

AI on a Social Mission Conference



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Day 1 - November 16th

Opening Ceremony

8:45 a.m. EST

Amelia Tekwatonti McGregor, Kanien'keha:ka, Elder. AI on a Social Mission is an AI Impact Alliance initiative located on unceded Indigenous lands. The Kanien'kehá:ka Nation is recognized as the custodians of the lands and waters on which we will gather. Tiohtià:ke/Montréal is known as a gathering place for many First Nations and has become the home to a diverse population of Indigenous and other peoples.

IMPORTANT: No one will be admitted between 8:45 and 9:00 a.m. in order to respect the ceremony.

Roundtable on Gender Equality in Digital Economies and the Environment

9:00 a.m. EST

The surge of digitisation and AI development of the last decade has accelerated during the COVID-19 pandemic. In parallel, the global community has felt the effects of climate change and environmental degradation, from increases in extreme flooding and heat waves to threats to land and marine species survival. While environmental changes have important socioeconomic effects on women, so does AI. This workshop will therefore explore gender perspectives on the use of AI systems in natural resource and climate management. We invite submissions that are particularly focused on intersectional and applied approaches, strategies and policies that accelerate the achievement of SDG 5, that research gender equality and its intersection with AI systems and natural resource management sectors (maritime, forestry, mining, etc.) and environmental security (climate change, food security).

We will hold in-depth discussions on: the gendered dynamics and implications for the future of peace and human security (including climate science, food security, marine transport, reconciliation, etc); the operational and national security risks to the underrepresentation of women in AI, especially when it comes to natural resource management; applications of AI and Data governance (policies, standards, norms) that are designed to improve gender equality in sectors such as agriculture, energy, security, climate, migration; the macroeconomic impacts of emerging digital economy policies, digital economy global partnerships, of AI itself and, or of AI regulations; the macrocriticalities that must be included in impact assessments of AI systems to

mitigate bias; impact assessment models that can be used to address data asymmetries, and, or post-deployment bias assessment models.

Co-chaired by Valentine Goddard, AI Impact Alliance, and Eleonore Fournier-Tombs, United Nations University Institute in Macau, this Round Table aims to be a kick-off for a Working Group that will produce guidelines for the inclusion of a gender-sensitive module in national and international AI policy globally with regards to digital economy and climate security. The WG reflects a diversity of subject-matter backgrounds and perspectives, such as, but not limited to, economics, law, political science, computer science, environmental management, human security and gender studies, including action-research, art-based research as well as civil society organization (CSO) led research adopting intersectional, gender-focused, Indigenous, and, or, regional perspectives for Sustainable Digital Economies.

Working Group Experts

1. Valentine Goddard (co-chair)
2. Eleonore Fournier-Tombs (co-chair)
3. Daniela Chimisso dos Santos (invited expert)
4. Sarah Moritz (invited expert)
5. Kimani Goddard (invited expert)
6. Blair Attard-Frost (accepted proposal)
7. Mercy Atieno Odongo (accepted proposal)
8. Millicent Ochieng' (accepted proposal)
9. Jane Ezirigwe (accepted proposal)
10. Mélanie Vincent (respondent)
11. Dara Marie (respondent)
12. Fiana Arbab (community partner and respondent)

Round Table Schedule

Time	Description	Participants	Comments
9:00-9:15	Opening	Valentine, Eleonore	
9:15-10:15	Self-intro and short talk	WG members	3-5 minutes each
10:15-10:35	Question #1	WG members (one self-nominated note-taker)	Facilitated discussion* (see Questions below)
10:35-10:55	Question #2	WG members (one self-nominated note-taker)	Facilitated discussion
10:55-11:05	Break		
11:05-11:25	Question #3	WG members (one self-nominated note-taker)	Facilitated Discussion

11:25-12:00	Facilitated summarisation	WG members	Regroup for public policy orientations
12:00-1:00	Summary of WG discussion	WG note takers to respondents and public	Respondent prepare 1 question or policy oriented suggestion. Open to public Q&A

In-Depth Analysis: questions for WG experts

Question 1.

What are some of the most important opportunities for women, queer, trans, LGBTQ2S individuals, in AI and Data Science for natural resources and climate change management? Worded differently, what are some of the opportunities or risks of digitization in natural resource management sectors (fisheries, mining, climate) for society, the environment, or security. What should policy makers in government do to grasp the opportunities and avoid the risks? How does this pan out with respect to UNDRIP and Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples?

Question 2.

What are the systemic solutions to address the negative impacts of a gendered digital gap rapidly and effectively?

Question 3.

Climate security and geopolitical stability require international collaboration. How do we align key factors that can contribute to collaboration in a context of conflict and climate crisis? Discussion can range from micro to macro solutions-policies such as AI impact assessment models (or critical elements of), mission-oriented AI and Data partnership collaborations, regulations, funding and investment models, alternative multilateral science and technology diplomacy models, and more.

Lunch break
13:00 - 14:00 p.m. EST

Climate Security and Sustainable Futures in Digital Societies: Three Solution Angles

14:00 p.m. EST

Chasing Carbon: measuring the carbon emissions of AI

Dr. Sasha Luccioni, Research Scientist, Hugging Face, Member of the Member of the Working Group on AI Ethics & the SDGs in Canada

14:30 p.m. EST

Understanding the International Relations Implications of Climate Security

Professor Bruno Charbonneau, Royal Military College of St-Jean.

15:00 EST

Role of Civil Society Organizations, Literacy and Digital Strategy

Mélanie Valcin, CEO and President, United for Literacy (until recently known as New Frontiers College), Ambassadrice du Groupe des Trente, 2022 CBC Black Changemaker.

15:30 p.m. EST - End of Day 1

Day 2 - November 17th

Navigating Emerging AI Regulations, Policies and Digital Economy Partnerships

9:00 a.m. EST

Mitigating the risks AI systems pose to human life, safety, and democracy is a shared concern for governments, industry and civil society stakeholders. Striking the right balance between highly prescriptive AI regulations and laissez faire is what Canada and the EU's proposed AI regulations are attempting to do. Meanwhile, economic and political partners are advancing AI and data governance policies that favour continued collaborations. This panel will help participants chart the proposed AI regulations and the global context in which they are set. International experts will convene for this roundtable to discuss how emerging regulatory models and Digital Economy Partnerships can be implemented in order to facilitate a global approach to responsible AI and data innovation.

Science and technology diplomacy has a turbulent history of being used to advance national interests and consolidate ideological, cultural, economic, and political (if not military) alliances. A process that is being consolidated once more by existing geopolitical tensions. The recent COVID-19 pandemic and global warming have served as stark reminders that some major global challenges transcend artificial national boundaries and present common social, scientific, and technological challenges. The weight and momentum issues such as sustainability and global warming have gained collectively, and how they intersect with the fourth industrial revolution's possibilities and risks, and the looming AI era, make diplomatic attempts and global economic alliances ever more important. Join us to explore the current global state of affairs, and discuss how organizations and national governments plan to face the common challenges posed by AI systems and applications.

Moderators

Peter Furlong, Senior Policy Analyst - Internet Policy Unit at Tony Blair Institute for Global Change, and Valentine Goddard

Experts

1. Surdas Mohit, A/ Director of Artificial Intelligence and Data Policy, Innovation, Science, and Economic Development; Specialized in leading complex policy files at the intersection of data and AI governance and policy with a diverse background in environmental, economic, and national security.

2. Matheace Ramaputra, Lawyer specialized in Technology and Telecommunication, Indonesia. He provides legal services in technology and telecommunication areas with special experience in advising government institutions to craft policy initiatives. One of the official authors to the first Indonesia Artificial Intelligence Strategy in 2020, became an advisor for risk-based licensing regulation for technology application for the Government of Indonesia.
3. Francesco Lapenta, Director, Institute of Future and Innovation Studies. John Cabot University, Rome. Focus on international collaboration, transdisciplinary research, and dialogue on emerging and future innovations of high societal relevance and impact in a variety of domains: scientific, technological, economic, environmental, cultural, and social.
4. Mercy Atieno Odongo, diplomat and public servant, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kenya. Mercy brings rich experience in diplomacy, intergovernmental relations and multilateral policy development. She is a coach in Transforming Leadership for 21st Century Africa in collaboration with Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government Executive Education in 2019 trained 70 and 2018 trained over 70 emerging leaders from across Africa on Adaptive Leadership for Africa: Chaos, Complexity and Courage. She is the founder of Adaptive Leadership Foundation.
5. Romina Garrido, Attorney-at-law, masters in law and new technologies, Coordinator of the pilots of the Ethical Algorithms project, associate researcher of GobLab, Chile; PI in the algorithmic transparency regulation project; involved in the reform of the data protection law, reform of the data protection law at the Chamber of Deputies in the National Congress; leading a latin American coalition for algorithmic transparency.
6. Hiroyuki Sanbe, Attorney-at-law, admitted in Japan (bengoshi) and New York, Partner with Atsumi & Sakai, and Guest Professor at Osaka University, Japan. He provides various legal support for companies in Japan and foreign jurisdictions in relation to recent innovations including AI. Hiroyuki is also concurrently acting as Guest Professor of Osaka University. Furthermore, he has acted as a member of the Conference toward AI Network Society of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications of Japan where guidelines for AI development and utilization were created.

Presentation Schedule

- 9:00 Opening remarks by Valentine Goddard (5min)
- 9:05 Surdas Mohit (15min)
- 9:20 Peter Furlong (10min)
- 9:30 Matheace Ramaputra (15min)
- 9:45 Francesco Lapenta (15min)
- 10:00 Mercy Atieno Odongo (15min)
- 10:15 Moderated round of questions, Peter Furlong
- 10:25 5-minute break
- 10:30 Romina Garrido (15min)
- 10:45 Hiroyuki Sanbe (15min)
- 11:25 Discussion and Q&A

11:30 Closing remarks, Valentine Goddard

Discussion Points

1. What are the implications of something as simple as the definition of AI on the governance of autonomous weapons, human rights? Narrow versus encompassing?
2. Are the emerging regulations adopting risk-based approaches over over rights-based approaches, and if so why?
3. In what way are proposed regulations or AI Policies supporting smaller businesses and innovation? Do the exceptions made to support SMEs a risk for privacy and human rights? Or on the contrary, are regulations entrenching the have-have nots status quo?
4. What are the implications of the first AI Laws on how Digital Economy Partnerships? What happens to countries with no regulation and not part of Digital Economy Partnerships? Excluded from an economic network of collab?
5. What are the opportunities for innovative partnerships structures with technology developers, academia and civil society, as well as data partnerships that balance digital gaps and favour SDGs?
6. How do we ensure trust in, and appropriation of, AI and data policies?
7. Thoughts about government use of AI? Should these regulations apply to Governments?
8. On cross-jurisdiction cooperation, how do emerging AI regulations braid meaningfully with [UN Declaration Rights Indigenous Peoples](#)?
9. Could you tell us more about "*an alternative definition of science and technology diplomacy has recently gained new momentum as an alternative practice, and an interpretation that encompasses a long alternative diplomatic tradition.*"
10. What's next? Future of legislation of the full ecosystem: sociotechnical pipeline at a global scale? Ex: When will it include data workers' rights? What are the next priorities?

Lunch Break

11:45 a.m. - 13 p.m. EST

Facing Health and Climate Crisis with Concerted Efforts and Mission-Oriented AI

13 p.m. EST

Keynote Speaker Professor Yoshua Bengio, Scientific Director, Mila, Quebec AI Research Institute. Professor Bengio's presentation will address the need for international coordination on government policies regarding AI; the need for governments to invest in technological innovation for socially important missions (e.g. health, environment, education, social justice) for which there is little or no private investment; and examples of research needed to address the current pandemic and future pandemics, particularly the antibioresistance crisis, and also in the area of climate change. 40 min + 20 min for questions.

A Roadmap to Responsible AI: Adapting legal practice and risk management to the new AI laws

14: 15 p.m. EST

Artificial intelligence (AI) is increasingly being integrated into all spheres of life and work, including the legal profession. In June 2022, the Government of Canada introduced a proposed AI and Data Act (AIDA) in conjunction with its reform of the private sector privacy framework. Its eventual adoption will mean a first in the regulation of the use of AI systems in Canada. The purpose of the AI Act is to regulate international and interprovincial trade of AI Systems by establishing common requirements for the design, development and use of these systems across Canada, prevent biased outcomes, as well as to prohibit certain conducts that may cause serious harm to individuals or their interests.

In this context, how should legal and management professionals envision the future of their practice, adapt it to emerging AI laws and manage the inherent risks?

Focused on recent developments in AI governance (Bill C-27, EU AI Act, etc.), the proposed workshop offers participants the opportunity to:

- Understand the issues and impacts of AI and PL C-27 on the practice of law;
- Identify frameworks, methods and approaches that can guide lawyers and in-house counsel in the face of emerging AI legislation;
- Prepare companies to manage legal, operational and business risks in light of AIDA.
- These discussions are particularly useful for entrepreneurs, managers, and AI investors to strategically plan important business decisions, as well as for the lawyers who advise them.

A fireside chat discussion with Dominique Payette, Head of Responsible AI Strategy, Borealis AI (RBC). Presentation of 20 minutes followed by a 10 minute discussion with Valentine Goddard around the questions below.

Discussion points

1. When implementing an organization's AI system, what are some of the legal, operational, reputational, or other risks an organization might deal with, and what are some solutions, methods they might use to mitigate them?
2. The bill clearly speaks to the impact of AI systems as high – it states 'physical or psychological harm to an individual, damage to an individual's property or economic loss to an individual'. How would you see this being interpreted and how would it affect the implementation of AI systems?

3. What are a couple of things you would focus on when raising awareness or providing education about the law relating to AI? What is the main thing you might want people to take away?
4. How can legal professionals better assess the risks inherent in using AI systems they are not familiar with? For example, a human rights lawyer may not be able to recognize a case of algorithmic bias. Are there methods, approaches, new ways of working, or even AI systems, that could strengthen a legal department?
5. A multidisciplinary organizational structure is a possible way to manage risk and deliver optimal legal services? What are your thoughts on the possibility for an AI system development team to work without consulting a lawyer and vice versa? Could you share your thoughts with an example?

What Would a Canadian Children's AI Bill of Rights Look Like?

15:00 p.m. EST

In June 2022, a number of Bills were tabled in order to The Online Harm Act, Bill C-36, proposes amendments to the Criminal Code and the Canadian Human Rights Act to eliminate hate propaganda, hate crimes and hate speech. The AI and Data Act (Bill C-27) aims to facilitate trade while mitigating the risks of AI systems in commercial activities.

Our guest speakers constructive discussion on how to best protect our children and teens from online harm, augmented marketing and psychological manipulation, geotracking and other forms of data collection and so on.

We ask our speakers will it be enough to effectively protect children's wellbeing? What more should be done in terms of design and regulation? Are children's rights equitably protected across provinces and territories? What should Impact Assessment Models for the use of AI systems on young and vulnerable populations include?

Experts

1. Eleonore Fournier–Tombs, Senior Researcher at the United Nations University in Macau.
2. Terence Hamilton, Policy Specialist at Unicef Canada and Director at the Canadian Coalition for the Rights of the Child.
3. Valerie Steeves, Professor in the Department of Criminology at the University of Ottawa. Her main area of research focuses on the impact of new technologies on human rights.

Moderator Valentine Goddard

Research and panel preparation support: Robbie Dow, McGill student in cognitive and computer science

Discussion Points

- What are the key regional, provincial and territorial differences in how children's data is protected, and how does this play out in terms of AI development and governance? For example, Professor Teresa Scassa explains that Quebec's human rights based data protection sets higher standards for other provinces and territories. Does it mean children in Quebec are better protected?
- How does Canada Compare with other countries? (Design codes and emerging legislation including Bill C-27, Online Harm bill, etc.)
- What are the implications for Indigenous children (data sovereignty)?
- What are the international standards in terms of "informed consent" to terms of service (TOS) for children? What are marketing best practices for children (if any)? For example, in the UK bans ads are against children's best interest including ads for alcohol, unhealthy food, and things that undermine parental authority or exploit children's credulity [link](#). Is this enough or should some online services benefit from being defaulted to "off"?
- Should Facial Recognition Technology (FRT) be banned for children? Or at least in the classroom?
- How do children perceive data collection ? Is 13 too young to consent? Impact on health, well-being and safety?
- What are the implications of the technical limits and grey zones: collection versus local use for classification, anonymization of children's health data?
- What does it mean to make digital governance "child-friendly"? What might that look like?
- Should we be thinking about children's digital rights as positive or negative rights?

Panel discussion, 60 minutes.

You & AI on Board: the Intentional Co-Design Process of a Serious Game on the Political Economy of AI and Data Monopolies

16:00 p.m. EST

The You&AI on Board game is a serious game that positions issues of trust, power, and concepts of political economy and geopolitics on the same board. It raises awareness on the social, political and economic implications of AI, and strengthens democratic and collaborative policy design environments for digital economies and democracies.

Already in 2016, the World Bank warned about Data Monopolies. While the pandemic was an opportunity to accelerate digital transformation, it has deepened an uneven access to opportunities in digital economies. This divide disproportionately affects women globally as the digital ecosystem is reflecting and amplifying gender inequalities in society. The You and AI on Board Game aims to highlight the critical points in social systems that cause an uneven distribution of winners and losers in digital economies, and it aims to be a tool facilitating the exploration of political, economic and legal solutions for more equitable distribution of AI's benefits and the potential of prosperity it carries.

The Co-design process is part of the game. It draws its wealth from creative, collective intelligence and a diversity of perspectives. The outcome is a tool for AI policy design aimed towards an equitable distribution of the benefits AI can bring, the achievement of SDGs and the promotion of human rights, a tool that aims to improve the understanding of important civic choices in digital economies and democracies related to AI and data governance, improve the communication channels between informed citizens and policy-makers and inform legitimate and socially acceptable policies on AI and data. The discussions facilitated by the game will create a favourable space to explore consensus on the governance of commons in digital economies and democracies. The Game and the co-design workshops are led by AI Impact Alliance.

Against the backdrop of an increasingly polarized society, of an information war putting lives at stake and a tense geopolitical race to dominate AI, citizens, educators, policy-makers and leaders need tools to imagine the complex political economy of AI, to envision mission-oriented power alliances in a digitized world, and to facilitate an equitable value-driven co-design of shared futures.

Guest Experts

1. Katrina Ingram, Founder, Ethically Aligned AI, Faculty Member - Centre for Arts and Cultural Management
2. Mathili Mavinkurve, Engineer, Industry expert and advisor in Data, Data and AI Governance, Applied AI, Emerging Technologies and Innovation
3. Sara Baptiste-Brown, Manager, Concordia University's Institute for Co-operative Education
4. Robert Bolton, Foresight Strategist, Game Designer

Discussion points

1. What are key factors to consider when designing a game on AI and Data and their complex, critical and transversal implications? Values, business model, collaboration or other relation component such as "role play"?
2. How do you win at an AI governance game? Is it individual, collective, teams?

3. How can the game take into account and reflect the digital gap, data monopolies, and redress those unbalances through game mechanics?
4. Can and should the UN's Agenda 2030 which identifies global common goals be a goal to reach in the game and if so, how?
5. In this context, how do you design characters, or tokens? Ex: what are their strengths, weaknesses and priorities?
6. How to navigate with failure and not let go with target - Snakes and Ladders - things are always changing
7. How to achieve the same goal while taking into account different cultures and value systems ?
8. How to keep the fun in Serious Games? Engage the players?

Closing Ceremony

Traditional Closing Ceremony by Amelia Tekwatonti McGregor at 16:40 p.m.

End of day at 17 p.m.

Words of Gratitude

Over the past 5 years, AI on a Social Mission has brought together hundreds of volunteers, reached over a hundred thousands viewers, engaging a record number of participants underrepresented in AI as well as international audiences from all continents. We're proud to see how this Montreal grassroots meet up became a globally recognized conference.

AI on a Social Mission is more than a conference, it is a vibrant community writing the story of purpose-oriented AI systems and sustainable digital societies. It is organized by AI Impact Alliance, and curated by the Founding Chair, Valentine Goddard.

*This 5th edition was made possible thanks to support from **Borealis AI, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada**, and from the speakers who are graciously sharing their time and expertise. Huge thanks to our volunteers, and to all participants who purchase tickets.*

Thank you!

