

**To:** Professor Toomey, Instructor of English 382

**From:** Cole Matinzi, Student

**Subject:** A Report on the Feasibility of a Proposal to Seek Funding for Renovations of a Public Park for the Youth of the Plymouth Community

**Date:** April 2, 2024

**Purpose:** The purpose of this feasibility study is to assess the viability of conducting research on the trajectory of artificial intelligence (AI) and comparing media responses to AI with those of the internet upon its insurrection. This study aims to determine whether this topic is feasible in terms of available resources, time constraints, and the potential for meaningful insights.

**Summary:** This feasibility study proposes examining the trajectory of AI development and its societal implications while drawing parallels with historical media responses to the emergence of the internet. It seeks to analyze technological advancements, ethical considerations, regulatory frameworks, and public perceptions regarding AI. By comparing media reactions to AI and the internet, the research aims to provide insights into the evolving relationship between society, technology, and media discourse.

**Background:** Artificial intelligence (AI) has emerged as one of the most transformative technologies of the 21st century, with its applications spanning various sectors, including healthcare, finance, transportation, and entertainment. As AI continues to advance rapidly, concerns about its impact on employment, privacy, bias, and autonomy have garnered significant attention from policymakers, researchers, and the general public.

Comparatively, the emergence of the internet in the late 20th century brought about profound changes in communication, commerce, and social interaction. The internet's disruptive potential

sparked a range of reactions from the media, ranging from utopian visions of a connected world to dystopian fears of cybercrime and misinformation<sup>1</sup>. As a result, I would like to propose a research paper discussing these topics, due to not only their relevance today but also the wealth of information available. Below is a brief outline of various subjects to be broached, alongside sources in the footnotes that link to this exact information (indicating that this *is* a topic that can be researched).

*Technological Advancements:* Investigating the key milestones and breakthroughs in AI development, including advancements in machine learning, natural language processing, and robotics. Comparing these advancements with the evolution of internet technologies such as TCP/IP, hypertext, and search engines will provide insights into the pace and direction of technological progress<sup>2</sup>.

*Ethical Considerations:* Examining the ethical dilemmas and societal implications arising from AI deployment, such as algorithmic bias, privacy concerns, and autonomous decision-making. Contrasting these concerns with ethical debates surrounding internet privacy, digital surveillance, and online censorship will highlight recurring themes and emerging challenges<sup>3</sup>.

*Regulatory Frameworks:* Analyzing the regulatory landscape governing AI technologies, including initiatives for ethical AI standards, data protection regulations, and accountability mechanisms. Comparing these regulatory efforts with past regulatory

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<sup>1</sup> “Who’s Afraid of the Internet?” The Irish Times, The Irish Times, 12 Mar. 2001, [www.irishtimes.com/news/who-s-afraid-of-the-internet-1.289721](http://www.irishtimes.com/news/who-s-afraid-of-the-internet-1.289721).

<sup>2</sup> Mansuri, MD Imran. “The Unprecedented Speed of AI Growth: A Comparative Analysis with the Internet.” Medium, Medium, 12 May 2023, [imran7junior.medium.com/the-unprecedented-speed-of-ai-growth-a-comparative-analysis-with-the-internet-d3f21da3a2aa](https://imran7junior.medium.com/the-unprecedented-speed-of-ai-growth-a-comparative-analysis-with-the-internet-d3f21da3a2aa).

<sup>3</sup> Ziyaad Borat. 10/2/2023. “[Automation Anxiety and a Right to Freedom from Automated Systems and AI](#)”. [Publisher's Version](#)

responses to internet governance, such as net neutrality regulations and antitrust measures, will reveal similarities and differences in policy approaches<sup>4</sup>.

*Public Perceptions:* Exploring public attitudes and perceptions towards AI, including trust levels, acceptance of AI applications, and concerns about job displacement.

Contrasting these perceptions with historical attitudes towards the internet, such as fears of job loss due to automation and skepticism towards online commerce, will elucidate shifting societal attitudes towards disruptive technologies<sup>5</sup>.

**Conclusion:** Based on the preliminary analysis, the proposed research topic appears feasible and promising. There is a wealth of information available on both AI development and the historical context of the internet, providing a solid foundation for comparative analysis. The parallels between media responses to AI and the internet offer intriguing avenues for exploration, shedding light on societal responses to technological change.

**Timeline:**

- April 2: Submit feasibility study to Professor Toomey.
- April 9: Conduct comprehensive literature review on AI development and media responses.
- April 16: Gather additional sources and data related to AI trajectory and media coverage.

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<sup>4</sup> 212. "States Take the Lead on Regulating Artificial Intelligence." Brennan Center for Justice, 26 Mar. 2024, [brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/states-take-lead-regulating-artificial-intelligence#:~:text=Though%20most%20states%20have%20yet,government-organized%20entities%20to%20increase](https://brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/states-take-lead-regulating-artificial-intelligence#:~:text=Though%20most%20states%20have%20yet,government-organized%20entities%20to%20increase).

Kaspersky. "What Are Some of the Laws Regarding Internet and Data Security?" Usa.Kaspersky.Com, 19 Apr. 2023, [usa.kaspersky.com/resource-center/preemptive-safety/internet-laws](https://usa.kaspersky.com/resource-center/preemptive-safety/internet-laws).

<sup>5</sup> Tyson, Alec. "Growing Public Concern about the Role of Artificial Intelligence in Daily Life." Pew Research Center, Pew Research Center, 28 Aug. 2023, [www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2023/08/28/growing-public-concern-about-the-role-of-artificial-intelligence-in-daily-life](https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2023/08/28/growing-public-concern-about-the-role-of-artificial-intelligence-in-daily-life).

- April 23: Begin drafting research paper, outlining key themes and arguments.
- April 27: Refine paper structure and incorporate feedback from peers and instructors.
- May 4: Finalize research paper, ensuring coherence, accuracy, and clarity of presentation.
- May 11: Submit completed research paper.

Acknowledgement of AI Usage: For this assignment I utilized ChatGPT 3.5 to plan out and write a large portion of the content. After prompting it to use the outlined template and feeding it the type of information I would be researching, it gave me a solid starting point for a feasibility study. From there I went paragraph by paragraph editing both on my own and asking Chat to edit for clarity or conciseness.