

Who's afraid of Artificial Intelligence?

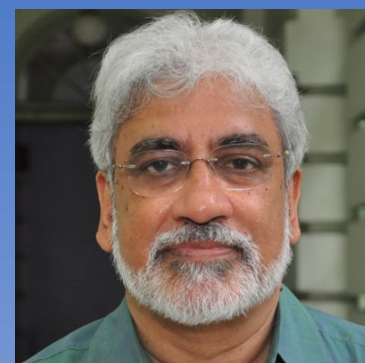
Prof. Sabyasachi Bhattacharya

(Professor Emeritus, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research)



Artificial Intelligence, “a riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma,” has come to represent the latest challenge to our civilization, in both its speed and its impact. In this lecture on AI - using almost exclusively AI - it will take a historical view of massively disruptive technologies from the past: (1) the printing press, (2) the industrial revolution, of which the conflict between art and photography is an ‘illuminating example’ and (3) playing the game of chess in recent times to illustrate the man-versus-man-made machine paradigm. Finally, it will attempt to look through the crystal ball and make predictions about its short-time horizons and how to “prepare” for things mostly unpredictable.

Professor Sabyasachi Bhattacharya is a physicist and works on dynamical aspects of disordered, soft and granular condensed matter systems. He was a Distinguished Professor at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) of which he was also a former Director. He received his B.Sc. at the Presidency College, Kolkata, M.Sc. at the University of Delhi, and his Ph.D. at Northwestern University, all in Physics. He conducted post-doctoral research at the National Magnet Laboratory at MIT and at the University of Chicago as a James Franck Distinguished Fellow before joining the Exxon Corporate Research Laboratory. He subsequently worked at the NEC Research Institute at Princeton where he was an NEC Fellow and the Chair of the NEC Board of Fellows.



He held the Jagadish Chandra Bose Distinguished University Professorship at Presidency University and the C.V. Raman University Professorship at the Ashoka University and was the Founding Director of a research organization TCG-CREST in Kolkata. He is currently a Professor Emeritus at the TIFR. He is a Fellow of the American Physical Society and served both as its International Councillor, as well as a member of its Committee of International Scientific Affairs (CISA). Professor Bhattacharya recently served, among other organizations, on the Editorial Board of the Reports on Progress in Physics, the Technology Advisory Council of British Petroleum, the IIT-Council of the Ministry of Human Resource Development and the Council of IIT-Bombay and the Mentor Group of Presidency University, Kolkata. He is a frequent visitor to the New York University, the University of Chicago, the Cavendish Laboratory and the Trinity College, Cambridge.

10th April, 2026 at 4:00 p.m.

(Hybrid), Lecture Theatre AG66, TIFR

YouTube Live : <https://youtu.be/ZPTpnwt5Paw>



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