

Unit 9 - Reflections on the Ethical and Social Implications of CNN Technology

The article by Wall (2019) "Biased and wrong? Facial recognition tech in the dock" addresses the opportunities and risks that come with facial recognition technology and its many use cases.

Since the 1960s, facial recognition technology has improved greatly thanks to stronger technology, larger datasets, and machine learning improvements. It is also becoming more affordable to implement. China serves as a prominent example of widespread facial recognition technology, where its application has become nearly ubiquitous (Dauvergne, P., 2022; Matulionyte et. al. 2024).

Facial recognition technology offers potential benefits, such as enhanced security across various contexts. However, it is also criticized for its biases, particularly against women and individuals with darker skin. These biases are partly attributed to the composition of training datasets, which often reflect a disproportionate focus on and preference for certain demographic groups, especially white males (Wall, M. 2019).

In 2024, debates over banning facial recognition technology for law enforcement persist, partially because the performance is not yet reliable (Matulionyte et. al. 2024). Growing restrictions and increased advocacy, especially in developing regions, could strengthen anti-FRT norms in areas with limited rights protections (Dauvergne, P., 2022).

In the context of ethical and more regulated AI technologies, image and facial recognition are frequently cited as areas that demand stricter standards and oversight (Wall, 2019).

I personally support this approach, as I have read about the potential benefits of such technologies but also the numerous instances of their malicious use in authoritarian regimes, particularly during this politically right-leaning era we currently live in.

References

Dauvergne, P., & Edward Elgar Publishing. (2022). *Identified, tracked, and profiled: The politics of resisting facial recognition technology*. Northampton: Edward Elgar Publishing.

Matulionytė, R., & Zalnieriute, M. (Eds.). (2024). *The Cambridge handbook of facial recognition in the modern state* (1st ed.). Cambridge, United Kingdom; New York, NY: Cambridge University Press.

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