

Crossing Cultures, Sharing Knowledge @ FISCO 2026

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Academic collaboration between Malaysian and Indonesian universities continues to play a vital role in strengthening regional partnerships through the exchange of knowledge, research, and expertise among lecturers, researchers, and students for the mutual benefit of both nations. As part of this commitment to international academic engagement, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Suraya Hamid was invited to serve as an international speaker at the FISIPOL International Short Course (FISCO) 2026, organized

by the Universitas Gadjah Mada, Yogyakarta, from 6-19 June 2026. "Researching Digital Methods for Studying Online Societies," which explored how the integration of AI is transforming digital research methodologies. The presentation highlighted how AI enables researchers to efficiently analyze large volumes of digital data, providing deeper insights into patterns of online social engagement and human interaction in the virtual environments.



With FISIPOL organising committee, including Ms. Venus, Mr. Arya, Mr. Havik, and other committee members.



FISCO 2026 International Participants during the Hybrid Class Session

Four essential competencies for conducting digital research:

- **Data Collection** – Gather meaningful online data.
- **Interaction Analysis** – Analyze patterns in digital behavior.
- **Data Visualization** – Present findings clearly and effectively.
- **Responsible AI Use** – Apply AI ethically with transparency and privacy.

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The presentation highlighted how AI enables researchers to efficiently analyze large volumes of digital data, providing deeper insights into patterns of online social interaction and engagement in virtual environments.

The session also examined the application of digital research methods in educational contexts, demonstrating how online platforms create dynamic and interactive learning environments that support language learning, global collaboration, and enhanced learner engagement. Participants were introduced to emerging approaches that educators can adopt to foster meaningful digital learning experiences in an increasingly connected world.

A key focus of the presentation was the significance of online social engagement in contemporary society. As individuals spend an increasing amount of time in digital spaces, understanding how they would communicate, collaborate, and learn online has become essential. The discussion emphasized that investigating online social engagement provides valuable insights into their learning behaviors, communication practices, and the broader impact of digital technologies on education and society. In conclusion, digital methodologies empower researchers to analyze online data efficiently, generate meaningful insights, and strengthen evidence-based research.

