The Invisible Newcomer: Rebuilding OSS Governance post AI

- **Speaker**: Neeraj Pathak
- **Room**: 332
- **Time**: Saturday, Oct 24th 10:00 – 10:20

Format: Talk (20 minutes)

- **Difficulty**: Moderate - Experienced
- **Track**: Community
- **Experience**: Core-maintainer of Stdlib, SDE intern at Deloitte, and researcher for Google DeepMind's JAX-Privacy project.

Description:

For decades, OSS communities grew through visible friction—newcomers filed issues and asked questions, announcing their arrival to maintainers. Now, AI is removing that friction, creating “invisible newcomers” who rely on AI instead of engaging with communities, causing projects to lose opportunities to grow new maintainers. Based on 100+ stakeholder interviews via an NSF-backed program, this session explores the risks of AI-driven contributions—such as the wave of low-quality, AI-generated PRs seen during Google Summer of Code—and provides evidence-based frameworks and real-world strategies for maintainers and OSPOs to sustain their projects and foster a healthy contributor pipeline.

Target Audience:

- OSS Maintainers
- OSPO Leads
- FOSS Researchers

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