



Establishing an AI Ethics Lab in the UAE

Introduction: As artificial intelligence (AI) continues to shape various aspects of society, it is imperative to address the ethical implications of AI technologies. Recognizing the need for a dedicated platform to promote ethical AI innovation, we propose the establishment of an AI Ethics Lab under ENAI WG Centre for Academic Integrity in the UAE (ECAIU). This lab will serve as a center of excellence for training, research and collaboration on AI ethics, catering to diverse stakeholders including academia, industry, government, and civil society.

Objectives:

- **Research:** Conduct interdisciplinary research on ethical issues related to AI, including bias, fairness, transparency, accountability, privacy, and societal impact.
- **Education/Training:** Offer courses, workshops, and training programs to educate students, professionals, and organizations on AI ethics and responsible AI practices.
- **Outreach:** Engage with the wider community through seminars, conferences, and public events to raise awareness and foster dialogue on AI ethics.
- **Consultancy:** Provide advisory services and resources to support organizations in developing and implementing ethical AI strategies and policies.
- **Collaboration:** Facilitate partnerships and collaborations between academia, industry, government, and civil society to address ethical challenges and promote ethical AI innovation.

Key Activities:

- **Research Projects:** Conduct empirical studies, case analyses, and theoretical inquiries into various aspects of AI ethics, with a focus on addressing real-world challenges and advancing ethical frameworks.
- **Education/Training and Workshops:** Develop and deliver courses, workshops, and certification programs on AI ethics for students, professionals, and organizations, utilizing a blend of online and in-person learning modalities.
- **Ethics Advisory Services:** Offer consultancy services to startups, corporations, and government agencies, providing tailored guidance and recommendations on ethical AI design, deployment, and governance.
- **Public Engagement:** Organize seminars, panel discussions, and public lectures on timely topics in AI ethics, inviting experts from academia, industry, government, and civil society to share insights and perspectives.
- **Policy Advocacy:** Contribute to the development of ethical guidelines, standards, and regulations for AI technologies through policy research, advocacy initiatives, and engagement with policymakers and regulatory bodies.

Resources:

- **Faculty Expertise:** Leverage the multidisciplinary expertise of faculty members from diverse fields such as computer science, ethics, business, sociology, and psychology to drive research and education initiatives.
- **Infrastructure:** Establish dedicated lab facilities equipped with state-of-the-art computing resources, research tools, and collaboration spaces to support research and educational activities.
- **Partnerships:** Forge strategic partnerships with industry partners, governmental agencies, non-profit organizations, and international institutions to enhance the impact and reach of the lab's initiatives.
- **Funding:** Seek funding support from government grants, corporate sponsorships, philanthropic donations, and research grants to sustain the lab's operations and initiatives.

Impact:

- **Academic Excellence:** Contribute to the advancement of knowledge and scholarship in the field of AI ethics through rigorous research and publications in leading academic journals and conferences.
- **Ethical Innovation:** Foster a culture of responsible AI innovation by equipping students, professionals, and organizations with the knowledge, skills, and resources to address ethical challenges and promote ethical AI practices.
- **Public Awareness:** Raise awareness and promote dialogue on AI ethics among the wider community, including policymakers, industry leaders, civil society organizations, and the general public, to ensure that AI technologies are developed and deployed in a manner that serves the common good.

Conclusion:

The establishment of an AI Ethics Lab under ECAIU represents a significant opportunity to lead the discourse on AI ethics in the region and beyond. By fostering interdisciplinary research, education, and collaboration, the lab aims to advance ethical AI innovation and contribute to the responsible development and deployment of AI technologies for the benefit of society. We invite stakeholders from academia, industry, government, and civil society to join us in this important endeavour and help shape the future of AI ethics.

Soft launch:

27th April 2024, UOWD Building

Approved: ECAIU Board (March 2024)

Endorsement:



Event partner:





Call for Industry/Academic Partnerships

In the evolving landscape of AI, the role of industry is pivotal in shaping the direction of ethical AI practices. The AI Ethics Lab under ECAIU seeks to establish robust collaborations with industry partners to harness their expertise, resources, and influence in fostering ethical AI innovation. These collaborations are aimed at bridging the gap between theoretical ethics and practical, real-world AI applications, ensuring that the development and deployment of AI technologies are guided by ethical principles that benefit society at large.

Key Areas of Collaboration

Provision of Expert Speakers: Engage industry leaders and experts as guest speakers for seminars, workshops, and educational programs. This will provide students and professionals with valuable insights into the practical challenges and ethical considerations in the development and deployment of AI technologies. Industry experts can share their experiences, case studies, and best practices, enriching the learning experience and fostering a culture of ethical AI innovation.

Endorsements and Contributions to Policy Papers: Collaborate with industry partners in the research and development of green and white policy papers on AI ethics. These papers will address critical issues such as bias, fairness, transparency, and accountability in AI technologies. Industry endorsements will lend credibility and practical relevance to these papers, enhancing their impact on policy formulation and regulatory frameworks.

Hosting Joint Talks and Workshops: Organize talks, panel discussions, and workshops in partnership with industry leaders. These events can focus on current ethical dilemmas in AI, emerging technologies, and future trends, offering a platform for interdisciplinary dialogue and learning. Hosting these events will facilitate the exchange of ideas and promote collaboration between academia and industry, driving the advancement of ethical AI practices.

Collaborative Research Projects: Engage in joint research projects with industry partners to explore ethical challenges in AI. These projects can focus on developing ethical frameworks, tools, and methodologies for assessing and mitigating ethical risks in AI applications. Collaborative research will leverage the practical experience of industry partners and the academic expertise of the AI Ethics Lab, leading to innovative solutions that address real-world ethical challenges in AI.

Advisory Roles and Ethical Audits: Industry partners can serve in advisory roles, offering guidance and support for startups and organizations in implementing ethical AI practices. Furthermore, industry partners can collaborate in conducting ethical audits of AI systems, ensuring that they adhere to ethical guidelines and standards. This collaboration will help organizations navigate the complex ethical landscape of AI, fostering responsible innovation and trust in AI technologies.

If an industry partner is interested to support the lab, the partner will be expected to sign a non-binding MOU with the host campus of the Centre, University of Wollongong in Dubai.

For more details or to initiate partnership conversation, please email uaeaicentre@gmail.com