

Framing the future of AI: Policy Dilemmas and Solutions

Program

15:50-18:30 27 November, 2020 (Beijing Time, GMT+8)

08:50-11:30 27 November, 2020 (Central Europe Time, GMT+1)

Session I: Is digital sovereignty a solution? Rethinking global interdependence in AI and critical data infrastructures

Not just since the trade conflict between the USA and China, technological interdependencies were problematized. The debate about technological interdependence has gained new momentum due the Covid-19 pandemic. Public voices increasingly question not only the dependence on foreign supply of medical goods but also the imports of various critical technologies in general. China's political discourse has long emphasized the importance of technological sovereignty in fields like artificial intelligence as a key factor in the country's long-term development. In western countries, calls to strengthen "digital sovereignty" and autonomy are multiplying and are now introduced to the fields of artificial intelligence too. But is the notion of "sovereignty" a practical solution for AI applications? The implications remain unclear. The danger of rising technological nationalism and harmful societal side effects need careful consideration. The problem of sovereign claims, intensifying geopolitics and the resulting in digital fragmentation shapes the future AI innovations and the platform economy globally. Applying the discourse of sovereignty to the field of AI invites critical reflections both in Europe and Asia about the usefulness and limits of such terminology. This panel aims at inspiring a search for potentially better alternatives to shape technological future that is both inclusive and fair.

Session II: The Duality Dilemma of AI Technology

The rapid progress and development of AI is prompting speculation about the applications of AI and their impacts on society. On the one hand, numerous applications in health care, finance, communications, the arts, etc. have brought some of the most effective and dramatic advances for people. On the other hand, the frenzy of AI causes regulatory and ethical issues and could lead to major negative changes in society and liability. Such dual implications of AI applications and impacts has pushed us to balance between transparent and accountable AI and "opaque" AI, between "responsive" AI and "rogue" AI. This duality in the nature of AI brings about enormous challenges for legal systems and continuous debates on the relationship between technology and society. Panelists will discuss the implications and possible remedies to the duality of AI technology.

Introduction on AECAIR

Asia-Europe Consortium for AI Research (AECAIR) is a platform, initiated by partners in Asia and Europe, including KAS Shanghai Office, Intellisla Institute in Guangzhou, Dr. Fen Jennifer Lin (City University of Hong Kong, Greater Bay Area AI and Society Research Institute in Hong Kong), Prof Maximilian Mayer (Center for Advanced Security, Strategic and Integration Studies, University of Bonn), and Denise Feldner (IP-tec.Co, a German Consulting Think Tank for Digital Governance in Berlin). This platform aims to offer a thinking space for social science research – across the Eurasian continent and beyond – in order to gather researchers, experts, and practitioners in the expanding field of AI aiming to channel their analysis regularly to policy makers. It aims at fostering and stimulating interdisciplinary collaborations as well as public conversations about the potentials and limits of AI.



Agenda

Panel I, 27 November, 2020

Time	Program
15:50-16:00	<i>Welcome</i> Matthias Schäfer, Chief Representative, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Shanghai Prof. Dingding Chen, President of Intellisla Dr. Jennifer Lin, City University of Hong Kong, Greater Bay Area AI and Society Research Institute in Hong Kong Dr. Enrico Fels, Managing Director, Center for Advanced Security, Strategic and Integration Studies
16:00-16:40	<i>Is digital sovereignty a solution? Rethinking global interdependence in AI and critical data infrastructures</i> Guiding Questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What does “sovereignty” mean in the digital/ AI age, esp. in contrast to the analog world?• Does AI development and digital sovereignty contradict each other?• Which costs and benefits would an increased digital sovereignty have?• What are practical and terminological alternatives to digital sovereignty? Moderator: Prof. Maximilian Mayer , Center for Advanced Security, Strategic and Integration Studies, University of Bonn Speakers: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Prof. Philipp Staab, Humboldt University of Berlin2) Prof. Cuihong Cai, Fudan University3) Corinna Abele, GTAI, Shanghai4) Prof. Rogier Creemers, Leiden University5) Prof. Jianbo Gao, Beijing Normal University, Fusing Interdependence and Sovereignty in AI --- Insight From Emergence of Optimal Value Chain in International Commodity Trade
16:40-17:00	Open Discussion
17:00-17:15	Break

Panel II 27 November, 2020

Time	Program
17:15-18:00	<p><i>The Duality Dilemma of AI Technology</i></p> <p>Guiding Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>What does the duality dilemma of AI technology mean for AI designers and users?</i>• <i>Are the ethical ambiguities of AI global or do they vary by cultural contexts?</i>• <i>In which dimension of AI applications should be prioritized to embed values?</i>• <i>What are the limits of law as regulator and value driver in AI-tization of the digital economy with respect to transparency and accountability?</i>• <i>How does international tech competition shape the risks and vulnerabilities inherent to applications of AI?</i> <p>Moderator: Dr. Jennifer Lin, City University of Hong Kong, Greater Bay Area AI and Society Research Institute in Hong Kong</p> <p>Denise Felder, CEO IP-tec.Co. a Think Tank Consultancy for Digital Governance and Co-Founder AISRI</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Prof. Hans Uszkoreit, Founder and Chief Scientist of GIANCE Technologies2) Prof. Haya Shulman, ATHENE CENTER and Fraunhofer SIT in Darmstadt and Jerusalem, Digital Sovereignty Against the Backdrop of the AI Duality Dilemma3) Prof. Max Meng, Tsinghua University, The Application of AI-technology in Government Governance in China4) Prof. Weiwen Duan, Director of Research Center for Science, Technology and Society, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences5) Jiantuo Yu, Deputy Secretary-General, China Development Research Foundation, Beyond Geopolitics: Symbiosis in the Era of AI
18:00-18:30	<p>Q&A Discussion</p>