



Massachusetts Institute of Technology



“We designed MITHIC to help MIT faculty in human-centered fields ‘go big’ – to explore the frontiers of knowledge in their fields, connect across disciplines, and devise new solutions for global challenges.”

Sally Kornbluth
MIT President

MIT Human Insight Collaborative

The world faces challenges that technology can’t solve. MIT has long recognized the critical role of the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (SHASS) in exploring the political, cultural, economic, and ethical perspectives necessary to address complex problems. For example, it is essential to consider the human impact of emerging technologies like AI, which have the potential to transform the world, as they evolve.

The MIT Human Insight Collaborative (MITHIC) is a bold, new Institute priority designed to identify and elevate scholars at the frontiers of human-centered research and education, providing them with resources to pursue their most innovative ideas. MITHIC will foster creativity, inquiry, and understanding, while amplifying MIT’s impact on global challenges.

- **Energize** innovation and inspiration with new resources for ambitious endeavors in the arts and humanities that broaden humanity’s horizons.
- **Empower** interdisciplinary teams led by experts in human-centered disciplines with colleagues across the Institute to achieve large-scale, long-term impact.
- **Elevate** human-centered education across MIT with new tools and techniques to equip new generations of leaders with human-centered knowledge and skills.

MITHIC was launched with the generous support of MIT alumni and friends who believe that tapping the rich wisdom of human-centered fields will make it possible for our students and faculty to define, devise, and accelerate human-centered innovation.

MITHIC INAUGURAL PROJECTS

First awards from MITHIC support bold, innovative proposals

When MITHIC launched in fall 2024, a call for proposals invited faculty to “go big,” according to MIT President Sally Kornbluth, encouraging them “to explore the frontiers of knowledge in their fields, connect across disciplines, and devise new solutions for global challenges,” as well as to design transformative educational experiences and practices in SHASS. Almost 90 projects applied for the inaugural round of funding, representing virtually every corner of the Institute.

Selected MITHIC projects receive support for one year from one of three funds:

- **SHASS+ Connectivity Fund**, which supports projects with interdisciplinary teams comprised of a SHASS PI collaborating with a colleague from another part of the Institute;
- **Humanities Cultivation Fund**, which supports creative work in the arts and humanities;
- **SHASS Education Innovation Fund**, which supports projects that will help create transformative educational experiences and practices in SHASS for MIT students.

The first round of MITHIC’s SHASS+ Connectivity projects, led by interdisciplinary teams from across the Institute, include:

Scalable and Ethical AI for Health Diagnostics in Low-Resource Settings

Esther Duflo PhD '99, *Abdul Latif Jameel Professor of Poverty Alleviation and Development Economics*

Marzyeh Ghassemi PhD '17, *Germeshausen Career Development Associate Professor, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science*

Building Social Science-engaged Climate and Sustainability Infrastructure at MIT

Laura Frye-Levine, *Anthropology*

Jennifer Morris SM '09, PhD '13, *Center for Sustainability Science and Strategy*

Science and Strategy Workshop for Perspectives on Cybersecurity

Nazli Choucri, *Political Science*

Saurabh Amin, *Civil and Environmental Engineering*

Interdisciplinary Approaches to the Bioeconomy and Society

Robin Scheffler, *Science, Technology, and Society*

Mark Bathe '98, SM '01, PhD '04, *Biological Engineering*

Philanthropy makes funding for these projects possible, and gifts of all sizes will help the students and faculty of MIT fulfill our mission of building a better world.

MITHIC

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THE IMMEDIATE NEED

We seek endowed and expendable support to help ensure the continued success and impact of MITHIC. Gifts support programmatic activities, including research, course development, and public outreach and engagement.

For more information about supporting MITHIC, contact:

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Front Images: Researchers at MIT.nano’s Immersion Lab study the biomechanics of movements made by expert dancers and pianists, hoping to make discoveries that will reduce injuries, increase efficiency, and improve teaching and learning methods for athletes, musicians, and workers.



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