MIT Technology Review : Concerning AI Ethics

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# Summary of the Transcript

The video you shared is a podcast titled "AI Ethics" and it was published on June 22, 2023. The podcast discusses the ethical implications of AI and how it's becoming a more pressing issue due to the rapid development and adoption of AI tools. Here are some key points from the podcast:

1. The lack of a clear definition for AI ethics is a problem, as there is no common agreement on what AI means. This poses a challenge for lawmakers and legal scholars.
2. The potential harms of AI are becoming more obvious, including plagiarism, disinformation, election interference, and copyright infringement. As a result, privacy and copyright laws may need to be rethought.
3. There is a rise in regulation, with the European Union negotiating the world's first horizontal AI law called the AI Act. This will set red lines for AI and how it should be developed and deployed.
4. The FTC in the US has also issued statements paying more attention to AI and has the power to ask tech companies to delete algorithms if they violate policies.
5. The podcast features interviews with IBM's chief privacy officer, the United Nations AI advisor, and the president of Mozilla, who discuss AI ethics and their work in the field.
6. The podcast discusses the importance of considering the use of technology in context, particularly in the age of algorithm-driven culture.
7. The author argues that individuals should not just be passive consumers of technology, but should actively seek to understand and apply its capabilities to benefit themselves, their communities, and their businesses.
8. The author sees an opportunity to align on AI regulation and avoid past mistakes. Countries are working to align on a values-based system and a common taxonomy in the space of AI.

Please note that as of the time the summary was generated, the video had no views, likes, favorites, or comments. The duration of the video is 20 minutes and 16 seconds.

# Transcript

AI Ethics : Podcast - YouTube

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UOr7Z8FtnIY

Transcript:

(00:02) this is MIT technology review. the topic of AI ethics can feel extremely theoretical and for all the hype around AI we still don't agree on what AI actually is the best definitions are kind of vague and without consensus and it provides a huge challenge for lawmakers and legal Scholars all over the world as they look to regulate it meanwhile back-to-back breakthroughs and Rapid adoption of some generative AI tools are making it feel a lot more real to everybody else and it's possible that alone might be enough to push

(00:43) conversations about ethics further in focus it's incredible Innovation at the same time it's like opening a Pandora's Box how do we train those AI systems such that they are you know on Humanity side helping us understand the world better instead of right now I would argue they're kind of trained to appease us this new wave of sophisticated AI tools is Raising some tricky ethical questions as well as some big concerns about topics such as the future of human labor and there's something scary about the

(01:14) idea of introducing these immensely powerful immensely persuasive systems to the world with a mandate that's as limited as just say what only people hack with you I'm Jennifer strong in this episode we may be reflecting on this moment and working to pave the path to a more trustworthy AI [Music] let's go in machines We Trust I'm listening a podcast about the automation of everything you have reached your destination hey Melissa hey everyone I'm Melissa hagula I'm the senior reporter for AI at

(02:05) MIT technology review so how would you describe the moment you think we're in right now with AI ethics where do things stand it's a really really interesting moment AI enter the mass cautiousness you know we're seeing Chachi BT the first time millions and millions of people are trying and seeing for themselves what it can be and so that's a really interesting time for AI ethics because you know in the past the harms were kind of hypothetical and wow when we're seeing AI being rolled out of the

(02:36) lab into actual products into writing assistance email assistance helping people book stuff or come up with new medicine Stakes are much much higher last year we saw the rise of generative Ai and that has totally changed the game it's such a new exciting technology that is being applied in so many different products and it's made multi-villion dollar companies totally shift their research and product agenda you know like you have every single big tech company racing to roll out their own venerative AI models and yeah the harms

(03:10) are super obvious we see plagiarism we see a potential risk of disinformation on a large scale election interference artists who argue that their work could be scraped into these large data sets that are then being reproduced by these AI models so potential copyright infringements you're probably going to have to rethink our privacy and copyright laws because of this technology that's a huge development part of the problem here might be is I realize we don't we don't have a great definition for what AI ethics even means

(03:40) and I mean it goes back we don't have a great definition of what AI means this is probably one of the hardest questions people ever ask because the field has no you know Common agreements on what is AI I think the interesting thing happening this year in AI ethics is actually the rise of Regulation we're going to see you the world's first horizontal AI law called the AI act which is being negotiated by the European Union and I think that will be really really interesting because it'll be the first

(04:10) time regulator is have sex some sort of red lines for AI for this technology and how it should be developed and deployed and there I'm paying more attention how they're defining the AI but one of the problems is is that even regulators and legal Scholars really struggle with this well let's talk about looking forward are there particular things as you look ahead that you think will help this conversation be more productive you asked the FTC the Federal Trade Commission has been really good actually

(04:41) the issues the statements saying how they are paying more attention to Ai and how AI companies and tech companies shouldn't lie about what their AI Tech can do or whether it's an AI and they have the power to you know if they can find pet companies have violated some of their policies they have the power to ask check companies to delete algorithms and that's a pretty big deterrent so I think that'll be a really interesting topic even though the US doesn't have a federal Privacy Law I didn't have to see

(05:13) is going to be very interesting this year Melissa hagela is a senior reporter covering AI at MIT technology review [Music] we're gonna take a short break and then we're going to hear from IBM's Chief privacy officer Christina Montgomery along with Neil sahoda the United Nations AI advisor and founder of its AI for good initiative we'll also hear from Mark's sermon president of Mozilla they'll share a bit about where they think things stand with AI ethics what they're working on and what they're

(05:44) watching going forward you can find links to our reporting in the show notes and you can support our journalism by going to techreview.com we'll be back right after this hi this is Brian Bryson director of event contents and experiences here at MIT technology review I am popping into this podcast to invite you to our upcoming AI conference m-tech digital m-tech digital is MIT Technology reviews executive briefing on artificial intelligence its implementation and impact on business and Society if you're

(06:23) tasked with integrating AI into customer offerings or using AI to streamline operations this is your once a year opportunity to meet a network with the peers and leaders on The Cutting Edge of AI learn more about this exclusive event at mtechdigital.com foreign exists to make sure that the internet the digital world we all live in is better for humans and not just driven by profit and when we started we really were about taking back the web for people the web had been kind of vacuumed into Microsoft Windows and that the

(07:07) developers could only do what Microsoft wanted it meant that the web was getting crappy for people and on this 25th Year we're looking at what's the next quarter Century like what do we need to fix as we go forward about digital life and that has a lot to do with AI hi I'm Mark sermon and I'm the president of Mozilla what does AI ethics mean to me well I actually think young people understand this better than anybody you know when I talk to my kids or their friends they talk about Tick Tock put me

(07:34) into this funnel and I you know that's kind of cool I knew I was going there oh I'm in this funnel I didn't want to be there maybe it's because everybody watched The Social dilemma but I think there's a sense that how AI is being developed and Who develops it is actually influencing what's possible for us and what's not possible who gets opportunity who doesn't get opportunity and really AI ethics is about that making sure that we as people get to control where AI goes and that's about

(08:02) individual autonomy and protecting us from Individual harm but also Collective agency whereas a society can we decide we're going where is there democracy in all of this and also if there's Collective harm say democracy is broken by misinformation is there accountability for that I'm Christina Montgomery I'm the vice president and Chief privacy officer at IBM I oversee IBM's privacy program or compliance with privacy laws I also co-chair our AI ethics board and the board is a multi-disciplinary team

(08:37) that's responsible for the governance and decision making process for AI and other technology ethics related questions we've been in business for over a century and we work with some of the like I think 97 out of 100 of the world's largest banks eighty percent of all telecommunications companies pack of all retail transactions touch or use IBM technology in some form or fashion and that means we are touching clients and customers huge companies that deploy AI in business to business in business to

(09:15) Consumer settings that use AI in really important ways we want to make sure that we are addressing the real concerns that have been raised across Society about AI technology and those questions aren't necessarily about they're not necessarily technical questions they're socio-technical kinds of questions sure my name is so I wear a couple different hats I'm the United Nations AI advisor and the co-founder of their aggregation Jennifer because I think it's kind of open Pandora's Box on intellectual

(09:49) property rights so what does all this now mean is there is there any originality or is it okay that people can just build off other people's work through their intellectual property without any kind of compensation or credit so that's I think has become the Big Challenge now it's a big ethical question on who actually can own content you know we always hear about like well what are the ramification just if we could do something doesn't mean we should do it but you know the huge challenge is we

(10:21) think about the goal we're trying to accomplish not the side effects right not how people might misuse some of the technology at the end of the day all these AI systems all emerging Tech is a tool but we don't do enough kind of pre-thought proactive thinking or scenario playing to figure out how some Bad actors might abuse it the other thing is in the digital ah there are no boundaries you can't say well it's okay in this one area of the world if they're doing that and we're never allowed over here

(10:53) there's really no way to stop that I think the big thing is that if you want to talk about you know ethical use and AI or right use of Technology it has to be some common Baseline of ethics and morals and everyone here is probably just thinking like is it all of us have a different like ethos yeah we do and that's the challenge one thing that's super interesting to me kind of in what I think of as the post-social Dilemma era in that you know we've been having conversations like even on Netflix with tens of millions of

(11:26) views about algorithms for the last few years and I think for a set of people especially young people who are on things like Tick Tock that are algorithm driven there's a fair bit of literacy about the fact we live in this algorithmically curated culture what you see happening is you know people like the content they get but they also feel manipulated and so they gain the AI AI when they try to push it in a certain direction and to me that is really helpful in that there is a swath of the public that cares how these tools work

(11:58) what's sad is you know we shouldn't have to game the system we should have tools and you know we should build into these apps or we should build into the toolkits of AI ways that we can nudge the software back instead of just having the software nudge us and so there's something I think in the what is the phenomena in public of pushing back an AI that gives us a hint of what we should be building into software into tooling into kind of the AI of the future and a lot of these questions come down to not just how the technology is built

(12:29) but whether technology should be used to address a given problem in the first place or a given challenge in the first place because a lot of the questions and concerns with AI come not from the technology itself but from the use of that technology in context and that's where the board sort of comes in and decides you know first off and fundamentally should we be using technology in this construct in the first place so a great example is in response to covid-19 right how can we apply technology to help address the

(13:03) global pandemic so we started seeing requests for using facial recognition technology in Fever detection systems or in mask wearing applications so lots of people motivated by good right but we had to say to ourselves for example if you look at something like trying to detect whether somebody is wearing a mask do you need sure all the facial metrics do have to employ real facial recognition software to accomplish that right and do you have to capture images to accomplish that and so we said no you know we said no to a

(13:41) number of use cases in that space and then in June of that year we actually ended up being the first technology company to say with respect to facial recognition we're not going to deploy facial recognition general purpose apis anymore because we don't think it's quite ready in terms of the potential for the use and the potential for the abuse of those apis at this point in time needs to be explored further before we're comfortable playing in that space you know AI I think has come a long way

(14:11) you know a lot of people talk about chat GPT and like Dolly too today alternative Ai and it actually has its roots eight nine years ago like years ago I was working with Alex the kid teacher of AI to you know compose music write lyrics it's just I think the training the Comfort level the more I call it kind of mass tools out there for General use like chat gbt just gonna hit The Sweet Spot I think that's why we're seeing this kind of explosion there's still some hype there's an explosion in

(14:42) terms of actual use five years ago if I asked the question how many people are using AI maybe 10 people raise their hands just like hey I'll probably use it behind the scenes or something I don't know it and today when I asked that question everybody raises they're all like I'm actually using it that's a big difference in terms of what do we do like to take hope and turn it into action it depends on who you are like there's different players who are important in pushing AI in a better

(15:08) Direction different direction you know on the one hand the the big players who are defining this need to think about ethics and responsibility and trust and let's starting-ish to happen but actually I think they're the least important players in this who's important is startups or researchers or people who really want to put trust first and build those building blocks and do it and you know do it where trust is at the beginning of the the kind of list of priorities and maybe profit is a little bit lower down and that means

(15:39) building things like transparency tools building things like better recommendation engines where users can shape things building things that detect bias and discrimination and things that avoid misinformation and so I I really am excited about the set of startups that we see emerging in that space the set of researchers emerging in that space one of the things that would kind of challenge you with is to think about like what's the one thing you could do to either help yourself your community you know you're ultimately your business

(16:08) wherever you work that's the way we really should be thinking I think there's too many people that they're like there's a lot of great Technologies out there I'm just along for the ride the best AI Solutions come from maybe people that know their domains so don't be afraid to understand the capabilities and figure out how to apply them for whatever you want to try and do we released a thoughtful point of view working with our policy teams calling for the Precision regulation of artificial intelligence so it advocated

(16:39) for regulation that would address high risk uses address AI being used in contexts where it is impacting people's fundamental rights people's safety that's how the AI Act is essentially playing out now I think what's going to be important from a regulatory perspective is how do we figure out what's driving our concerns and how to address regulation towards those concerning applications of AI so that that will be happening and it is happening and then just just practically speaking how do we do things like audit because

(17:15) yes some AI should be audited and some of those results probably should be public but what does that mean operationally there's all different concepts and concerns players that can help things go in the right direction as regulators and I would say it can because it's you know not that all regulation helps a lot of people say you know Innovation is going to be held back by regulation and I guess my two answers to that are boo hockey I if we look at seat belts they drove you know Decades of safety innovation in the automobile industry

(17:48) and that came from regulation but on the other hand we do need to be cautious like the wrong regulation you know too vague too specific actually will pull back Innovation and that's we're actually really looking at who are the players who we want to make sure are accountable where do we understand the right building blocks to emerge as opposed to really very specific use cases and so on is really important and I would say the discussion around open source and general purpose AI in the euai ACT is something we've dug into

(18:20) as a place where it could go wrong it could go right and actually digging in with Regulators on those topics is really critical right now I also think that we have an opportunity right now as a society to get ahead and aligned on AI regulation we didn't do that with privacy you know we we kind of missed our opportunity and now we're dealing with a hundred and thirty some odd 140 comprehensive privacy regulations that are all a little bit different or a lot different around the globe it's challenging for companies

(18:58) it's frankly a lot easier for global companies like IBM than it is for smaller companies and medium companies and what does that do to competition right if you're if you're imposing regulations at only the biggest companies can follow so I think we have an opportunity now to not replicate that for AI to align with like-minded countries to align on a values-based system to align on a common taxonomy in the space of AI so from a regulatory perspective what is the difference between artificial intelligence and an

(19:33) algorithmic decision-making tool like all of those things are slightly different and nuanced and we need to have those conversations to try to drive as much alignment as possible in the good and the bad you know what what are we going to restrict what are we going to allow and what do those regulations look like completely what do we mean by responsible Ai and so that's I think going to be flushed out over the next year to five years [Music] this episode was reported and produced by me and Anthony Green with help from

(20:12) Emma silicons and Melissa hegela it was edited by Matt Honan