

**WE ARE ALL IN IT TOGETHER:  
TRAINING THE NEXT GENERATION OF MODEL THINKERS**

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**ABSTRACT**

We need to train the next generation of scientists, modelers and analysts to be transdisciplinary collaborators, technically competent and socially aware. Model thinking and Modeling and Simulation can play an important if it broadens its horizons beyond socio-technical problems and tackles issues that are important to the human condition. In this talk, we discuss transdisciplinarity, inclusion and social awareness as three pillars that we can build on to stay relevant in a world where technological change is outpacing our ability to manage and predict its impact on key aspects of life and society. We present tools, models and practical examples to illustrate the importance of each pillar and provide a basis for what we hope is a strong debate within the scientific community.

**AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY**

**SAIKOU DIALLO** is a scientist and educator in the domain of innovation and equal access to technology. He is VMASC's lead researcher in Human Simulation and Simulated Empathy where he applies Modeling, Simulation and Analytics to study the connection between people on all spectrums and artificial beings. Dr. Diallo works with a multidisciplinary team of artists, scientists, humanities scholars and engineers to tackle societal issues that transcend disciplines. His current work involves modeling religion, culture and civilizations and the use of artificial intelligence to improve independent living. He is also involved in developing platforms and solutions to promote an inclusive use of technology across all spectrums. Dr. Diallo graduated with an M.S. in Engineering in 2006 and a Ph.D. in Modeling and Simulation in 2010 both from Old Dominion University. He is the current President of the Society for Modeling and Simulation International (SCS) and serves on several boards in the United States. Dr. Diallo has over one hundred publications in peer-reviewed conferences, journals and books.