February 2026

Aula @ AI House Davos 2026 Debrief:

The Aula Fellowship is Convening Global Conversations on AI

Presented by:

THE AULA FELLOWSHIP

We can show that:

Small organizations can make it to the conversation;

Access depends on people choosing to support the mission with direct money and time;

People with power have choices on who they work with;

There are people of good intent in powerful places;

Among them are people who are looking for how to do better tech diplomacy.

We are convening civil society conversations.

AI Sustainability Council

Connecting Africa to Global AI Governance

Convening on Military AI

AI Comedy Council & Road Show

AI House Davos 2027

Table of Contents

"I am because we are" - Ubuntu.

Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not." - Dr. Seuss.

Dear changemakers in AI policy,

Thank you for your interest in AI Governance. This field of activity is under construction, and it mirrors our other great social challenges, like the oppression and pollution resulting from our economic systems. AI multiplies automation possibilities and scale efficiencies across most sectors, both in constructive and destructive ways. As a set of technologies, it leaves no community untouched.

As you may know, The Aula Fellowship is a collective of specialists on AI from several sectors. Our mission is to ensure that everyone can access the conversation on AI. We connect our collective understandings to the communities we inhabit. In the field, this means we have participated in hundreds of conversations on AI in society.

In December 2025, we published v0.1 of The Aula Convening Guidelines, to provide communities and decision makers with the means to design productive conversations. Such convenings increase community capacity to decide, provide decision makers with legitimacy to govern, and guide industry on product/service design.

We have been invited to consider partnering with AI House for their 2027 edition. To that end, we went this year. We sought out and were able to accept several invitations to join conversations in Davos in January 2026. This was during, but not at, the World Economic Forum (WEF), at WEF-adjacent events and pavilions. As curators and conveners, our focus was on AI House Davos.

The Aula Convening Guidelines:
https://theaulafellowship.org/2025/12/13/aula-convening-guideline-2025-ed

What's this report?

This document contains a debrief on our year of conferences, and a proposal to you, as a member of the global community, to join us in convening civil society to discussions on hard questions on AI in society.

For deep divers, the annex to this report contains our detailed political analysis of power at AI House Davos and similar events, aimed at providing civil society actors and institutional changemakers with potential insight into their own power in these contexts.

Collaborations, comments, concerns are welcomed. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Tammy Mackenzie, Dir. The Aula Fellowship and Team Davos Lead

François Pelletier, Tech Lead, Senior Fellow

Branislav Radeljić, Ph.D., Director of Research, Senior Fellow

Ley Muller, Ph.D., Senior Fellow for AI Standards

Uloma Okoro, LL.B, Aula Africa Lead

Andrew Ham, Governance and Coordination

Gwendolyn Alston, Documentary Producer

Hager Hesham, Media Lead, Davos 2027

Natalie Perez, Ph.D., Research Fellow

Cynthia Madden, M.Sc., Research Fellow

Annex to this report: Power Analysis in AI, at Davos 2026
https://theaulafellowship.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Aula-@-AI-House-Davos-2026-Annex-Power-Analysis.pdf

Goals and Results :

Aula@AI House Davos 2026

Our goals for attending were to answer questions.

These were a yes:
- Are there people there with power who are honest, courageous, and hopeful about our biggest problems?
- Are our convening guidelines needed?
- Can we identify allies for actions?
- Are we skilled enough / big enough to work as a team on the world stage?
- Can we see how and why to work on Aula @ Davos 2027?

These are more complex:
- Can we see who is missing from the conversations?
- Are we welcome?

These are still unknown:
- Will we be able to build coalitions around the convening guidelines?
- Will this help us to secure stable independent financing for our operations?
- Will partnering with AI House 2027 serve our mission?

We have observed and considered the power flows at Davos and other global tech governance events, on the topic of AI.

We are preparing 5 global convenings.

The Power Analysis

Executive Summary of the Power Analysis Annex

At AI House Davos 2026, we sought out people who displayed **honesty** about complex contemporary challenges, **courage** in how they view their own power to act, and **hope** that things can work out for the best. These qualities indicate willingness and capacity to take action.

We have analyzed AI House as a **field-configuring event** where people exchange ideas and shape future actions. Formal/institutionalised and informal/social forms of power influence what directions become possible. We then distinguish between formal power vested in regulators, executives, sponsors, and organizers, and informal power exercised by curated audiences, media, academics, and local actors.

We identify **underrepresented perspectives**: small organizations, civil society advocates, cultural sectors, protestors, women, people of the Global Majority, and people involved in using AI in military and security settings. These indicate where AI governance is missing civil society perspectives and where additional voices can step in.

Decision makers and technologists know that **fit to purpose decisions require everyone to join in the conversation**. Observing where power concentrates reveals where access to the conversation on AI can expand. The structural question is: **how do we ensure that everyone can access the conversation on AI?**

We present our limitations. Lastly, the post-Script: **Who are the Tech Diplomats?** examines the professional class shaping AI governance, asking what power they have, how they use it, what constraints they face, and how we can help them build legitimacy for collective decision-making.

Annex to this report: Power Analysis in AI, at Davos 2026
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The Aula Convening Guidelines

These guidelines cover how decision makers, including community leaders, policymakers and developers, can design community events for decision-making legitimacy. They work across meeting methods and cultures.

1. Plan for engagement, not opinions.
2. Consider the different types of power, and how these are honoured in this community.
3. Provide material comforts such as time, space, food.
4. Ensure accessibility.
5. Directly address historic and actual power imbalances.
6. Follow up: don't disappear.

The Aula Convening Guidelines:
https://theaulafellowship.org/2025/12/13/aula-convening-guideline-2025-ed

We are putting the Aula Convening Guidelines into practice. We are launching convenings in 5 sectors.

We identified gaps in information that coincide with people and communities who can add well-intentioned, valuable and realistic perspectives to the deliberations on AI. People who show honesty, courage, and hope. In seeking people with those characteristics, the Aula Fellows have built good relations with people who can move resources to weigh in on some of our collective global challenges.

The Aula Convenings

AI Sustainability Council

Convenings for the environment.

SDGs: 6 Clean Water and Sanitation, 7 Affordable and Clean Energy, 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities, 12 Responsible Consumption and Production.

Contact: Tammy Mackenzie (#convening-ai-sustainability-house)

Connecting Africa to Global AI Governance

What tools and methods will connect us to each other on international tech governance?

SDGs: 4 Quality Education, 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth, 10 Reduced Inequalities, 17 Partnerships for the Goals.

Contact: Fellow Uloma Okora (Internal: #all-africa-ai)

Convening on Military AI

What does civil society want and need from military AI?

SDGs: 16 Peace, Justice, and Strong Institution, 17 Partnerships for the Goals

Contact: Tammy Mackenzie. (Internal: #convening-military-ai)

AI House Davos 2027

Working on convenings to connect people to the whole conversation.

SDGs: 9 Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure, 16 Peace, Justice, and Strong Institution, 17 Partnerships for the Goals

Contact: Andrew Ham. (Internal: #impact-davos team)

AI Comedy Council & Road Show

What can comedy say that we aren't hearing? Where can we say it? And what's for lunch?

SDGs: 4 Quality Education 10 Reduced Inequalities,16 Peace, Justice, and Strong Institution, 17 Partnerships for the Goals

Contact: Fellows François Pelletier & Téa Smith.

The Aula Convenings

Convenings on AI can vary greatly. Topics change, so do ways and means. The 5 convenings proposed here are specific to the relations and sectors in which the organizing team of Aula Fellows have specialties. We put the guidelines into practice and thought through each item, as well as our own capacities. These 5 Convenings are presented here in summary, with the SDGs and contact information. We will be releasing specific briefs for each convening, over the coming weeks.

Convening Design for These 5 Events

These convenings have features that are very different from standard policy conferences:

Town-hall style discussions (no panels).
Held in cultural alignment with direct democracy.
We invite the whole gamut of people who are involved in the sector/hard question.
Partners present their written position statement 1 month prior, open for comments.
Each partner pays according to their means.
Artists, comedians, philosophers, spiritual leaders, youth, and social scientists accompany the process.
Entirely filmed, recorded, and streamed online.
Massive online participation.

Event Budgets and Calls for Contributors

Planning and budgets overviews are available for potential collaborators. See the Events Budgets tab of the Current Projects spreadsheet.

Current Projects Calls for Contributors and Budgets:
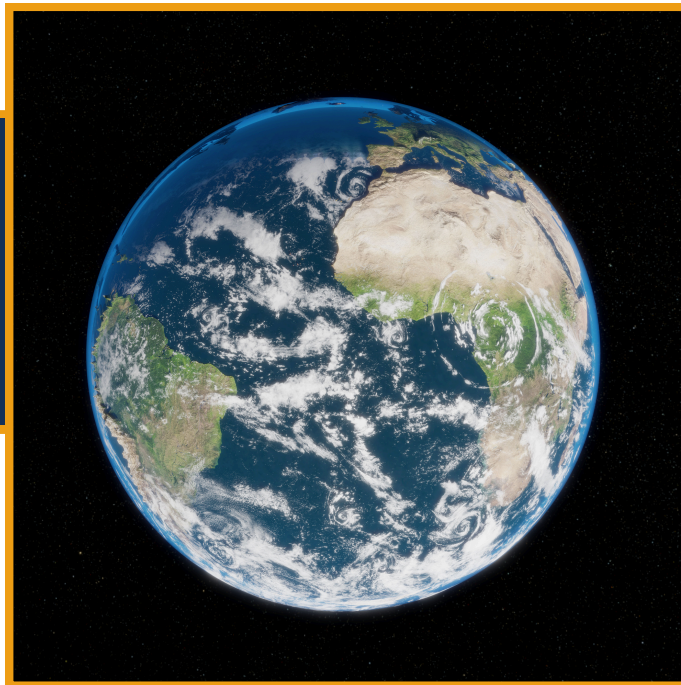https://theaulafellowship.org/2026/02/16/announcing-5-global-society-convenings-on-ai/

How to Get Involved

The Aula Fellows and our Sponsors invite you to consider what you want from AI in society. Your personal needs and how these connect your professional work to your community and cultural roots are what define your position in society. As a global human society, when we work together towards common goals, we have the strength and legitimacy to design our collective future.

We are building partnerships for these convenings. In business and in governance terms, what this affords participants is access to the legitimate will of the people, upon which good governance and good marketing depend.

To express your interest in hearing about a convening or getting involved, please use this Google Form: Request for Information on a Convening. or reach out by email to info@theaulafellowship.org.

Current Projects Calls for Contributors and Budgets:
https://theaulafellowship.org/2026/02/16/announcing-5-global-society-convenings-on-ai/

The Working Group

The working group for this edition of the Aula Convening Guidelines consist of Aula Fellows and the people with whom we have convened, hosted, and joined in conversations since the start of this project, in 2023. This edition has been written, augmented, and approved by:

About The Aula Fellowship:

Our mission is to ensure that everyone can access the conversation on how AI is being implemented in society.

We are a think-tank and non-profit NGO, facilitating the global conversation on A.I. Each Fellow brings their own expertise, from science, engineering, social justice, governance, law, education, philosophy, business, and more. The Aula Fellowship is a modern aula: a gathering of interdisciplinary Fellows from around the world, committed to ensuring that everyone can access the conversation on how AI is implemented in society.

More information is available at: https://theaulafellowship.org.

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Andrew Ham, Governance and Coordination
Gwendolyn Alston, Documentary Producer
Hager Hesham, Media Lead, Davos 2027
Natalie Perez, Ph.D., Research Fellow
Cynthia Madden, M.Sc. Research Fellow

Except where explicitly stated for use in summarization in some sections of the supporting documents, this work is entirely produced by humans.

References

Annex: Power Analysis for the Post-Davos 5 Convenings Plan:

https://theaulafellowship.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Aula-@-AI-House-Davos-2026-Annex-Power-Analysis.pdf

To follow the news as the projects develop:

Website: https://theaulafellowship.org/works

LinkedIn: https://ca.linkedin.com/company/aula-fellowship

Swissinfo story on our Davos 2026 Project:

https://theaulafellowship.org/2026/02/04/aula-in-the-news-davos-2026-swissinfo/

Reference Documents:

- Aula Convening Guidelines:
- The scientific work that supports the convening guidelines can be found **here** (request permission to access this).
- On the missing voices in conversations on AI in society
- Executive Summary of our 2026 Fundraiser for our Annual Report and Davos 26 Trip
- Aula @ Davos media kit
- Calls for contributors and events budgets: Current Projects

Other Fellowship Works:

Ongoing collaborative research: see the Works & News.

Contact: Branislav for collaboration and training.

Policy briefings.

Contact: Ley Muller for collaboration and training.

& Several smaller events

Contact: Andrew Ham for coordination.

Current Projects seeking collaborations and support. Includes the Events Budgets tab and opportunities for collaborations.