CSOH
Center for the Study of Organized Hate

2026 CONFERENCE RECAP REPORT

Big Tech, Democracy, and Human Rights

Reshaping Tech Power. Building a Just Digital Future for the Global Majority.

Stanford Center for South Asia *Global Studies*
CSOH Center for the Study of Organized Hate
DRF USA
Stanford Critical AI
Santa Clara University Department of Communication
DANGEROUS SPEECH PROJECT
PIT LAB @ Stanford

STANFORD UNIVERSITY

NOVEMBER 6, 2026



ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

A handful of technology companies now hold extraordinary power over how billions of people communicate, access information, and participate in public life and most of those billions live in the Global Majority. On November 6, 2026, the Center for the Study of Organized Hate convened researchers, technologists, journalists, policy professionals, funders, and advocates at Stanford for the second year running to **confront that power.**

Held at the Stanford Alumni Center, **Big Tech, Democracy, and Human Rights** examined how platforms, algorithmic systems, and artificial intelligence produce and amplify harm; surfaced evidence from regions underrepresented in global technology debates; and explored the legal, policy, and advocacy responses this moment demands.

Through fireside conversations, panels, and a keynote, one question ran through the day: what does accountability look like when the platforms and AI systems shaping life in New Delhi, Jakarta, Lagos, and São Paulo are designed in Silicon Valley?

THE DAY IN NUMBERS

350+
TOTAL REGISTRATIONS

90+
ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTED

10
COUNTRIES REPRESENTED

20
SPEAKERS & MODERATORS

The Program



01 FIRESIDE

What Silicon Valley's Authoritarian Embrace Means for the Global Majority

Gil Durán, author of *The Nerd Reich*, in conversation with **Raqib Naik**, Executive Director, CSOH



02 PANEL

The Tech Right and the Global Majority: Ideology, Design, and the Politics of Inevitability

Scott Busby, **Sana Saleem**, **Chinasa T. Okolo** · Moderated by **Sacha Alanoca**



03 LIGHTNING TALK

Who Funds the Backlash? Big Tech's Money and the Fight for Rights

Sabika Abbas, Noor Network



04 PANEL

AI Governance and the Geopolitics of Emerging Technology

Inioluwa Deborah Raji, **Alejandro Cuevas**, **Nighat Dad** · Moderated by **Archit Lohani**

The Program



KEYNOTE ADDRESS


FIRESIDE

05 KEYNOTE & FIRESIDE

Algorithms of Oppression, Eight Years On: What Has Changed in the Age of AI, and What Hasn't?

Dr. Safiya Umoja Noble, UCLA, author of *Algorithms of Oppression*, in conversation with **Nighat Dad**



06 PANEL

Online Harms and Accountability: Why Protection Stops at the Borders

Desirée Yépez, **Mahishaa Balraj**, **Eric Sype** · Moderated by **Cathy Buerger**



07 FIRESIDE

Who Pays for Accountability? Funding Digital Rights After the Cuts

Suyen Barahona, Colmena Fund, in conversation with **Sabika Abbas**, Noor Network

WHAT WE HEARD

Four threads ran through **the day!**

01 THE TECH RIGHT IS A PROJECT, NOT A MOOD

Behind the personalities lies a coherent ideology with deep colonial roots; one that treats accountability as censorship and democratic oversight as an obstacle to technological power. This ideology did not emerge by accident. It was deliberately built, and it can be named, mapped, and countered.

02 AI RACE IS OUTPACING DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

Geopolitical competition and corporate interests increasingly shape the development and governance of AI, often sidelining human rights and public accountability. Speakers highlighted how the environmental, labor, and social costs of AI development disproportionately affect communities with the least influence over these decisions.

03 DIGITAL RIGHTS PROTECTIONS STOP AT THE BORDERS

Regulatory protections remain deeply unequal across regions. While some jurisdictions are advancing safeguards, communities across much of the Global Majority face limited platform accountability and growing risks of surveillance, censorship, and digital repression. Discussions underscored the need for rights-based protections that extend beyond national borders.

04 THE FUTURE OF ACCOUNTABILITY DEPENDS ON WHO FUNDS IT

Shrinking international assistance, shifting philanthropic priorities, and growing investment in frontier AI are reshaping the resources available for digital rights and accountability work. Speakers emphasized the need for greater investment in digital rights movements and research on online harms across the Global Majority, where the consequences of technologies developed without sufficient consideration of local contexts, languages, and communities often become visible first. Sustained, equitable funding is essential to strengthening local expertise, documenting emerging harms, and holding technology companies accountable.



A NEW FRAMEWORK FOR ACCOUNTABILITY

A Global Minimum for the Global Majority: Digital Bill of Rights

At the conference, we introduced a proposed Digital Bill of Rights for the Global Majority, inviting participants to provide feedback and consider endorsing a shared framework for holding technology companies accountable.

The proposal sets out 19 rights grounded in three principles: parity of protection, non-complicity with state abuse, and justice beyond parity. It calls on tech companies to extend their strongest safeguards globally, address harms to individuals and communities, and provide meaningful transparency and remedy.

19
RIGHTS

PRINCIPLE 01
Parity of protection

PRINCIPLE 02
Non-complicity with state abuse

PRINCIPLE 03
Justice beyond parity

WHAT COMES NEXT

Building on the initial discussions at Stanford, we plan to engage civil society organizations, researchers, and affected communities across the Global Majority to gather feedback, refine the proposal, and seek organizational endorsements. Together with participating organizations, we aim to co-develop a coordinated advocacy strategy and engage major technology companies on concrete commitments to implement these protections.

READ AND ENDORSE

Speakers



SAFIYA UMOJA NOBLE
Professor & Director, Center on Resilience & Digital Justice, UCLA



INIOLUWA DEBORAH RAJI
Incoming Assistant Professor, Stanford Computer Science



CHINASA T. OKOLO
Founder & Scientific Director, Technēcultură



SANA SALEEM
Digital rights advocate · Co-founder, Bolo Bhi



SABIKA ABBAS
Lead, Organizing and Movement, Noor Network



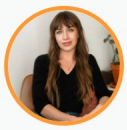
ARCHIT LOHANI
Stanford Critical AI



CATHY BUERGER
Director of Research, Dangerous Speech Project



DESIRÉE YÉPEZ
Journalist · Development Manager, Radio Ambulante



BRANDI GEURKINK
Executive Director, Coalition for Independent Technology Research



LALITA DU PERRON
Associate Director, Center for South Asia, Stanford



GIL DURÁN
Author, The Nerd Reich



NIGHAT DAD
Executive Director, DRF USA · Meta Oversight Board



SCOTT BUSBY
Former Deputy Assistant Secretary DRL, US Department of State



SUYEN BARAHONA
President, Colmena Fund



SACHA ALANOCA
Co-founder, Stanford Critical AI Group



ALEJANDRO CUEVAS
Postdoctoral Fellow, Princeton CITP



MAHISHAA BALRAJ
Co-Founder & Director, Hashtag Generation



ERIC SYPE
National Organizer, 7amleh



ROHIT CHOPRA
Professor of Communication, Santa Clara University



RAQIB NAIK
Executive Director, Center for the Study of Organized Hate

Who came — and who wanted to.

Award-winning and internationally recognized leaders across digital rights, AI, human rights, and journalism — joined by the people building, regulating, funding, and covering technology.

350+

TOTAL REGISTRATIONS — NEARLY TWICE VENUE CAPACITY

10

COUNTRIES REPRESENTED IN THE ROOM

2:1

DEMAND VS. SEATS — 180+ WAITLISTED

WHERE PARTICIPANTS CAME FROM

Attendees joined from **90+ organizations** across **6 sectors** and **10 countries**: technology (leaders and staffers from Google, Meta, LinkedIn, and other major platforms), research and academia (Stanford and beyond), government, philanthropy, journalism, and civil society.





WHAT THE WAITLIST SAYS

More than 180 people sought seats we could not accommodate. The demand for a space where Global Majority perspectives meet Silicon Valley — on its own doorstep — far outgrew one room at the Stanford Alumni Center.

Reshaping Tech Power.

Building a Just Digital Future for the Global Majority.

To every speaker, moderator, sponsor, and volunteer, and to the more than 170 participants who filled the room: thank you. The conversation does not end with the closing tea. We will keep surfacing the evidence, naming the harms, and building the coalitions this moment demands.

STAY WITH US

Reports, briefs, and future convenings at **csohate.org**

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