THE PREDICTION REVOLUTION

Science is in the midst of an underrecognized revolution. For centuries, prediction in science went hand in hand with understanding: knowledge of *what* advanced in tandem with knowledge of *how* and *why*. But in recent years AI tools have enabled scientists to make predictions that previously would have been impossible, even if they don't understand why those predictions hold true. Already, scientists have used these AI "oracles" to design new drug candidates and help paralyzed people regain the ability to speak. These are consequential achievements. But they also raise a difficult question: If science can improve lives with prediction alone, should we still seek to understand the universe? In *The Prediction Revolution*, Grace Huckins, a trained neuroscientist and award-winning journalist, explores how AI is reshaping the relationship between prediction and understanding – and challenges us to consider what science is really for. This title is also available as open access on Cambridge Core.

GRACE HUCKINS is an AI reporter at *MIT Technology Review* and a former lecturer at Stanford University. They hold a PhD in neuroscience and philosophy from Stanford and master's degrees from the University of Oxford. Huckins is a recipient of National Academies Eric and Wendy Schmidt Awards for Excellence in Science Communications. Their work appears extensively in numerous popular science publications including *WIRED* and *Scientific American*.

Downloaded from https://www.cambridge.org/core. UNIVERSIDAD AUTONOMA METROPOLITANA, on 17 Nov 2026 at 00:15:46, subject to the Cambridge Core terms of use, available at https://www.cambridge.org/core/terms. https://www.cambridge.org/core/product/660A8A93EF8116340B8082C169F4F7EC

Downloaded from https://www.cambridge.org/core. UNIVERSIDAD AUTONOMA METROPOLITANA, on
17 Nov 2026 at 00:15:46, subject to the Cambridge Core terms of use, available at https://www.cambridge.org/core/terms.
https://www.cambridge.org/core/product/660A8A93EF8116340B8082C169F4F7EC

GRACE
HUCKINS

THE PREDICTION REVOLUTION

AI and the Future of Science



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Downloaded from https://www.cambridge.org/core. UNIVERSIDAD AUTONOMA METROPOLITANA, on 17 Nov 2026 at 00:15:46, subject to the Cambridge Core terms of use, available at https://www.cambridge.org/core/terms. https://www.cambridge.org/core/product/660A8A93EF8116340B8082C169F4F7EC

CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, United Kingdom

One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA

477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,
New Delhi – 110025, India

Cambridge University Press is part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment, a department of the University of Cambridge.

We share the University's mission to contribute to society through the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781009786706
DOI: 10.1017/9781009786683

© Grace Huckins 2026

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, with the exception of the Creative Commons version the link for which is provided below, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press & Assessment.

An online version of this work is published at doi.org/10.1017/9781009786683 under a Creative Commons Open Access license CC-BY-NC-ND 4.0 which permits re-use, distribution and reproduction in any medium for non-commercial purposes providing appropriate credit to the original work is given. You may not distribute derivative works without permission. To view a copy of this license, visit https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0

When citing this work, please include a reference to the DOI 10.1017/9781009786683

First published 2026

Cover image: traffic_analyzer / DigitalVision Vectors / Getty Images

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

A Cataloging-in-Publication data record for this book is available from the Library of Congress

ISBN 978-1-009-78670-6 Paperback

Cambridge University Press & Assessment has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

For EU product safety concerns, contact us at Calle de José Abascal, 56, 1°, 28003 Madrid, Spain, or email eugpsr@cambridge.org.

Downloaded from https://www.cambridge.org/core. UNIVERSIDAD AUTONOMA METROPOLITANA, on 17 Nov 2026 at 00:15:46, subject to the Cambridge Core terms of use, available at https://www.cambridge.org/core/terms. https://www.cambridge.org/core/product/660A8A93EF8116340B8082C169F4F7EC