

Ethics in Computing in the age of Generative AI

As generative AI becomes more prevalent across the world and across a number of different industries, it is important that the way this is approached from a legal, social and ethical standpoint is reviewed and adapted as required.

Deckard (2023) highlights the relevance of “AI Ethicists” as important actors in the future of the field. He makes reference to the importance of having strong foundational knowledge in both AI and ethics as individual disciplines to ensure that there is a full level of understanding. He also remarks on the importance of these actors becoming involved with public policy discussions to ensure that the trifecta of social, legal and ethical positions are brought together, with the relevant experts in each of these fields coming together to get the best outcomes.

One potential concern with this is the fact that there doesn't appear to be a broad international consensus on this, with policy makers in different nations viewing both the regulation of these generative AI resources, as well as the roles they play, in different ways. Correa et al (2023) remark for example that the Chinese state's regulation of generative AI tends to focus on what can be obtained from the general population, however the Indian state (which is coincidentally a geographical neighbour to China) places more emphasis on user consent and public awareness. There is also a high level of disparity relating to the research and documentation within different nations, again highlighted by Correa et al (2023). This highlights that some nations, particularly those in Africa and Central Asia, are potentially being left behind in the international debate on Generative AI.

Without a general consensus on the ethics relating to Generative AI, there is scope for individuals within different states to be impacted in a variety of different ways, some of which may come into conflict with others. One potential proposal would be to work within multinational organisations, such as the UN, to look at incorporating a charter on the use of Generative AI, which would provide individuals a certain level of protection regarding this. This may follow a similar format to documents like the UN charter on human rights or the rights of the child for example. Discussions with this would need to include policy makers and industry professionals to ensure that all

elements of this are considered. By doing this, society would hopefully have not only a better understanding of Generative AI (which is often misunderstood), but also better protection from the misuse of this.

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References

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