



# AI and the Future of Skills: Work in the 2030s

BOHSI: Creating an Equitable Future of Work  
Webinar, August 29, 2024

Stuart Elliott (Project Leader), Abel Baret, Shivi Chandra, Marc Fuster,  
Margarita Kalamova, Aurelija Masiulyte, Sam Mitchell, Nóra Révai, Mic Tse

# AI and the Future of Skills project

- Developing measures of AI capabilities for policymakers
  - Scales to measure individual capabilities
  - Task scenarios to show evolving AI use
- Goal: provide a framework for understanding AI
  - What can't be done
  - What improvements would be meaningful
- Development project
  - Beta version release in 2025





## Observations

- AI is moving more quickly on cognitive skills than physical skills
  - Physical: lots of things just can't be done
  - Cognitive: advanced enough to ask nuanced questions
- It takes time to apply new technology and see its effects
  - Traditional literature: ~5-20 years for broad diffusion
  - New AI might be faster but we don't yet





## Implications for jobs in 2030s

- Physical job tasks will be fine
  - Childcare, plumbers, hair stylists, firefighters, ...
- Cognitive job tasks will see broad displacement
  - Instruction, programming, business administration, ...
  - There hasn't yet been time to apply existing AI systems
    - Indicator: replacement of customer service phone trees by LLMs
- Jobs with higher status/pay will be displaced more (on average)
  - Broad equity implications





## Question

- When AI performs cognitive job tasks better than humans, do we require the humans to be able to perform the tasks without AI?
  - Ex. Medical diagnosis on hard problems from *NEJM* cases
    - Physicians unaided 15.9%
    - Physicians with Internet 24.3%
    - Physicians with diagnostic LLM 25.2%
    - Diagnostic LLM alone 29.2%

Reference: McDuff et al., arXiv:2312.00164v1, 30 Nov 2023, Towards Accurate Differential Diagnosis with Large Language Models





**For more information:**

**[Stuart.Elliott@oecd.org](mailto:Stuart.Elliott@oecd.org)**

**[www.oecd.org/education/ceri/future-of-skills.htm](http://www.oecd.org/education/ceri/future-of-skills.htm)**

