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Challenges With AI Adoption in Social Sciences Teaching

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Artificial Intelligence (AI) is transforming various aspects of life and increasingly used in financial services, the health industry, transportation, energy and tourism industries. Education is also one of the areas AI presents a transformative potential enhancing both teaching methodologies and learning experiences. Yet there are also challenges in AI adoption particularly in social sciences where both educators and students lack technical knowledge on AI, its implications, capabilities, tools and methods. The main purpose of this paper is to explore the challenges with AI integration in social sciences at higher education. In order to understand these challenges from the perspectives of higher education instructors a qualitative approach was adopted. 15 university professors in social sciences in Türkiye, Portugal and Poland were interviewed on these challenges. These in-depth semi-structured interviews were digitally recorded and content analysed before the findings were reported. Several key challenges were identified including AI literacy, ethical concerns, bias in AI training sets, accountability, equality, fairness and accessibility, responsibility, ICT infrastructure and privacy issues. These key challenges were then grouped under three key themes as personal, organizational and environmental challenges. Yet all respondents agreed on the potential advantages of utilizing AI in enhancing teaching performance in social sciences. Understanding these challenges in adoption of AI in higher education would lead to improved decision making on professional development and training, education policies, administrative processes, standardization, certification and accreditation of social sciences education. Various theoretical contributions and policy recommendations are also provided.

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