

Three-Day Online International Conference on "Access to Information in Time of Crisis - The UNESCO Information For All Programme Priorities and The COVID-19 Pandemic"

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# Why we need Info-Ethics and which ethical values ?

Yves Poulet

Prof Universities of Namur and Lille  
Member of the Belgian Royal Academy

# Info-ethics everywhere...

**OECD:** ‘Recommendation on artificial intelligence’, Council of Ministers, May 22 2019

**Council of Europe:** Ad hoc Committee on Artificial Intelligence (CAHAI), Sept. 11, 2019

**EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT:** “PROPOSITION containing recommendations to the Commission on a framework of ethical aspects in artificial intelligence, robotics and related technologies (2020/2012 (INL))” (April, 21, 2020)

**UNESCO:** Ad Hoc Expert Group on Ethics and Artificial Intelligence (Nov. 2019)

# Why Ethics? - Some facts

- Towards an infinite capacity (Moore's Law) as regards storage, processing and transmission
- Ubiquity of 'nano' terminals: the invasion of sensors in our familiar spaces and objects or even our bodies
- Non-transparency of terminals, data flows and algorithms
- Robots (exoskeleton, connected car, robot killer, robot caregiver, Sophia,..;) endowed with speech, 'thoughts' and capacity for action
- Predictive "intelligence": "algorithmic governmentality." – from causation to statistical aggregation (bias, errors, ...) in complex neural networks
- Possibility of manipulation of our minds ('libertarian paternalism' (the 'nudges'); Fake News) and of our beings (the myth of the 'augmented' man) (genetic manipulation and NBIC)
- Digital as a tool in the hands of private powers (GAFAMI and BATX): the digital platforms.
- Difficult regulation: globalisation, the unpredictability of technological application

# The Ethical question

- IF Digital might be considered as “the” building block of our societies (social, economic, political), our lives, our identities, how can we, as human, keep control of such a fast, complex, protean, ubiquitous innovation with unpredictable applications? : *“Human in the loop, human on the loop”*

# *Which Ethical values? (UNESCO Convention on bioethics, 2005)*

*"Convinced that it is necessary and that it is time for the international community to set out universal principles on which humanity can respond to the growing dilemmas and controversies that science and technology pose to humanity and the environment,"*

- 1. DIGNITY : No manipulation: "Human as a target and never as a tool"- Robot never a human – Human never reduced to his or her data*
- 2. AUTONOMY : Education- Freedom of choice – need for transparency - Right to have explanation of automated decision by a human being*
- 3. SOCIAL JUSTICE : No discrimination (bias) - Collective approach beyond individual protection (groups' privacy) - Need for an extension of the concept of the Information Universal service within a digital society*
- 4. DO GOOD DO NOT HARM: . Ethics by design - Risk assessment (multistakeholder and multidisciplinary participation)*

# Two recommendations

- Beyond protection of individual interests, need to consider the collective challenges (competition, democracy, discrimination,...) our digital societies are facing.
- To set up interdisciplinary, multistakeholders, transparent (open to public debates) national and international Data Ethics Agencies in order to evaluate the risks caused by AI systems, robots and emerging technologies and to raise public awareness .

If you want to continue the discussion, please do not hesitate to contact me:

[Yves.poulet@unamur.be](mailto:Yves.poulet@unamur.be)