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PANEL TITLE: A WORLD WITHOUT BARRIERS: INDIGENEITY, DIVERSITY AND EQUITY IN THE DIGITAL AGE

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ABSTRACT

Human societies have been evolving since time immemorial. This evolution has been transitioned through various technological ages, from invention of fire to wheel to agriculture to machines to internet we have come a long way socially, culturally, and globally. The current digital age is marked by the spread of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) that is touted to accelerate human progress and bridge the existing divide and to develop knowledge societies. Digitization has become such an indispensable part of human lives that more than ever in human history, population and individuals now have a need to rely on ICTs for education, health, business, work, politics, socializing and every aspect involving humans. Internet and use of media has challenged the existing socio-cultural constructs, social roles, behaviours, and morals giving it an altogether different dimension. Hence, it is pertinent to understand humans and human behaviour in digitized contexts through anthropological lens to get answers for the present global problems.

Keywords: Indigenous cultures, Media, socio-cultural construction of technology, diversity, and equity

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