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## AI Ethics and Biases

Aug 27 at 8:40am

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Read the Guardian article "[Bias Deep Inside the Code: The Problem with 'AI Ethics' in Silicon Valley](https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2019/mar/28/big-tech-ai-ethics-boards-prejudice) (<https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2019/mar/28/big-tech-ai-ethics-boards-prejudice>) ". In the spring of 2019 Google announced that it was [disbanding an AI ethics board](https://thehill.com/policy/technology/437505-google-disbands-ai-ethics-board-following-pushback) (<https://thehill.com/policy/technology/437505-google-disbands-ai-ethics-board-following-pushback>) just days after the board members were announced. AI ethics have had a lot of press this year - Here's another [short article in Nature](https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-019-00505-2) (<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-019-00505-2>)

The Nature article refers to a [Declaration for the Responsible Development of Artificial Intelligence](https://www.declarationmontreal-iaresponsable.com/blogue/d%C3%A9voilement-de-la-d%C3%A9claration-de-montr%C3%A9al-pour-un-d%C3%A9veloppement-responsable-de-l-ia) (<https://www.declarationmontreal-iaresponsable.com/blogue/d%C3%A9voilement-de-la-d%C3%A9claration-de-montr%C3%A9al-pour-un-d%C3%A9veloppement-responsable-de-l-ia>) developed in December 2018 that is likely the motivation for recent university and tech company efforts.

Group 2 (Last Name J-Z) Due: 11:30AM, Wednesday, August 28.

1. Describe (summarize key points) of the Declaration and recent responses by universities and the technology industry.
2. Assess the use of AI technology described in the recent NY Times article "[How China Turned a City into a Prison](https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/04/04/world/asia/xinjiang-china-surveillance-prison.html)" (<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/04/04/world/asia/xinjiang-china-surveillance-prison.html>) " with the 10 Principles described in the Declaration for the Responsible Development of AI. If the link doesn't work, you may have to log into the WSSU library and view it from there (or use the private mode viewing on your browser.)
3. What role should be taken by governments in ensuring the ethical use of AI? What role should the AI industry play in ensuring the ethical use of its products?
4. Develop three questions or topics for discussion related to AI ethics.

Group 1 (Last name A-I) Due: 8:30AM Thursday, August 29. Respond to at least one thread created by Group 2. Add value to the comments made by answering questions and/or addressing other issues raised in the thread.

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<https://www.wssu.edu/faculty/tyshaun-woodard/> Tyshaun Woodard


(<https://wssu.instructure.com/courses/6943/users/8746>)

Aug 27, 2019

1. One key objective of the declaration was finding the ethical values associated with the artificial intelligence and digital technology. The development of A.I. comes with risks that conflict with the protection of human goals all the way up to international levels. Another key point was insinuating that the technological advances of A.I. could potentially threaten the well-being, solidarity, and responsibility of humans.
2. Artificial Intelligence violates every principle mentioned by the declaration. Protection and privacy are the ones that are heavily enforced in this Chinese city because of the level of digital technology used. The use of A.I. not only transformed this city, it created a society where technology rules all invading the basic principles of human rights.
3. The government should initiate a program that eliminates the use of excessive A.I. that governs the city. A lot of people are forced to live in a society where majority of the day you have to remain cautious about pictures you take and things you say because government officials are patrolling your life. What would be the first steps into getting the government into realizing the principles they go by are violating?
4. Questions:
  1. What can the government establish to eliminate the use of A.I. to a certain level?
  2. Can reforms be put in place to show the ethical issues of A.I. within the city?
  3. If it can be contained, what would be the first steps in this process?

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[Lauryn Ledyard](#)

(<https://wssu.instructure.com/courses/6943/users/11734>)

Aug 28, 2019

1. While there are advantages that come with the advancement of AI, there are also ethical and social risk as it relates to AI practices. With this in mind, the establishment of the Declaration addresses the concerns of key stakeholders by establishing key principles of AI and ensuring that AI is used with integrity and protects the privacy of humans. This Declaration also counteracts addresses the ongoing history of AI demonstrating discriminatory practices in multiple industries and the mentioned risks that AI imposes.
2. As it related to the usage of technology in the mentioned article, the use of AI technology disobeys the principles of the Declaration by jeopardizing the privacy of citizens and lacks protection of the well-being of communities within this particular Chinese city. Furthermore, the use of this technology lacks equity given the fact that it unfairly targets members that practice a particular religion within the community, therefore, violating basic human rights.
3. The government should initiate guidelines that monitor and limit the amount of AI technology that an

be used. Furthermore, there should be strict consequences for those who abuse the excessive and unnecessary use of AI technology. By having such consequences, the AI industry can hold themselves more accountable to ensure that AI technology practices align with the 10 principles described in the Declaration.

#### 4. Questions/Topics:

1. In what ways can the government enforce and hold accountable the ethical framework of the Declaration to ensure that AI technology is used in a proper way. In addition to that, who would hold the government accountable to ensure fair use of AI technology?

2. Given the bias culture within AI ethics, is it realistic to expect large companies, such as Google or Facebook, to properly enforce ethical AI technology practices?

3. Should all companies be required to have an external advisory council, with diverse members, to ensure fair AI technology guidelines?

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[Donae Brown](#)

<https://wssu.instructure.com/courses/6943/users/7238>

Aug 28, 2019

I agree, there are many advantages to utilizing AI. There are governments that are violating the principles outlined in the Declaration, although those governments are communists, their practices are unethical and a violation of citizens rights and privacy. But of course communist governments are very different from the democracy of the United States. These major companies that are advancing the use of AI should make it essential to consider the principles described in the declaration. If not this can create more ethical, political and social issues on top of the issues that already exist. The communist countries in China and the democratic countries looking to further advance AI are extremely different, the violation of the declaration, our rights and privacy can and will ultimately hurt those companies if they abuse or excessively use AI.

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[Kellie Covington](#)

<https://wssu.instructure.com/courses/6943/users/13408>

Aug 28, 2019

I believe that AI has a great potential to improve the lives of ordinary people. Already today, AI is in practical use for some of the more physically challenging and dangerous jobs for humans. Such as vehicle manufactures using robots with AI technology to perform welding and various other

heavy tasks. Using this technology improves manufacturing quality and reduces on the job injuries. On the other side of the AI spectrum, are the games. Such as the most recent one where your image could be used to see what you will look like when you're older, all done through an app you must download. You must agree to the terms and conditions (that no one reads) to be able to use the app. In doing this, you freely give away digital property (your self image).

I agree with Lauryn's summary. Guidelines for AI development as use are just that, guidelines. This does not mean that it is a hard and fast rule and guidelines can be gone around. To answer your first question: "In what ways can the government enforce and hold accountable the ethical framework of the Declaration to ensure that AI technology is used in a proper way. In addition to that, who would hold the government accountable to ensure fair use of AI technology?" One idea is they can have a committee that audits corporations and monitors social media. Anything that is outside the guidelines would need to be reviewed, penalized and/or prosecuted if it comes to that point.

To answer your second question: "Given the bias culture within AI ethics, is it realistic to expect large companies, such as Google or Facebook, to properly enforce ethical AI technology practices?" I 100% think that it is okay for the larger corporations like Google or Facebook to enforce AI technology practices. This is okay since they have the funds to support a committee. As a market trendsetter I believe they should be paving the right way to handle governance of AI within their corporation.

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[Taniah Lagrange](#)

<https://wssu.instructure.com/courses/6943/users/11437>

Aug 28, 2019



1. A key point of the declaration is identifying the ethical values related to the artificial intelligence and technology. Also, based on the principles of the declaration, recommendations were given for improving the digital transition. Additionally, although artificial intelligence is a major technicality progress in our generation that benefits in several ways it also poses ethical challenges and social risks.

2. The government should have laws enforcing the correct use of AI and not allowing it to be abused when not abiding the principles of declaration. The AI industry should play the role of correctly using their skill and power and bettering society other than misusing it. It could ensure its ethical use of its products by abiding the rules and recommendations of the declaration for responsibly developing AI.

Questions:

- Do you think artificial intelligence being used in China by surveilling everyone's move is ethical? Why or why not?
- What are the ethical guidelines for the development of Artificial intelligence?
- What about AI poses ethical challenges and social risks?

[← Reply](#)**Brendan Austin**<https://wssu.instructure.com/courses/6943/users/10590>

Aug 28, 2019

I definitely think AI being used in China to watch everyone's move is unethical as in that leaves you no space for privacy and safety. How do you live comfortably knowing you have someone watching over your every move. AI also can pose huge social risk in that people may not want to do certain things or be certain places in knowing that they are being monitored.

[← Reply](#)**Miracle Cooke**<https://wssu.instructure.com/courses/6943/users/11508>

Aug 28, 2019

I think that the use of AI for surveillance purposes in China has both ethical and unethical implications. Utilizing surveillance for national security reasons isn't necessarily bad unless it is being used solely to intimidate and discriminate against specific groups of people. China is a very populous nation, which requires strict regulations and processes to maintain order. The problem arises when it comes to privacy concerns. Having almost every aspect of your life monitored by the government would be considered very unethical in the US, but we must remember that our society is structured very differently than that of China. From an American's point of view, the use of AI for such invasive surveillance seems like an unnecessary invasion of privacy, but it's difficult to judge another culture's practices without knowing the logic behind them.

The ethical guidelines for the development of AI are simple and concise. AI systems should be developed in ways that respect the safety and privacy of data. When these systems are collecting data, especially consumer data, they must have processes in place that are focused on protecting the sensitivity of the information gathered. When dealing with people's information, the line of privacy is one that is easy to cross, so AI systems must be designed to protect the sources behind the data and the information found within the data. AI systems should also display transparency in what information is being utilized. Many people aren't aware of what information they are allowing these systems to access because it's not made very clear. The consented information is often hidden within terms and conditions, which is deceptive on the company's part. In order to improve the credibility and trustworthiness of these systems, they must be developed with transparency.

AI is a very controversial topic because of the ethical and social dilemmas it creates. One big concern is that AI will lead to high unemployment rates because technological systems will take the place of human workers. While this provides benefits to companies through reduced wages expenses, it is leaving increasing numbers of people jobless and without a stable way to maintain their quality of life. Additionally, these systems will create high revenues for companies, all while

lowering their operating costs. This will create a wider wealth inequality gap because those with the resources to develop and maintain these machines will get richer, while the vast majority of people will suffer from job loss and reduced wages. While using AI is an efficient business tactic, there are other factors that must be considered in order to continue progressing as a society.

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[Denzel Hanes](#)

<https://wssu.instructure.com/courses/6943/users/10659>

Aug 29, 2019

1. I believe that Surveillance by the Chinese government is very unethical and is an invasion of privacy especially if the information collected is being used for personal gain or for control of another person.

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[Kierra Paca \(https://wssu.instructure.com/courses/6943/users/4378\)](https://wssu.instructure.com/courses/6943/users/4378)

Aug 28, 2019

1. One key point from the declaration was the ethical challenges and risks associated with AI. The article describes how the development of artificial intelligence has to align with human capacities and goals. Although AI can generate many social benefits, it also poses ethical and social threats.
2. The use of artificial intelligence is very different in China. Their principles do not align with the principles in the Declaration. There is no regard for human privacy. The declaration explains how artificial intelligence should be used for increasing the amount of control that people have on their own life. A sense of autonomy.
3. There should be a limit on the amount of aspects of a persons life that AI has access to. Humans still want to feel like they are in control of their own life. The government should have limits on the amount of personal information they can have access to. There should be valid reasoning as to why they need to access certain things. In the "How China Turned a City into a Prison," they are able to delete certain pictures just because it violates some regulations.
4. Questions:
  1. In reference to the guardian article, it discussed the ethical dilemma of diversity among the groups. How do you think this problem should be addressed moving forward so that each group, sex/ethnicity is represented?
  2. Do you think that the government currently has too much control on everyday human life, or do we still have a great sense of autonomy?

3. Do you feel Kay Cole James views on immigrants and transgender rights can make her a negative member to have apart of the AI group?

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[Anthony Salley](#)

<https://wssu.instructure.com/courses/6943/users/14634>

Aug 28, 2019

1. A key objective of the declaration was finding the moral qualities related with the intelligence and computerized innovation. The improvement of A.I. accompanies dangers that contention with the assurance of human objectives as far as possible up to universal levels. Another key point was intimating that the innovative advances of A.I. could conceivably undermine the prosperity, solidarity, and duty of people.
2. As it identified with the utilization of innovation in the referenced article, the utilization of AI innovation ignores the standards of the Declaration by risking the security of natives and needs assurance of the prosperity of networks inside this specific Chinese city. Moreover, the utilization of this innovation needs value given the way that it unjustifiably targets individuals that training a specific religion inside the network, in this way, abusing essential human rights.
3. The legislature should start a program that disposes of the utilization of unnecessary A.I. that administers the city. Many individuals are compelled to live in a general public where greater part of the day you need to stay wary about pictures you take and things you state since government authorities are watching your life. What might be the initial steps into getting the administration into understanding the standards they pass by are abusing?

Questions:

1. Do you believe that despite everything we have an incredible feeling of self-sufficiency?
2. Is Kay Cole belief detrimental to the AI group?
3. What ways will her beliefs affect the AI group?

← Reply



[Tevin Jacobs](#)

<https://wssu.instructure.com/courses/6943/users/7605>

Aug 28, 2019

1. A key point that was made in the Declaration article was that although the development of Artificial Intelligence (A.I.) could be a major platform that would produce substantial social benefits, there are high amount risks that are associated with its development. In the process of developing Artificial Intelligence there would be ethical challenges and social risks that could potentially affect the privacy of humans. If A.I. is created it has to have a boundary that wouldn't negatively affect humans.
2. In China it appears that it privacy does not exist in that country with surveillance cameras everywhere and Chinese companies making fortunes selling the surveillance they have without these citizens permission, it violates human rights. So the use of Artificial Intelligence in this way would not correlate with the Declaration principles.
3. Governments should set laws to protect human identity when using A.I. If A.I. becomes abused to the point that humans private information is being shared publically/worldwide without their permission there should be a punishment for this misuse. The A.I. industry should ensure ethical practice by asking for consent, only using voluntary participation, and guaranteeing confidentiality.
4. Why do you think countries abuse the use of A.I.?  
Do you think A.I. is being misused today with current apps we use daily?  
In the next ten years, do you see society being completely dependent on A.I.?

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[Phebe Blidi \(https://wssu.instructure.com/courses/6943/users/12396\)](https://wssu.instructure.com/courses/6943/users/12396)



Aug 28, 2019

Countries abuse A.I. to gain, save money and cut down time spent on training. With a high rate of A.I. companies and organization will not have to worry about wages, overtime hours, pay vacation and etc that comes with employing humans. Also by abusing A.I. powerful countries like America, Japan, Germany, and France can continually hold power over its citizens. Yes! "Face App" which was created by Russia . Give Russia access to photos and other information uploaded by users for commercial purpose along with names, likeness and voice. Yes! I believe in the next ten years our society will completely dependent on A.I. because the idea of flying cars and the creation of Tesla. The government believes they are improving the lives of citizens but in the long run they are actually hurting lives, causing citizens to lose jobs because of advance A.I.

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[Alexis Bost \(https://wssu.instructure.com/courses/6943/users/11504\)](https://wssu.instructure.com/courses/6943/users/11504)



Aug 29, 2019

- I feel that countries abuse the use of A.I. because they feel that their people have no say so and that they can't really do anything about it.



- Yes I do feel that A.I. is somewhat being misused because everyone may not be using it for the right reasons. There are people out there who actually take advantage of it for the wrong reasons.
- In the next ten years I can't say that I'd see society being completely reliant on A.I.

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[Brian Johnson](#)

<https://wssu.instructure.com/courses/6943/users/8298>

Aug 28, 2019



1. One key objective that stood out from the declaration was unveiling the ethical values that were in affiliation to artificial intelligence and digital tech. Although AI has very revolutionary technological advances, the companies that created this overlooked the sensitivity of the ethical values and exemplifies discriminatory practices that was practiced throughout our history and is still practiced today. A.I also puts a lot of people's personal values at risk.
2. Artificial Intelligence goes completely against the principles mentioned in the declaration. In this Chinese city they heavily enforced protection and privacy because of their technological advances and because of that this technology is invading ones human rights.
3. The government should act to find a solution that allows A.I. not to excessively be used to govern a city. A.I. should not have an individual looking over how they take a certain picture or have to think about what they post for the world to see. A.I. needs to strongly revisit the declaration and abide by the 10 principles they came up with.
4. Questions:
  1. What guidelines can the government come up with to protect an individual's human rights for A.I. ?
  2. Should A.I. not even be used to govern the people at all ?
  3. If A.I. still violates one's human rights, what should be the consequence for the people who controls A.I. ?

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[Aimber Johnson](#)

<https://wssu.instructure.com/courses/6943/users/8938>

Aug 28, 2019



1. A key point of the declaration is identifying the ethical values related to the artificial intellect and technology in the world of AI. The Declaration identifies the concerns of stakeholders by establishing

key principles of AI. The Declaration also shows the concerns of diversity in the world of AI. Companies like Google, Facebook, Microsoft, and Amazon focus on diversity, however, still lack members of the African-American race on the board of members as well as not having recognition on their websites. This article touched upon the discriminatory actions/ practices that the companies listed before and the risks at hand for them.

2. In China the use of artificial intelligence is a little different than the U.S. In China, the principles dealing with human privacy are not enforced, however, the declaration states that artificial intelligence is used to increase the control individuals have on their life. This should be enforced with no questions asked.
3. There should be a limitation on what AI members can pull from personal information like location, age, sex, etc. A program should be setup just for AI to sort different types of information without touching on other personal information. This software should be updated to the convenience of the AI. If there is any reason to why AI must take a closer look at an individual, there should be paper work for the evidence or reason why of doing so.

#### Questions:

1. Do you believe that AI should have endless access to every citizen's personal information for their own knowledge? Should there be limitations?
2. In the future, do you believe the multi companies listed above will increase the rate of diversity inside their company?

← Reply



[Alore Chambers](#)

<https://wssu.instructure.com/courses/6943/users/10620>

Aug 28, 2019

No, I do not believe AI should have endless access to every citizen's personal information for their own knowledge because people's lives are being put at risk. Referring to the Article "Bias Deep Inside the Code: The Problem with 'AI Ethics' in Silicon Valley", Malkia Devich Cyril states "Algorithms determine who gets housing loans and who doesn't, who goes to jail and who doesn't, who gets to go to what school,". This is an example of people's lives being put at risk and even their freedom. This is also a downfall for people that want to succeed in life and their capabilities and goals should not be held back from being successful because of their personal information. Yes, I do believe there should be limitations. I completely agree what you said about how paperwork should be done if AI wants to know more information about someone because when it is getting done that way people will be informed and that could reduce unethical practices.

In the future, I do not believe the multi companies listed above will increase the rate of diversity inside their company because they seem to care more about people's personal information than diversity and besides who wants to work for a company that partakes in unethical practices? If the companies decide to change how their operating which will be practicing better ethical values and not invading human rights then there could be an increase in diversity rates.

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[Kennedy Johnson](#)

<https://wssu.instructure.com/courses/6943/users/11009>

Aug 28, 2019

The main objective of the declaration was searching for the ethical values associated with artificial intelligence and digital technology. Developing of A.I. comes with risks that cause conflict with the human goals all the way up to international. This also counteracts the continuous background of AI involved in discriminatory practices in multiple industries and the risks that AI may bring.

Artificial Intelligence would violate every principle mentioned in the declaration. Protection and privacy are the principles majorly enforced in this small Chinese city because of the level of digital technology used. Use of AI transformed the city by creating a society where the technology is invading the basics of any human rights.

Government should establish a program that eliminates over usage of artificial intelligence that regulates the city. People are forced to live in a society that regulates everything they do all the way down until taking pictures, there should definitely be a program put into place.

- What would be a way to let the government know that their principles they regulate by are unacceptable?
- Should ethical AI practices always be properly enforced?
- How would you feel as a citizen of this chinese city?

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[Shania Mills](#) (<https://wssu.instructure.com/courses/6943/users/11045>)

<https://wssu.instructure.com/courses/6943/users/11045>

Aug 28, 2019

1. The declaration for the Responsible Development of Artificial Intelligence, incumbents the ideal attitude towards Artificial Intelligence and the was it should be treated. There are always other

factors to consider, other than non-personified data. It is an document which represents responsibility and the underrepresented morals in which should be more vocal. It is a challenge towards the stakeholders of Artificial Intelligence to do the right thing. There should be no place for bias or ill intent with technology, or and other area of concentration which has the capability to affect one's life in an scopious capacity. The impact of Artificial Intelligence is detrimental and should not be handles lightly or without the forethought of side effects.

2. In reference to China, the use of Artificial Intelligence go against many human rights that are guarded by the rights of humanity. The extreme levels that China uses to monitor the citizens are invasive of simple privacy. Their use of Artificial Intelligence have been too intrusive and demanding. This goes against some of the principles and recommendations in the previous article, 'Declaration for Responsible Development of Artificial Intelligence'.
3. The government should take an stance and promote/advocate for the use of ethical Artificial Intelligence in all forms. The government should ensure that the theory and Artificial Intelligence embody the Declaration and go beyond the Declaration to ensure efficient use of Artificial Intelligence. However, their role should not be too controlling, as far as, interrupting or impeding upon progressive measure.
  - The Artificial Intelligence industry should make sure that their purpose also aligns with the declaration in some form to be equal and equitable. AI should seek more individuals to join the concentration by use of panel discussions on campuses and conventions etc.

1. What can Education institutes do to get more students into Artificial Intelligence?
2. Should a committee or other external entity be formed to ensure unbiased use in Artificial Intelligence creation and selling ?
3. Would it be beneficial to have local/ national/International levels for open communication regarding all things Artificial Intelligence?

← Reply



[Josias Blackmon](#)

<https://wssu.instructure.com/courses/6943/users/11462>

Aug 28, 2019

1. Education institutes can get more students into Artificial Intelligence by simply showing them how artificial intelligence benefits them. Artificial intelligence can fill in the gap with crowd-sourced tutoring from professionals and more advanced students. Students can avoid the shame and embarrassment of asking for excess assistance in front of their peers without sacrificing their grades and achievements. Artificial intelligence can help to set the perfect pace for every student. The individualized programs allow students to move on at their own rate.

2. Yes committees and external entities should be formed to ensure unbiased use because these very same entities are only looking out for the people and their best interest. For example, Google has published a document calling for the "responsible development of AI." It said AI should be

socially beneficial, not reinforce unfair bias, should be tested for safety, should be accountable to people, should incorporate privacy design and just trying to better the intelligence.

3. I believe it would be beneficial to be able to hear different point of views on how they believe artificial intelligence should be handled moving forward. Artificial intelligence is already having a global impact on the economy. So it would benefit some countries who have only begun to think seriously about their own AI future. Everyone can pitch in their insights and how they plan to utilize AI to hopefully fulfill the ultimate goal, which is to be socially beneficial, unbiased, and accountable to people.

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