Self-driving cars have advanced significantly in the last decade, and it is very likely that in our lifetimes, we will see these fully autonomous systems on the road every day.

Our proposal is to research the ethical ramifications of these systems and their possible impacts on society.   
  
This may include:

**• Impacts on public safety.**

If a self-driving car crashes, causing injury, who is responsible?

What is society’s acceptable threshold for the safety of self-driving cars?

What harm, if any, could be prevented by adopting self-driving cars at a faster pace than the current roll-out?

**• Impacts on privacy**

If your car knows who you are, where you’ve been and where you’re going, who else might know, and how might that information be exploited?

This could be as harmless as targeted advertising. However, an intrusive, authoritarian regime could use the same data to make inferences about political enemies, or hackers could get access to a gold mine of private data.

**• Impacts on criminality and law enforcement**

How might self-driving cars be used to carry out, enforce, and prevent crime? Can we prevent criminals from using them for ill?

**• Impacts on the labour market**

Self-driving cars represent as much of a threat to professional drivers, as the car once did to the horse. What training schemes and labour market policies should be put in place to protect drivers' future employment prospects?

# Justification

We believe this is a topic worth researching because the choices we make when introducing self-driving cars onto our roads will affect everyone.

For many, these impacts will likely be positive. Self-driving vehicles for those unable to drive should mean increased autonomy and freedom.

However, those who have built their livelihoods on driving might, without intervention, find their prospects and prosperity greatly diminished.

Self-driving vehicles will likely have a noticeable impact on the economy and society, but it is unlikely that all consumers and companies involved will have the same intentions for this technology.

Understanding and answering such ethical questions will be crucial to adapting our society to this new technology in a manner that is fair and equitable.