

Revitalizing Programmatic Assessment in the Age of Artificial Intelligence

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Abstract

Programmatic assessment (PA) is a holistic approach to assessment that focuses on the development of students' knowledge, skills, and abilities over time. PA is often used in medical education, where it can be used to assess students' progress throughout their training.

In recent years, there has been a growing interest in using artificial intelligence (AI) to support PA. For faculty, AI can be used to automate tasks such as scoring assessments, providing feedback, and identifying patterns in student data. For students, AI can be a personalised tutor. This can free up educators to focus on more important tasks, such as providing individualized support to students.

However, there are also challenges associated with using AI in PA. AI can be expensive especially for resource poor countries, and it can be biased to persons with protected characteristics, if it is not properly trained. There are ethical issues around privacy.

This symposium will explore the potential of AI to produce a paradigm shift in PA. We will discuss the opportunities and challenges, and tensions and contradictions associated with using AI in PA. We will provide guidance on how to implement AI in a way that is fair and equitable.

Topic Importance

The discourse on assessment reform has reached a new level, further fuelled by the influence of AI on clinical and large-scale summative assessment. In this context, the infusion of AI into PA introduces novel dimensions. The symposium seeks to offer educators a dynamic framework to implement PA in tandem with AI-enhanced assessment tools.

Format and Plans

The symposium will feature presentations from distinguished experts in the field of PA and AI-assisted assessment. The presentations will explore the following topics:

- The synergy of critical realist systems thinking with AI-aided assessment
- The emergence of student agency in the discourse of AI-aided assessment
- The innovative validity paradigms in this context
- Instructional design and the impact on learning cultures

The presentations will be followed by a plenary discussion, where participants will have the opportunity to interact with the speakers and share their own thoughts on the future of PA in the age of AI.

Take-Home Messages

The symposium will leave participants with the following take-home messages:

- AI has the potential to revolutionize PA, but it is important to use AI in a way that is fair and equitable.
- The integration of AI into PA requires a new understanding of student agency.
- AI-assisted assessment tools can be used to create innovative validity frameworks.
- The shared narrative around AI's role in assessment catalyzes reflexivity among educators and learners.

Conclusion

This symposium will provide a valuable opportunity for educators to learn about the potential of AI to revitalize PA. We believe that the symposium will help educators to develop a better understanding of AI-assisted assessment and to implement AI in a way that is fair, equitable, and inclusive.

References (maximum three)

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