Old Dominion University

The Use of Artificial Intelligence in Society Jaden Howell IDS 300W Dr. Pete Baker April 28, 2023

Technology has always been a part of this planet for as long as history has been recorded. Technology is rapidly changing and growing as time moves forward and will always advance far beyond where it was in the past. Technology has brought society a new world where everyday living is made to be more comfortable. Big industries are always trying to find new ways to create and improve technology for consumers to utilize it. Technology has always aided humans with doing any and everything but that has been the extent of it, as just an aid. Technology for a long time did not have its thoughts or mind so it was us humans to use it as a boost to help with whatever the case may be. After a while in the technology timeline, Artificial intelligence came along and pushed technology along even further. It allowed for technology to have its free mind within its parameters. Artificial Intelligence Is around us in a lot of ways. For example, if you are playing a computer game against a "CPU" or "bot", that would be considered artificial intelligence. Some other examples would be the Sire or google assistant that's on your phone, or if you have an Alexa in your house. Even cars are having Artificial intelligence installed into them now as technology progresses. In recent years, Artificial Intelligence has taken over society in numerous ways that haven't always been a one-sided opinion by the people. An example of that would be with jobs. Sure, it sounds good that jobs are trying to keep up by implementing

artificial intelligence to do some tasks instead of an actual human, but what would that mean for the person that just lost that job? They now have to find somewhere else to work because a robot can now do the same job they can, and don't need to be paid.

With that being said, the use of Artificial Intelligence has been a tricky topic of discussion due to the compelling facts and statistics on both sides. On one hand, it has done a lot of good for our society and allowed it to progress along quicker than if we did not have it. On the other hand, tinkering with artificial intelligence for too long can be our downfall in human society. It is important to think about both sides because this topic could shape our future in society. It will keep changing society the more it seeps into it. For the most part, it is up to the big corporations to dictate how much and when to use artificial intelligence, but it will still affect all of us the same way so as long as we live in a technological society. People of different statuses talk about artificial intelligence and try to look at it from multiple angles when trying to figure out both the positives and the negatives. With all of that said and done, it comes down to one question; Is the use of Artificial Intelligence being used to technologically advance our society or causing a detriment? The answer varies depending on whom you ask in your society as well as their reasons for choosing that side.

A topic of this magnitude needs to be looked at from multiple different views for a justifiable answer to be formulated. Even after an answer is formulated, the people in society may see it as the correct choice but the facts and research will at least persuade them to see the other side. The reason for using an interdisciplinary approach for this question is because, like stated before, this topic needs to be seen from multiple angles due to its complexity and magnitude. A question like this can drastically change life in more ways than one so this question must be answered thoroughly and through multiple lenses. Many different sectors

would go into this topic of artificial intelligence apart from just the over society. Essentially what that means is that each sector would also have its research specific to that section of society so that way it can better evaluate the use of artificial intelligence and whether or not it should be used. That is not to say that one section of society overrules another with the decision the use artificial intelligence. The research collected and recorded for artificial intelligence would be allowed the general population to be able to view how artificial intelligence is shaping that specific region, but all those regions connect back together to show how the question affects them all as one. The use of interdisciplinary research on the question of whether or not the use of artificial intelligence is technologically advancing our society is justifiable since you are going to have to talk about different perspectives with science and social science. Even in the question it is talking about two different sciences. Not saying that just because the question talks about two different areas of study means that they will always need to be interdisciplinary research. But in this case, you are using one area to try to understand another area. Which will mean that you will need perhaps one more area or two to fully justify the answer.

With the question of artificial intelligence being used to technologically advance or deter society, one must think about the disciplines that can go into this interdisciplinary research study. Many perspectives can be looked at. Some could choose to do law and politics as well as psychology as the disciplines for this research study. It would not be the best choice for this, but those disciplines would have some helpful insight into the complex question. Since the question revolves around the idea of how society would be affected by this, one discipline that will greatly help with the interdisciplinary process would be sociology or social studies. Learning about society and how artificial intelligence ties into it alone can help it along with the other disciplines, especially when trying to create a middle ground. Sociology is always important no matter the question since it is about learning and understanding how the society you live in works and flows which will greatly help with the research on the question. Another discipline that will greatly help with this interdisciplinary research is economics. Artificial intelligence costs money to create and maintain, however, it also brings in money and generates revenue for the overall economy, not just for the one that it is initially a part of. Economics is vital for knowing whether or not something should exist in society because a major part of being in a society is having a stable economy. Artificial Intelligence playing a role in the economy is crucial to the question because it could make either something good into something better or something bad into something worse. So, when figuring out those main points, the findings would help connect everything and better follow the path to the right answer. The last discipline that will provide helpful insight into the interdisciplinary research of this question is ethics. Ethics plays a role in everything and anything. Ethics essentially tells us whether or not it would be right to do something. Artificial Intelligence has a lot of ethical questions, and the use of artificial intelligence can widely range depending on the person who has it in their possession. Not everyone has the same ethical opinion about topics but researching what professionals have stated about the ethics of a certain topic can make a person think about whether or not it should be allowed to use and how or the limitations of how it can be used. Not to mention that Artificial intelligence has a specific mind of its own at a certain point. When you leave it to do a certain task, you are putting trust in a nonhuman entity which could come with some risks. This discipline is important in deciding whether or not keeping artificial intelligence is a good idea or if artificial intelligence will be the downfall of society one day.

Throughout all of these disciplines, researchers have made compelling points for both sides of the argument. Within the discipline of ethics, they talk about the power that artificial

intelligence has once it is in control of its actions without human interference or human assistance. "... the fact that it is possible to entirely delegate to computers the decision on whether to attack (or respond in self-defense against) another State raises important questions as to whether computers are more (or equally) fit than humans in taking such decisions, as they lack of the situational awareness and political understanding of reality," (Stroppa, 2023). As previously stated, artificial intelligence can be used for a wide variety of things and programmed to carry out tasks needed for the organization or for whoever is utilizing it. If something happens that they can counteract against, even if in that situation that issue was not something that they were programmed to go after, the chances of the artificial intelligence to learn and make its own choices are not zero. Artificial intelligence is quick and reactive without the need for sentiment and doubt. Whereas a human could be hesitant with making an important choice in a situation, artificial intelligence will think of the solutions and pick the best one in that scenario. However, the best-case scenario does not mean that it is always the right one to do. What that means is that it may excel in one way, making it the best-case scenario for that specific situation, but there could have been a downside that could have been avoided if chosen another route. Artificial intelligence cannot make that choice of what is ethically right to do, only what is statistically the right option to do at that moment. Advocates explain that the ethics of artificial intelligence is applied by the fact that they allow for the human individual to be able to focus on other important things rather than the task that the artificial intelligence is doing. AI is a functional tool for emancipating people from routine work tasks, thus expanding the possibilities of their selfrealization and the utilization of individual interests and aspirations through more meaningful spending of time (Kowalikova, 2021). Artificial Intelligence will always be a topic of ethics due to its vast ability to be able to replicate the same task that a human can do. Since not every

society is made up of the same, it can be a challenge to figure out what is needed and when and for which entity to do the job. At the same time, that also feeds into the rules and regulations of artificial intelligence.

Outside of the ethical perspective, one must be able to see the perspective of how it would shape our economy if it was or wasn't a role within it. People opposed to the use of artificial intelligence within our technology would say that people are losing jobs which would greatly affect the economy since many positions of work in the workforce would not be needed anymore. "...intelligent systems are displacing humans in manufacturing, service delivery, recruitment, and the financial industry, consequently moving human workers towards lower-paid jobs or making them unemployed. This trend has led some to conclude that in 2040 our workforce may be totally unrecognizable," (De Cremer, 2021). With that in mind, however, new jobs would have to emerge with the new technology. People may not work the same job as before, but they can learn how to work with artificial intelligence in different jobs. In that scenario that would mean that jobs may go away but new jobs would come in which would help the economy more than hurt it. In an economy where data is changing how companies create value — and compete — experts predict that using artificial intelligence (AI) at a larger scale will add as much as \$15.7 trillion to the global economy by 2030(De Cremer). Using those statistics, it is easy to see that artificial intelligence would benefit the economic side of society by a lot, and it would only be adapting to be better once experts know more ways to control and utilize it.

Sociology plays a major role in the development of artificial intelligence. Artificial intelligence will be around for as long as society keeps it around, so it is important to find a way to have it evenly woven to connect. A sociological conception of AI adds up to the open line of

investigation about wide social implications, offering crucial understanding for designers and developers trying to anticipate possible negative consequences (Sartori 2022). Although that may sound like a negative, with it saying that it is actively looking for the negatives, it is a positive because it allows us to see into the future and make critical choices because of that. With that in mind, making those choices could also be an economic benefit in deciding how to utilize artificial intelligence in the workforce to maximize money while minimizing spending as well.

These disciplines are key points in finding out whether or not artificial intelligence is advancing technology or slowing it down. With these conflicting arguments within the disciplines, without a clear answer as to which side is correct, it could cause society to slow down with advancements. If people are skeptical about the use of artificial intelligence, then they may not use it which could make it seem like artificial intelligence was causing society to fall off. On the other hand, if they do create that fall off due to the untrustworthiness of the artificial intelligence, if it was advancing society then the slowdown would have ultimately pushed back society however many years. While there is a consensus among researchers about the rising trends and transformative nature of AI, the speculative interpretations about its economic impact and value for productivity are less conclusive (Vertesy, 2021). The value is what society sees it as which can change the fate of a product, in this case, the product being artificial intelligence.

When it comes to the disciplines, they intertwine with their ideas on the topic of artificial intelligence. Experts in economy and sociology look towards the future when it comes to artificial intelligence since it is a growing product that helps with technology. Technology also grows so it needs to be able to keep going forward. In one statement, experts have stated that artificial intelligence technology has brought great innovation and impact to the company's operation and management and has a strong role in promoting the level of corporate governance.

(Razzaq, 2022). Economic growth also impacts society and sociology. With that in mind, if it is positively impacting both of those, then the ethics of the product can be seen as right. If we take this technological allegory to the extreme, we can say that technologies can to some extent constitute social reality (Kowalikova, 2021). Technology is within society so much that it is not seen as an extra but as an extension. Artificial Intelligence is essentially also an extension to help with technology.

The topic of artificial intelligence is a challenge due to the complexity of both the artificial intelligence itself, and how everyone perceives it. Not everyone looks at it the same way. There have been different media sources and movies that depict artificial intelligence in both the good light and the bad light Through the ethical standpoint, you can see how to manage artificial intelligence the right way, however. Once you add in the societal rules that have already been in use for the previous technology, you can fully immerse artificial intelligence in the same way that society did with the other technologies for it to build. Artificial intelligence and other technologies provide us with much useful information needed for decision-making and powerful computing power, which to a certain extent solves the problem of uncertainty caused by information asymmetry and the problem of decision-making errors caused by limited human ability, the development of artificial intelligence technology has made the intellectualization of corporate governance feasible (Zhang, 2020). If society has been benefiting from technology, the application of a form of technology in addition to technology would only help progress in the future. Time and time again, technologies and inventions have come together to form greater things that allowed for numerous new creations and ways of living. Society has shown that it has not fallen due to the mixture of technologies or innovations in the past, in addition to the more advance we become, the less of a chance we have of failing as a whole.

References:

Stroppa, M. (2023). Legal and ethical implications of autonomous cyber capabilities: A call for retaining human control in cyberspace. Ethics and Information Technology, 25(1), 7.

Rakowski, R., Polak, P., & Kowalikova, P. (2021). Ethical Aspects of the Impact of AI: The Status of Humans in the Era of Artificial Intelligence. Society (New Brunswick), 58(3), 196-203.

Cui, X., Xu, B., & Razzaq, A. (2022). Can Application of Artificial Intelligence in Enterprises Promote the Corporate Governance? Frontiers in Environmental Science, 10, Frontiers in environmental science, 2022, Vol.10.

Zhang, J. (2020). Intelligent Management: Theoretical Innovation and Technology Development [J]. *Fujian Forum Humanit. Soc. Sci.* 10.

Sartori, L., & Theodorou, A. (2022). A sociotechnical perspective for the future of AI: Narratives, inequalities, and human control. Ethics and Information Technology, 24(1), Ethics and information technology, 2022, Vol.24 (1).

De Cremer, D., Kasparov, K. (2021). AI Should Augment Human Intelligence, Not Replace It. Business And Society,