

## HUMAN RIGHTS AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

**Ingrid Ileana NICOLAU, PhD.**  
Spiru Haret University, Constanta, Romania  
*ingridnicolau@yahoo.com*

### **Abstract**

*Artificial Intelligence has the potential to help human beings maximize their time, freedom and happiness. At the same time, it can lead us to a dystopian society. Therefore, finding the right balance between technological development and protection of human rights is an urgent matter on which relies the future of the society we want to live in.*

*"Use of Artificial Intelligence in our life is growing, currently covering a wide range of domains. Something seemingly trivial like avoiding traffic jam by use of an intelligent navigation system or getting the offers directed by a trustworthy trader is the result of data analysis that can be used by AI systems", stated Dunja Mijatović, European Council Commissioner for Human Rights.*

**Keywords:** *artificial intelligence, human rights, society, robot laws, robot ethics.*

### **Introduction**

Artificial intelligence (AI) is a smart digital system that learns on its own, develops its own search and learning systems, can even have its own language (without being understood by humans), develops its own artificial neural networks, can write its own programs, but most important is the fact that it has decision-making power. Depending on the knowledge it has, it can decide the actions that it does or does not do, being able to predict their result. In other words, AI is no longer dependent on human command. Therefore, AI evolves alone, by analyzing the data, gradually expanding its neural networks, improving its performance. It learns at a higher speed than humans, it plans its way of learning and structuring the data and, above all, decides on its own [1].

In 1942 the Russian science fiction writer Isaac Asimov conceived the "Three Laws of Robotics": 1) A robot cannot hurt a man or, by inaction, cannot allow a man to be injured 2) A robot must obey the orders given by humans unless such orders would contravene the first rule 3) A robot must protect itself as long as this protection does not contravene the first and second rules.

For 75 years, these clauses have inspired research and cohesion regarding the rights of robots. However, today, Asimov's rules seem rather simplistic and outdated because they focus more on humans than on robots.

The impact of computers on the world since the advent of the first UNIVAC computer in 1946 has been profound. At first, the idea of having a personal computer in the office, home or school seemed inconceivable. Today personal computers are accepted as part of our modern world.

Computer processors are used to operate cars, TVs, offices, airplanes and defense systems, and these are just a few examples. The next stage of the progress of computers as mobile units, robots, can, like the personal computer, become a regular partner at home and at work.

The spearhead of computer technology is the development of artificial intelligence (AI) and the realization of living computer circuits, called biochips. AI development requires a leap in the computer interface, a huge leap over various data, things that a programmable machine has failed to do.

Effectively, the computer must skip the variables, instead of analyzing them individually. One of the essential difficulties in developing such thinking of computers is the conversion of the holistic thinking process into linear descriptions of written language. The analysis of the common sense is not in line with the FORTRAN programming logic language. "For example, there is no programming language today that makes the difference between a dish and a mug" [2].

During these explosive times of high-tech innovation, the contact between machines with artificial intelligence and humans will grow rapidly. Intelligent computer devices, especially specialized systems, now make decisions in medicine, oil exploration, space exploration, air traffic control, trains and graphic design to name just a few of the impact areas. The most important quality of specialized systems is their infinite ability to store even the most insignificant information and to access it at huge speeds and to compare it with other information in order to make instant decisions.

Eric Horvitz, head of the research department at Microsoft believes that with the development of AI, certain problems, such as those of legal, ethical and psychological nature will arise. [3]

### **The impact of AI in society**

AI is no longer a fiction or a laboratory research, it is a reality that has begun to have a major impact on society. For this impact we must prepare. What an AI can do is

pretty much everything a person can do at work. It can handle objects, it can recognize handwriting, it can recognize faces with great accuracy - it can even recognize the emotional state of the human being after the features of the face at that time - it can understand the language and even translate instantly when appropriate, it recognizes fingerprints and can detect obstacles, weather forecasts, medical diagnoses and has the ability to adapt quickly, without problems, under extreme conditions, etc.

Randall Davis of MIT says about artificial intelligence the following: 1) it can solve problems 2) it can explain results 3) it can learn from experience 4) it can structure its knowledge 5) it is able to break rules when necessary 6) it can determine relevance. Currently, computers are capable of accomplishing the first three tasks, but they cannot be reprogrammed alone, nor can they break rules. [4].

An essential thing that should be considered is the privacy, the protection of personal data in the interaction with an AI. Personal data are information relating to the person, that is, that information concerning the personal, public or professional life - information regarding the physical or physiological identity, physical or digital address, information posted on websites, medical information, information related to digital codes of accession.

The collection and / or processing of personal data means any operation that is carried out on personal data, which one does. This data can be collected by an AI which is able to find out the most intimate things about a person in a very short time. From blood pressure, blood composition and the diseases they suffer from, to physical or digital addresses, where that person was, with whom and what he/she talked about that day, or what his/her bank accounts are.

In the context of the above, this question is also essential: what freedoms and rights will we have in the "AI era"? How far will be the right to privacy respected?

On the occasion of the Davos meeting in January 2018, at the World Economic Forum, the ability to adapt companies to the new and revolutionary AI challenge was discussed. What has been made very clear was that "the fourth industrial revolution will eliminate millions of jobs" [5]. Another essential aspect that has been specified and must be kept in mind is that we need a concomitant revolution in training and education, encouraging innovation and adaptability.

Let's not overlook the fact that AI can "reproduce" itself by programming AI-robots [6], with an efficiency that man cannot reach. A single AI can program 10,000 robots at a time, says Kai Fu Lee, President and CEO of Sinovation Ventures, while pointing out that about half of all jobs will soon disappear and be replaced with AI. [7]

Singapore announces that by 2022, it will introduce public driverless buses [8]. The Swedish Transport Agency announced in December 2017 that, starting from 2018, it will introduce driverless buses in public transport [9].

As you can see, AI can do - and even with much higher efficiency (- everything that man does at present, at work.

Will entrepreneurs prefer to implement AI in their companies or will they prefer human staff? There are companies that have already purchased and developed AI [10]. So, we think the answer is predictable: yes, companies will prefer AI because the costs are much lower, and the efficiency increases considerably. AI does not get tired, does not need a meal break, does not need rest and does not have to work only 8 hours a day; moreover, it does not need a salary. [11]

If we look at what an AI can do in relation to human capacity, then it is even more effective and it can be considered superior. Will it be so? If so, how will society approach such a situation, such a change?

Society has to learn much more quickly to adapt to the new, otherwise personal misunderstandings and tensions will give rise to conflicts that can lead to wars. It is necessary to realize that it is a responsibility on our part to educate the new generations, considering the future from this perspective. Everything is based on education and lifelong learning, respect for moral principles and especially respect for everything arounds us.[12]

## **Romania and IA**

AI already exists in Romania, for the time being in the security systems of companies and in call centers, but more and more entrepreneurs are interested in implementing it even more in companies, thus replacing the human labour force.[13]

Another interesting news is that Romania will be the first country to have AI as an ambassador. It will answer questions about Romania, to all foreigners, make

recommendations for visiting certain tourist areas in the country, talk about people's habits and their way of life. In November 2017, the Association of Business Services Leaders in Romania (ABSL) met in a conference discussing, among others, about the influence of artificial intelligence on the performance of the service industry. "The leaders of the business services industry in Romania pointed out that the technology and the introduction of artificial intelligence was an instrument that could give more meaning and more value to the human being, by taking over the repetitive, routine activities. Therefore, the implementation of artificial intelligence does not in any way diminish the importance of the human capital, but it repositions it, traditional values such as: responsibility, attention and respect for those around us, verticality and transparency, being essential in the future. The technology is constantly changing, and the investment in education prevails, so that, in the years to come, there will be more mentors than heads or hierarchical superiors." [14]

IA will replace the unskilled staff in Romania said in an interview Iulian Stanciu, the general manager of eMag, the largest online retailer in Romania and the owner of the Flanco store chain. The official says that eMag is already investing in artificial intelligence because it saves time. [15]

Whether we are talking about multinational or state-owned private companies, if we are just thinking about replacing the staff with AI, from jobs such as drivers, cashiers, couriers, salesmen, there are millions of people who will remain out of work. Replacing the human labour force with AI is no longer just a discussion, it is a reality, it is no longer just a SF matter, but it is something that society should think about and anticipate by updating legislation and social protection in a way or another of the people. The issue is not if, but how soon will the social and statistical loss of jobs begin to be observed?

There are some people who believe that there is no threat on jobs, that we should be calm and that it will take at least 50 years until robots replace the human staff. Will it be so? We do not think that we need to be "calm", we must rather carefully and responsibly look at the labour market and education, precisely so as not to get into the situation of losing our jobs and being unprepared for those times. It will not take 50 years, because AI does not need 50 years to evolve nor generations in a row to experiment. It

has a very large and very fast learning capacity. What we need to do is to be active and learn from the mistakes of the past, observe the labour market and society's needs and adapt using new technologies, improving our way of life and work, being creative, but at the same time proposing legislative regulations having view of the future needs of society. However, even in the event that these transformations will last 10-15 years, we believe that the new generations should be prepared for what is to come. We think that we have the moral duty to prepare them for the situations in which they will be put and for the conscious exposure to new technologies, such as AI.

We cannot go back to what it was, nor can we stand still, technologically speaking, because of fear, or of the strong social impact that society will feel. It is basically impossible. But it is necessary to find legal solutions that respect all the moral and legal principles learned so far to protect human society in its interaction with AI.

From the data analysis done by the McKinsey Global Institute, supplemented by interviews and research by specialists, nearly 600 AI uses were highlighted in all major industries. [16]. Between 400 and 800 million employees will be replaced by AI until 2030, shows a new study by the consulting firm McKinsey.

Google CEO Sunder Pichai, says that AI is the most important discovery, deeper than electricity and fire. And just as we learned to use the two, we will also learn to work with AI.

Electricity, fire, atomic energy can kill people; all discoveries are risky and can lead to loss of human life, if misused, to the detriment of people and the principles that govern life. But also, when used wisely, electricity, fire, atomic energy and other major discoveries that humanity has made, have saved lives, helped humanity, greatly improving the quality of life, leading even to the prolongation of life and even to an evolution of it. In this way, we should also think about the new AI creations.

## **Conclusions**

Technology is advancing at an exponential rate. Genetic engineering, lasers, space settlements, telecommunications, computers, robotics all bring social, economic and political changes as it has never happened before in the history of mankind. Unfortunately, it is difficult for people and institutions to keep up with such changes. One day the robots will be in our houses, as play partners for children, servants for adults.

They will be in court as judges, they will be in hospitals as caretakers, they will perform dangerous military tasks in our place, they will clean up pollution and save us from numerous accidents.

Therefore, AI can be the path to a substantial increase in the living standard of mankind throughout the planet, finding solutions to use it, increasing the quality of life of all people on the planet, helping us to considerably extend life. Changing the consciousness of mankind, changing the way of thinking and acting, can lead to the improvement of the life of every human being and thus of the whole society.

It is necessary for mankind to be able to learn from past mistakes and to act early in order to avoid major social tensions and even wars. The need to train and educate new generations in this regard is a responsibility that we should take on to ensure a future in which children and young people will understand that life can be also lived in a different way than what they are seeing today around them. [17]

Education based on knowledge, kindness, understanding, balance, on highlighting one's qualities and not on competition and envy, is a necessity.

We need to explain to children and young people why it is necessary to learn and have knowledge, we must explain to them that not only AI may be a threat, but there is also a danger of self-destruction. They must also know that AI may be a threat not only to jobs, but it may be a real threat to the extinction of humanity if we do not learn to go beyond the values of humanity. To do this, we must educate and teach children and young people which are the true values of humanity, so that they have a clear system of values to which they can relate permanently. Then, we need to educate the children and young people to be as united as possible, to motivate them to learn, to have knowledge and also to teach them how to work as a team, not to be divided, envious, but to find permanent support among them. Team spirit, knowledge, kindness and balance are the future, and not competition, envy and evil.

If we start doing this, we will work very well with AI, and the future of humanity will be as we cannot imagine it at this moment.

#### **REFERENCES:**

[1] <http://www.laurageorgescu.ro/inteligenta-artificiala-si-impactul-ei-societate/>

[2] Shurkin N. Joel, "Expert Systems: The Practical Face of Artificial Intelligence," in Science, vol. 227, no. 4687, The MIT Press, Cambridge, MA, p. 78;

- [3] <https://digipedia.ro/inteligenta-artificiala-daunatoare-pentru-viitorul-omenirii/>
- [4] Shurkin N. Joel, "Expert Systems: The Practical Face of Artificial Intelligence," in Science, vol.227, no.4687, The MIT Press, Cambridge, MA. P. 75;
- [5] <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2018/01/the-world-is-changing-here-s-how-companies-must-adapt/>
- [6] <https://www.wsj.com/video/series/moving-upstream/the-robot-revolution-the-new-age-of-manufacturing-moving-upstream/>
- [7] <https://www.cnbc.com/2017/11/13/ex-google-china-president-a-i-to-obliterate-white-collar-jobs-first.html>
- [8] <http://www.bbc.com/news/business-42090987>
- [9] <https://www.thelocal.se/20171227/stockholm-gets-scandinavias-first-driverless-buses-on-public-road>
- [10] <https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2017/jan/11/robots-jobs-employees-artificial-intelligence>
- [11] <http://www.laurageorgescu.ro/inteligenta-artificiala-si-impactul-ei-societate/>
- [12] <http://www.laurageorgescu.ro/inteligenta-artificiala-si-impactul-ei-societate/>
- [13] <https://www.cnbc.com/2017/11/13/ex-google-china-president-a-i-to-obliterate-white-collar-jobs-first.html>
- [14] <http://www.transilvabiusiness.ro/inteligenta-artificiala-motorul-performance-industry-services-for-business-in-romania/>
- [15] <https://www.libertatea.ro/stiri/exclusiv-iulian-stanciu-seful-emag-robotii-vor-lua-locurile-de-munca-atunci-cand-salariile-vor-ajunge-la-1-000-of-euro-2125591>
- [16] <https://www.mckinsey.com/industries/advanced-electronics/our-insights/artificial-intelligence-the-time-to-act-is-now>
- [17] <http://www.laurageorgescu.ro/inteligenta-artificiala-si-impactul-ei-societate/>