8 Primary Ethical Concerns of A.I.

1. **Bias:**  Study of *heuristics* is important to understanding the human condition. A.I. acts as a reflection of our own psyche and thus leads to undesirable prejudice. However, A.I. can be trained to reduce or counteract entirely these prejudices.
2. **Equality:** A.I. can offer new opportunities to disadvantaged groups, render poor schooling practices useless, and uplift entire communities out of poverty. However, the rift between the rich and the poor may increase dramatically in the process. A.I. also poses a consistent threat to low-income jobs and even some high-income ones. This will further divide the haves and have nots.
3. **Access:** The access to the most powerful A.I. is only available to a small number of privileged individuals. For example, A.I. is being used by large investors that makes their stocks increase at a faster value than smaller investors who cannot afford the tool. There are some A.I. tools, such as GPT-2 text generation, that is made available to the public. More access does not always mean an equitable outcome as some players may have malicious intent.
4. **Privacy:** The study of collectivism vs. individualism within our global and national culture will become paramount due to the dissolution of privacy. Our data is analyzed by A.I. for identification, posing tremendous ethical issues. However, how much an individual is bothered by this will largely depend upon the culture they grew up in.
5. **Deception:** A.I. is able to simulate reality with incredible effectiveness. Art, music, writing, videos, very soon it will be hard to tell whether a human made something or an A.I. did. Deep fakes are of primary concern as these can usher in a new age of malicious propaganda.
6. **Autonomy:** Weapons, cars, surgery, job placement, jail time, A.I. can autonomously make decisions in regards to human life that can have impactful results. How much autonomy should machines be given? An A.I.’s capacity to make “good” decisions is unknown as the study of ethics is often not prioritized for people managing / creating these tools.
7. **Freedom:**  A.I. can hinder free choice to the degree that we lose our own autonomy. This can be seen with selective advertising and social media usage.
8. **The Nature of Humanity:** Perhaps the most important ethical question of all, does A.I. deserve personhood? If A.I. can do everything a human can do, does this not destabilize what it means to be human? A.I. is a reflection of ourselves and it is no longer science fiction to think that we will one day create that perfect reflection.