

TIME 2026 Interactive Panel Discussion

Theme

Beyond Benchmarks: Are We Building the Right AI for the Next Web?

Perspectives from Vision, Generative Models, Security, Trustworthiness, and Autonomous Systems

Why this panel?

Artificial intelligence is advancing at an unprecedented pace, driving breakthroughs in computer vision, generative AI, cybersecurity, trustworthy systems, and autonomous technologies. Yet fundamental questions remain: **Are we evaluating the right capabilities? Are benchmark improvements translating into real-world impact? How should future web technologies balance performance, trustworthiness, security, transparency, and societal benefit?**

This panel brings together authors from diverse research communities represented at TIME 2026 to explore these questions. The discussion will encourage cross-disciplinary perspectives and audience participation, highlighting common challenges and future opportunities for the next generation of intelligent web technologies.

Panel objectives

- Encourage discussion across traditionally separate research communities.
- Identify common challenges shared by vision, generative AI, security, trustworthiness, and autonomous systems.
- Explore whether current AI evaluation practices reflect real-world needs.
- Discuss emerging opportunities and risks shaping the future of web technologies.
- Provide attendees with actionable insights and future research directions.

50-minute structure

Time	Activity	Purpose
0–5 min	Welcome and panelist introductions	Set context and introduce diverse expertise
5–10 min	Icebreaker question	Ensure every panelist contributes early
10–20 min	Discussion Theme 1: Beyond Benchmarks	Create debate around AI evaluation
20–30 min	Discussion Theme 2: Trust, Security and Explainability	Compare priorities across domains
30–40 min	Discussion Theme 3: Real-World Impact	Connect research with deployment challenges

40–48 min	Audience Questions and Open Discussion	Promote interaction and community engagement
48–50 min	Closing Reflections	Capture future directions and key takeaways

Core discussion questions

Q1. Icebreaker

In one sentence, what is the biggest misconception in your research area today?

Q2. Beyond Benchmarks

Are today's benchmarks helping AI research, or limiting it? What important capability in your field is still not being measured?

Q3. Trust, Security, or Performance?

If you could optimise only one attribute for future AI systems: accuracy, trustworthiness, explainability, security, or efficiency, which would you choose and why?

Q4. The Big Question

Are we building the right AI for the real world, or simply the AI that performs best on benchmarks?

Audience interaction ideas

- Poll #1: Which challenge is most critical for the future of AI? (Performance, Evaluation, Security, Trustworthiness, Efficiency)
- Poll #2: Would you rather deploy a 99% accurate AI that cannot explain its decisions, or a 90% accurate AI that is fully transparent?

Backup questions (use only if needed)

- What is one thing researchers optimise for that industry or society does not actually care about?
- Which emerging technology will have the greatest impact on the Web by 2030: Foundation Models, Agentic AI, Edge AI, Quantum Computing, or Trustworthy AI?
- What advice would you give to a PhD student entering AI research today?

Expected outcomes

- A lively interdisciplinary discussion connecting all accepted papers.
- Identification of shared challenges across multiple AI domains.
- Actionable insights for researchers, practitioners, and students.
- A memorable closing session that reflects TIME 2026's interdisciplinary vision.