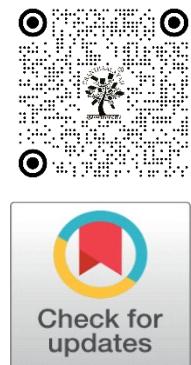


SPECIAL ISSUE ON EMOTION-AWARE AI AND DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION OF VISUAL CULTURE

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Dear Readers and Contributors,

It is with great pleasure that we present this special issue of **ShodhKosh: Journal of Visual and Performing Arts** titled "**Emotion-Aware AI and Digital Transformation of Visual Culture**." This special issue addresses a timely and significant shift in contemporary visual culture, where artificial intelligence is increasingly capable of perceiving, interpreting, and responding to human emotions, thereby reshaping artistic expression, media practices, and cultural narratives.

The integration of emotion-aware AI introduces affect as a central analytical dimension within visual arts research. Digital artworks, interactive media, and visual communication systems are no longer passive representations but emotionally responsive environments shaped by affective computing, machine learning, and intelligent systems. While these developments offer new creative and pedagogical possibilities, they also raise critical questions regarding ethics, authorship, interpretation, and cultural responsibility.

The contributions in this issue explore how emotion-aware AI is transforming visual storytelling, artistic creation, education, and media practices. Reflecting an interdisciplinary convergence of visual arts, digital humanities, affective computing, education technology, and ethics, the selected papers expand the scope of visual arts research into emerging domains of emotional intelligence and computational creativity.

This special issue provides a scholarly platform for visual artists, educators, researchers, and technologists to engage critically with the ethical, cultural, and educational implications of emotionally intelligent systems. All submissions underwent a rigorous peer-review process to uphold the academic standards of ShodhKosh.

We extend our sincere gratitude to the authors, reviewers, and Granthaalayah Publications for their invaluable support. We hope this volume stimulates meaningful dialogue and contributes to a deeper understanding of how emotion-aware AI is redefining visual culture in the digital age.

Sincerely,



Dr. Mithun Baswaraj Patil is an Associate Professor in the Department of Artificial Intelligence and Data Science at N. K. Orchid College of Engineering & Technology, Solapur, Maharashtra, India. He holds a Ph.D. in Computer Science & Information Science Engineering from Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU), Belagavi, completed in 2022, and is currently pursuing Post-Doctoral Research at the Singapore Institute of Technology in remote mode.

With over a decade of academic experience, Dr. Patil has taught a wide range of subjects including Operating Systems, Distributed Systems, Advanced Computer Networks, Research Methodology, and Mobile Computing. He has also served as Head of the Department (AI & DS) and coordinated postgraduate programs for several years.

His research contributions include publications in Scopus-indexed journals on IoT security, wireless networks, reinforcement learning, and machine learning applications. He is also a co-supervisor for Ph.D. scholars and actively involved in academic leadership and curriculum development.



Dr. Mangala Madankar is an accomplished academician and researcher, currently serving as Assistant Professor and Head of the Department of Artificial Intelligence at G. H. Raisoni College of Engineering, Nagpur, India. She holds a Ph.D. in Information Technology from RTMNU, Nagpur, along with an M.E. in Wireless Communication & Computing and a B.E. in Computer Engineering.

A Senior Member of IEEE and an approved Ph.D. supervisor under RTMNU, Dr. Madankar has built a strong academic profile through extensive teaching, research, and professional engagement. Her research contributions span natural language processing, wireless networks, VANETs, IoT-based machine learning models, cybersecurity, and information retrieval, with multiple publications in international conferences and journals.

Her scholarly works include influential studies on machine translation, congestion control in VANETs, DDoS mitigation, IoT-based classification systems, and deep-learning-based medical imaging. Dr. Madankar continues to contribute to AI-driven innovation through research, mentorship, and academic leadership.



Dr. Tahira Anwar Lashari is an Associate Professor at the School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (SEECS), National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST), Islamabad, Pakistan. She holds a Ph.D. in Technical and Vocational Education from Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia (UTHM), where she also completed a post-doctoral fellowship in 2017. Her academic background further includes a Master's in Applied Psychology and a Bachelor's degree from the University of the Punjab, Lahore.

Dr. Lashari's research spans educational psychology, engineering education, internationalisation, affective-cognitive learning approaches, Web 2.0 tools, digital learning, and assistive technologies. She has published extensively in national and international peer-reviewed journals, including recent works on assistive technology integration, digital learning for autistic children, augmented-reality e-learning, Web 2.0-based skill development, and sentiment analysis of COVID-19-related tweets.



Dr. Hamzah Bin Ahmad is an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Electrical & Electronics Engineering Technology at Universiti Malaysia Pahang Al-Sultan Abdullah (UMPSA), Pekan, Pahang, Malaysia. He earned his Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from Kanazawa University, Japan, completing his doctoral work between 2005 and 2011.

Over the course of his academic career, Dr. Hamzah has held several key leadership roles, including Deputy Dean of Academic and Student Affairs (2011-2015) and Head of Program (Academic) from 2005 to 2007. His research expertise spans mobile robot navigation, SLAM, Kalman filtering, fuzzy logic control, state estimation, robotics, control systems, and magnetic nanoparticle characterization.

He has authored an extensive body of work, contributing to IEEE conferences, Springer's Lecture Notes in Electrical Engineering, AIP Proceedings, TELKOMNIKA, International Journal of Integrated Engineering, and numerous other indexed venues. His publications demonstrate strong contributions to robotics, intelligent control, sensor systems, and advanced estimation techniques.



Dr. Maheshwar Kumar is an Assistant Professor in the Birla School of Management, Birla Global University (BGU), Bhubaneswar, India. He holds a Ph.D. in English from the National Institute of Science Education and Research (NISER), an off-centre campus of the Homi Bhabha National Institute (HBNI), where he completed his doctoral thesis titled "Performance as Cultural Text: Defamiliarizing the Performing Art Tradition of Purulia Chhau".

His research has been published in leading international journals, including Performance Research, The Oriental Anthropologist, and Asian Anthropology, all indexed in Scopus and Web of Science. Dr. Kumar's scholarly interests span Purulia Chhau, Cultural Studies, Theatre and Performance Studies, Dance Research, Indian Folk Theatre, Cultural Anthropology, and Indigenous Culture.

He teaches courses in Business Communication, English Language and Communication, and Creativity, Communication & Career Success, bringing interdisciplinary insight to management education.