

## Interdisciplinary Social Justice Theory & Methods Group: University of Southampton

### Rationale

In an era of rapid technological advancement yet systemic polycrisis, critical inquiry into the intersection of social justice and the emerging world is more urgent than ever. AI, climate change, and global health pose significant challenges and opportunities for justice, particularly from the perspective of the Majority World. There is a great deal of excellent research at the University related to social justice but it is not explicitly identified as such, and researchers don't benefit from cross-fertilisation with others working in cognate research. This group will address the normative gaps in existing research by building frameworks that foreground justice, equity, and transformation, shaping the ethical trajectory of these new technologies and empirical investigation.

### Scope of Activities

**Research and Theoretical Development** Producing interdisciplinary social justice theoretical frameworks relevant to contemporary issues like AI, climate crisis, and global health.

**Methodological Frameworks:** Developing tools and methods for co-production and community engagement, especially with marginalised and minoritised groups in the UK and Majority World.

**Workshops and Seminars:** Organising regular events to foster critical dialogue on how social justice can inform research.

**Publications:** Producing journal articles, policy briefs and blogposts on social justice theory and methods.

**Consultancy and Grant Support** Assisting research bids that require social justice framing or interdisciplinary approaches for exploring empirical issues.

### Aims

1. Develop and apply critical social justice frameworks that address emerging global challenges, particularly foregrounding cognitive and theoretical perspectives from the Majority World
2. Shape research on new technologies like AI and blockchain with a justice-oriented lens, ensuring these innovations benefit marginalized communities.
3. Enhance empirical investigations on global health and climate crises through the application of social justice theory, particularly from the Majority World perspective.
4. Nurture a pan-institutional community of social justice-orientated researchers from PhDs to Professors
5. develop the field of interdisciplinary social justice theory and methods
6. Enrich empirical research on global health and the climate crisis through the application of social justice orientated methods, particularly in terms of co-production and equitable public engagement.
7. Improve the interface between humanities, social sciences and life/environmental/engineering sciences

### Benefits of Membership

Professor Pathik Pathak September 2024

*Not for external circulation*

- **Interdisciplinary Collaboration:** Connect with researchers across multiple fields, enhancing the depth and breadth of your work.
- **Access to Expertise:** Gain insights into the latest social justice theories and methods, particularly their application in real-world contexts.
- **Career Development:** Opportunities to co-author papers, participate in research bids, and engage in consultancy projects that have direct social impact.

### Alignment with UoS Strategy

This group aligns with the University's strategy by:

1. **Research Excellence:** Promoting interdisciplinary, justice-orientated research that addresses global challenges, contributing to the university's research output.
2. **Education and Student Experience:** Offering early-career researchers an enriching platform to explore social justice within their disciplines, fostering innovative learning and critical thinking.
3. **Civic Engagement:** Strengthening the university's role as a leader in social justice by engaging with marginalized communities and applying research in real-world contexts for transformative impact.

### Get involved!

It is imperative that our leadership group is diverse in terms of discipline, stage of research career and protected characteristics, so if you're interested in getting involved in the network either as a Co-Lead or in another capacity, please email [P.Pathak@soton.ac.uk](mailto:P.Pathak@soton.ac.uk) or contact me on Teams (search Pathik Pathak).