.'

I hope the scholarship published in this issue benefits readers and inspires further research.

~Haritma Chopra