# ETHICS IN AI

(SSH-325)

# RESPONSE PAPER - 1

Binns, R. (2017). ‘Algorithmic Accountability and Public Reason’, Philosophy & Technology

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## INTRODUCTION

Algorithms are now widely used in many aspects of our daily life as a result of the quick development of technology, including loan approvals and social media marketing. The ethical and political ramifications of algorithmic decision-making must be addressed because the usage of algorithms also carries the risk of supporting bias and discrimination. Binns investigates this issue in "Algorithmic Accountability and Public Reason," which also offers a model for guaranteeing algorithmic accountability. This response paper reviews Binns' claims and recommendations and offers a thorough analysis of the article.

## ALGORITHMIC ACCOUNTABILITY : A NECESSITY

Binns starts off by emphasising how opaque algorithmic decision-making is. Algorithms are usually developed by private firms, and their inner workings are frequently kept secret from the general public. The public's trust in algorithms may be eroded as a result of this lack of transparency, which may potentially enhance bias and discrimination. Binns suggests "algorithmic accountability" as a solution to this problem, which entails making algorithms more accessible to and understandable to the general public.

Algorithms can be held accountable in a variety of ways, such as by undergoing audits and inspections to make sure they don't reinforce bias or discrimination. The public's access to the data and code used to create the algorithms can also raise their exposure and aid in understanding how they work, which can help in identifying potential sources of bias or other problems.

## PUBLIC REASON’S ROLE

In his article, Binns suggests the idea of "public reason" as a possible way to guarantee algorithmic responsibility. Public reason can act as a framework for controlling how algorithms are used in society by defining a set of moral and political rules for algorithmic decision-making. In order to ensure that they achieve these goals, Binns contends that algorithms should be created with standards like fairness, non-discrimination, and openness in mind. They should also be subject to public review and oversight.

Using public reason in algorithmic decision-making, however, may provide some difficulties. Private businesses may put their own interests ahead of the values and norms of the public good. Also, there could be inconsistencies between the public reason and the beliefs and goals of for-profit companies that create algorithms.

Despite these difficulties, it is crucial to continue with the deployment of algorithmic accountability and public reason. Binns highlights the importance of these principles' potential advantages, such as the promotion of justice, elimination of discrimination, and openness in algorithmic decision-making. It is possible to build and deploy algorithms in ways that benefit the public and reduce their negative impacts by overcoming challenges including private interests and conflicts between corporate and public principles.

## ALGORITHMIC ACCOUNTABILITY : BENEFITS

According to Binns, algorithmic accountability can have a variety of advantages, including boosting trust in algorithms among the general public, lessening the risk of bias and discrimination, and promoting more effective public decision-making. It could be possible to reduce the negative consequences of algorithms and enhance their potential for good by improving algorithm transparency and making them available for public examination.

Binns contends that algorithmic accountability and public reason are crucial goals that must be pursued despite any potential challenges. It is critical to create systems that assure algorithmic accountability and adhere to the standards of public reason as algorithms grow more and more pervasive in our daily lives. This can ensure that algorithms are employed in a way that benefits the general population and reduces their potential risks.

## CONCLUSION

The article by Binns contributes persuasively to the continuing discussion about the place of technology in society and the necessity of ethical and legal frameworks to direct its development. The problem of algorithmic decision-making has become more important as algorithms become

more pervasive in our daily lives. Binns makes a strong case for the necessity of putting in place mechanisms to assure algorithmic accountability, and his investigation of the idea of public reason offers a helpful framework for thinking about the moral and political ramifications of algorithms.

Despite potential challenges, such as the complexity of many algorithms and the interests of private enterprises, the adoption of algorithmic accountability and public reason must be sought. We can make sure that algorithms are created and used in ways that serve the public benefit and limit any potential negative impacts by establishing systems for algorithmic accountability and abiding by the principles of public reason.

Binns advocates for the implementation of more robust measures for holding algorithms accountable and increasing transparency in decision-making processes involving them. We can promote justice, non-discrimination, and transparency in the creation and deployment of algorithms. Despite the challenges in implementing these principles, the potential benefits of algorithmic accountability and public reason are clear, making them essential goals for society to pursue.

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