# EDITORIAL IE-2023:2

The potential impact of generative AI, particularly ChatGPT, has grown substantially, revolutionizing scientific publishing. The launch of ChatGPT in November 2022 marked a significant advancement in the capability of AI to swiftly generate coherent, evaluative responses based on patterns in existing human discourse. The reference to *The Case for Reform of Scientific Publishing* (ISC, 2023) suggests growing recognition of the potential of AI in this domain. As an editor-in-chief, I have begun to develop the abilities of a specialized AI tool, IntEc GPT, tailored for the specific needs of the IE-2023 scientific journal. IntEc GPT, an abbreviation for Intelligent and Engaging Chatbot using a Generative Pre-trained Transformer in economics, represents a customized AI solution designed to enhance the editorial process of our economic journal. Its primary function is to provide instant, formal evaluations of manuscripts, assessing their alignment with the journal's editorial standards. The key capabilities of IntEc GPT include summarizing research results, identifying original contributions, and pinpointing creative inspiration and novelty, the presence of the comparative approach, a lack of original empirical research, and policy recommendations within submitted works. After the application of IntEc GPT, it will be much easier to suggest improvements to potential authors. Naturally, the next task for developing IntEc GPT is the creation of a more detailed, specific database featuring documents and other texts in the areas of intellectual economics and/or metaeconomics.

IE-2023:2 starts with a manuscript by *Aleksandar Keseljevic* which focuses on a critique of methodological normativism in neoclassical economics, advocating for pluralism in economic theories and methodologies. Keseljevic argues that the dominance of the neoclassical approach in economics has led to a misleading, singular perspective on epistemology and methodology. The paper emphasizes the importance of understanding and integrating different types of pluralism (epistemological, ontological, and others) in economic inquiry and education. It employs a qualitative analysis based on a questionnaire completed by students to demonstrate the benefits of debates that embrace various pluralistic views in economics education. This work contributes to the literature by highlighting the interdependence of different pluralisms and advocating for a more anthropocentric and less dogmatic approach in economics. Research by *Mantas Rimidis* and *Mindaugas Butkus* then revisits the relationship between globalization and income inequality, considering the impact of technological advancements and human capital. Utilizing panel data regression models with multiplicative terms, their study examines how different aspects of globalization (trade and financial) affect income inequality in countries with various income levels. The research distinguishes itself by incorporating technological advancement and education as moderating factors in the globalization-inequality nexus. The findings suggest that trade globalization can reduce income inequality in some contexts, while financial globalization might increase it. The study's novelty lies in its multifaceted approach to globalization, using additional TOP20/BOT20 estimates to measure income inequality and explore the varying impacts of education and technological advancements on inequality across different income levels. Both manuscripts contribute to the field of intellectual economics by challenging prevailing paradigms and introducing new dimensions to existing debates. Keseljevic's work is pivotal in promoting pluralism in economic thought, while Rimidis and Butkus's study provides new insights into the complex dynamics between globalization and income inequality.

The next block of articles in IE-2023:2 concerns financial aspects. *Kristina Matuzeviciute's* research assesses the impact of public debt on the tax burden in EU countries from 1995 to 2021. Utilizing multiple regression models, the study reveals a dual impact: a reduction in the tax burden in the current period followed by an increase in future periods. A key finding is the identification of a critical public debt threshold (55.88% of GDP), beyond which government borrowing significantly increases the tax burden. The inclusion of lagged variables to investigate the future impact of public debt is methodologically sound. This research contributes to the understanding of the complex relationship between public debt and the tax burden, particularly highlighting the importance of debt thresholds in fiscal policy. *Alexey Leontyev's* work on the Latvian tax system focuses on developing an approach to assessing the tax system's reliability. The study examines the tax system's performance through multiple criteria: reliability, equity, and efficiency. Employing the Weibull distribution and a three-tiered scale alongside experts' evaluations processed using Kendall's concordance coefficient, the study identifies differences in taxation criteria rankings based on experts' affiliations (state or business). The method of successive concessions is proposed to handle the incomparability of criteria. This paper offers a novel approach to tax system evaluation, emphasizing the need for a balanced view that considers both business and state perspectives. *Oleh Pasko* and colleagues investigate the influence of auditor quality on CSR reporting in Chinese firms. Using regression analysis on data from A-share listed firms, the study finds that firms audited by Big 4 firms exhibit higher CSR reporting quality than those audited by non-Big 4 firms. This effect is more pronounced in non-state-owned enterprises and in high-pressure legal environments. The paper highlights the importance of auditor quality in enhancing CSR reporting standards and offers insights for stakeholders and policymakers in understanding the dynamics of financial auditing and CSR in China. *Saif Ullah* and co-authors explore the impact of corporate governance on the financial soundness of banks in Pakistan. Analyzing 10-year data from 21 commercial banks, the study finds a positive influence of corporate governance on financial soundness, with a focus on risk management aspects. The research also notes that increased credit risk negatively affects financial soundness, while the interaction of corporate governance and credit risk positively impacts it. This study offers valuable insights for the central bank and policymakers, emphasizing the importance of corporate governance in maintaining financial stability in the banking sector. Each manuscript contributes to intellectual economics by providing new insights and methodologies in their respective fintech areas. Matuzeviciute's work adds to the understanding of fiscal policy implications, Leontyev's offers a multi-criteria approach to tax system evaluation, Pasko et al.'s research highlights the role of auditor quality in CSR, and Ullah et al.'s study emphasizes the importance of corporate governance in banking stability.

*Anastasios Moskofidis* and *Pagona Filenta's* paper focuses on the digital transformation in various sectors of the Greek economy and its correlation with the economy's extroversion toward foreign trade. Methodologically, the study relies on secondary research from international databases to extract indicators of digital transformation and extroversion in the Greek economy. Using multiple regression analysis, it investigates linear correlations between these variables. Key findings include the improved digital ranking of the Greek economy and enhanced extroversion across all sectors, particularly in industrial products. The study suggests that digital transformation, especially in the public sector, may foster foreign trade development. This research fills a gap in the literature by examining the relationship between digitalization and commercial sector extroversion. However, its limitations include the lack of sector-specific digital transformation data for EU Member States and the recent introduction of the EU indicator, constraining the time horizon of the sample.

*Rewan Kumar* Dahal et al.'s study from Nepal investigates the impact of self-directed learning (SDL) and self-control practices (SCPs) on job-seeking behavior (JSB) among graduating students. Grounded in self-efficacy theory, the research hypothesizes significant effects of both SDL and SCPs on JSB. Data collected from graduating students through a comprehensive survey are analyzed using confirmatory factor analysis and structural equation modeling. SDL and SCPs are evaluated in terms of components such as goal setting, cognitive control, skills competence, impulse management, and emotional regulation. The study confirms a positive correlation between SCPs and JSB ($\beta = 0.628$; $p < 0.01$) and between SDL and JSB ($\beta = 0.356$; $p < 0.01$). These findings indicate that SCPs and SDL attitudes account for 89.0% of the variance in JSB, underlining their significant influence. This research provides critical insights for policymakers and educators, emphasizing the importance of developing emotional regulation, self-efficacy, and guided counseling to prepare graduates for their professional journeys.

*Viktor V. Koval* et al. present a study on sustainable behavioral models in natural resource management, focusing on the impact of conservation on individual and collective behavior. The research proposes a step-by-step scenario for enhancing eco-friendly relationships, beginning with individuals and gradually incorporating digital technologies and conservation strategies. The study emphasizes the importance of creating conditions that enable individuals to choose their roles and utilize their potential fully, thereby fostering a sense of fulfillment and interest in environmental development. It is revealed that biopotential decreases over time, and a critical point of no return can be reached when the population experiences stress. The study suggests that highlighting negative realities is vital for correcting behavior, and negative examples can effectively change consumer behavior. The research proposes specific action plans for each group to adjust consumer behavior towards eco-friendly products, indicating that a 12% change in consumer orientations towards environmental friendliness can stabilize biocapacity. This study contributes to the understanding of behavioral economics, particularly in the context of environmental conservation and natural resource management, offering valuable insights for policy formulation and implementation.

The research of *Egle Jakunskiene* et al show that the higher unemployment rates at the EU level in the EU countries studied are due to higher inflation in previous years. The higher value-added and higher weighted growth in export partners have contributed to the decline in unemployment rates. The conclusion that business costs of training and qualification development of employees does not have a significant impact on the change in the unemployment rate is interesting. It would be beneficial to understand the mechanisms through which these factors exert their influence.

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