ITS & University of Toronto Faculty of Law Webinar

Imperfect Oracle: What AI Can and Cannot Do

With Professor Cass Sunstein, Harvard Law School

🗓️ **Date:** September 22, 2026

🕘 **Time**: 9:30–10:30 AM ET

📍 **Format**: Virtual webinar. **Register on eventbrite.**

🎓 **Hosted by**: University of Toronto Faculty of Law, International Telecommunications Society, and TELUS

AI can make better judgments than people. But it still cannot see the future.

That is the promise and limit at the heart of Professor Cass R. Sunstein's recent book, Imperfect Oracle: What AI Can and Cannot Do.

Human judgment is extraordinary, but it is also flawed. People are biased: our judgments can go systematically wrong in predictable ways. People are also noisy: our judgments can vary depending on mood, timing, context, pressure, or the decision-maker involved. Bias and noise can produce serious mistakes in government, business, law, health, finance, regulation, and everyday life.

AI offers a powerful response to both problems. It can identify patterns, reduce inconsistency, improve prediction, and support better decisions. For institutions trying to avoid errors, allocate resources, assess risks, serve citizens, or make complex judgments at scale, AI may become an extraordinary tool.

But AI is not an oracle. The world remains full of surprises. Some of the most important outcomes in life, markets, politics, technology, and society depend on contingency, creativity, human relationships, institutional change, and forms of knowledge that cannot be fully captured in advance. AI can help us know more, but it also forces us to understand what we cannot know.

This webinar will explore the practical and policy implications of that insight. When should governments, firms, regulators, and other institutions rely on AI to improve judgment? When should they be cautious? How should they think about bias, noise, accountability, human autonomy, and the preservation of judgment in an age of increasingly powerful systems?

Professor Sunstein will discuss how AI can help people and institutions make better decisions, where its limits remain fundamental, and why a serious approach to AI requires both ambition and humility. The discussion will address questions such as:

- How can AI reduce bias, noise, and error in institutional decision-making?
- In what settings is AI likely to outperform human judgment?
- What kinds of decisions should remain human-owned, even when AI can assist?
- Why are some predictions beyond the reach of AI, not only today, but in principle?
- How should policymakers preserve accountability, autonomy, and public trust as AI becomes more deeply embedded in decision-making?

👥 Speaker

Professor Cass R. Sunstein, Robert Walmsley University Professor, Harvard University; author of Imperfect Oracle: What AI Can and Cannot Do

📋 Structure

- 30-minute presentation
- 30-minute Q&A

🔗 Free registration on eventbrite

📩 Submit questions in advance to: joe.rowsell@telus.com