CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR A COLLECTIVE BOOK AT PRESSES DE L'UNIVERSITE LAVAL (PUL)

« SOCIAL JUSTICE AND AI »

This collective book is part of the work of the Abeona-ENS-OBVIA Chair and will aim to propose a renewed and multidisciplinary reflection on the issues of artificial intelligence uses from a social justice perspective.

The increasing uses of AI technologies due to the dematerialization of spaces and processes are leading to changes in societal dynamics. People and their experiences are somehow digitized and transposed into spaces in which social interactions, power sharing, accountability, collaboration and consultation processes need to be rethought.

For the purpose of this book, the concept of social justice should be understood in the context of rebalancing unequal power relations at a social, political and legal level. These relations are the product of an imposition of dominant hegemonic structures or historical processes of colonization. They are perpetuated on a systemic and institutional basis. The concept of social justice thus facilitates the apprehension of justice as a drive of change, as a promoter of equity and equality[1], and not only as an issue of access to courts. Justice then represents a collective, conscious and strategic approach to mobilizing technologies and structures in order to achieve participation, inclusion, representativeness, equality and equity.

Finally, the concept of social justice makes it possible to consider a human dimension and to reintegrate actors who are not traditionally associated with AI. Indeed, the analyses on the societal impacts of these technologies focus mainly on solutions provided by public actors (at the local, national and international level) and industries/private sector. Often, these analyses focus on the modalities of responses to be implemented at the institutional level (national or international), ignoring responses that could mobilize civil society – including at the design stage. These actors (public or private), because of their hegemonic position, dominate economic, political and legal interactions and they induce numbers of changes while also defining their limits, relevance and scopes. Moreover, these changes are made according to their own rationality and from an almost exclusively top-down approach.

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[1] Roderick Macdonald, « La justice avant l'accès » dans Élargir nos horizons : Redéfinir l'accès à la justice au Canada. Compte rendu du symposium organisé par le Ministère de la Justice du Canada, 31 mars 2000, Ottawa.

However, the participation of people and groups affected by AI technologies in governance has now become mandatory from a democratic[2] and social justice point of view. Their participation is also fundamental to limit and control the biases and discriminations related to AI technologies from their conception to their uses[3]. All of them express the need, even the urgency, to be not only consulted, but included in the modes of governance since they are the first affected by these technologies developed and implemented without their expertise and experiential knowledge as they themselves represent them.

In the current context of questioning a certain number of privileges (racial, social or economic), it is essential to include avenues that are not those put forward by the current systems. For decades, civil society has been carrying different voices that reflect intersectional profiles (Aboriginal, queer, people living in poverty, homeless, immigrants or refugees, to name but a few) and that testify of a complexity and societal texture not always considered within the uses and impacts of AI. Including them in the governance processes of AI technologies should therefore make it possible to propose technological uses that are not based on binary or oppositional choices.

At the level of AI technologies, there is also an asymmetry between the countries of the global North and South[4]. A large number of AI and digital technologies are developed by the global North, but subsequently deployed in the South. In spite of this, the relationship to technology is not the same, just like digital divides. These differences also affect power relationships in uses, representations in data sets, collaboration, governance and accountability processes. In that sense, given this tension between the development and deployment phases of technologies, the uses of these technologies must be considered according to different geopolitical contexts and governance issues at different levels (global and local).

The book will assemble around 20 texts from researchers from all disciplines. As an indication, these texts could address the following themes:

- Digital colonization and decolonization
- AI and data activism
- AI and marginalized groups
- Representation in data sets and algorithmic processing.
- Racial Bias and Discrimination in AI

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[2] danah boyd & Kate Crawford (2012) CRITICAL QUESTIONS FOR BIG DATA, Information, Communication & Society, 15:5, 662-679, *673; Wilneida Negron, « Want to build for good? Understand people's needs first » (Fast Company), 11 novembre 2018, en ligne : https://www.fastcompany.com/90270299/want-to-build-tech-for-good-understand-peoples-needs-first.; Milan, S. and Gutiérrez, M. (2015). "Citizens' Media Meets Big Data: The Emergence of Data Activism" 14 Mediaciones, 120-133; Savaget, P., Chiarini, T. and Evans, S. (2019). "Empowering political participation through artificial intelligence" 46:3 Science and Public Policy, 369–380.*

3 Hargittai, E. (2015). "Is Bigger Always Better? Potential Biases of Big Data Derived from Social Network Sites" 659:1 Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, 63–76.

[4] Chinmayi Arun (2020) "AI and the Global South: Designing for Other Worlds", The Oxford Handbook of Ethics of AI, Edited by Markus D. Dubber, Frank Pasquale, and Sunit Das, pp

- Power relations and AI
- Datafication of under-represented groups.
- Indigenous Peoples and IA.
- Digital agency of civil society.
- Consultation and participation of the civil society and AI.
- AI and Design Justice
- Human Rights and AI
- AI and civil, political and social rights.
- Regulatory Frameworks and Alternatives to the AI Ethics Paradigm
- Groups and populations affected by AI uses
- Capacitation and empowerment by AI
- AI, digital sovereignty
- Common, Open Science and AI

CALENDAR

11/09/2020: Call for papers for Book manuscripts
02/08/2021: Submission Deadline of expression of interest proposals due
03/01/2021: authors notified of their proposal
09/30/2021: Full manuscripts /chapter due
11/25/2021: Review proposals and authors notified
01/06/2022: Revised chapter by the authors
Spring 2022: Publication and official launch of the book.

SUBMISSION OF CHAPTER PROPOSAL

Authors are invited to submit a proposal containing the following information:
- Author's name and affiliation;
- Author's contact information;
- 3 to 5 keywords;
- Chapter proposal (between 1500 and 2000 words), including problem statement, presentation of the subject, summary outline, five bibliographical references (12 pt. font, normal spacing, double-spaced);

Contributions submitted by students or early-stage researchers are welcome.

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