LSE Online — Ethics of AI Masterclass | Module breakdown

Module 1
AI and the state: Democracy, legitimacy, and transparency

Explore the foundations of democratic theory and theories of administrative power, and learn how to diagnose challenges and opportunities posed by AI using those foundations.

- Review and contrast two justifications for democracy in terms of their value and validity
- Determine how AI can create opportunities to improve democracy
- Investigate why administrative agencies raise issues of legitimacy and transparency, and how AI can exacerbate or alleviate these issues
- Articulate the ethical principles at stake in a specific ethical dilemma

Module 2
AI and business: Algorithmic bias and inequality

Investigate how AI can create inequalities of resources, opportunity, and power in the business world, and how it can perpetuate historic injustice.

- Outline important conceptions of justice and fairness in contemporary ethics
- Discuss the ways in which technological change can impact the distribution of resources and productivity gains
- Determine the policies required to ensure that the development of AI contributes to an inclusive economy
- Investigate how algorithmic bias perpetuates issues of unequal opportunities and discrimination in hiring
- Explore how machine learning raises a risk of discrimination, and possible solutions to address those risks
- Judge the acceptability of workplace surveillance in terms of privacy protection
- Use explicit ethical principles to build an argument and defend it against objections

Module 3
AI and society: Challenges and opportunities

Understand conceptions of global governance, corporate social responsibility, decision-making under risk, and market failures to investigate issues of global justice raised by AI.

- Outline issues of value alignment in AI and their impact on solutions for value-sensitive design of technology
- Illustrate the conflicting moral responsibilities and obligations of firms in the global governance of AI
- Explore opportunities and challenges presented by AI in terms of value alignment in sustainable development goals
- Analyse how businesses developing and using AI systems can exploit market failures, and the difficulties of addressing these failures at the global level
- Investigate how AI is shaping and impacting personal and social interactions
- Formulate an argument using explicit ethical principles, defend it against objections, and propose potential solutions

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