

# AI Ethics

An overview from a philosophical perspective

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- 2. The challenges of AI ethics**
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  - b. Informing – people
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# Introduction: AI today





# I. Introduction: AI today

- Not just SciFi anymore – part of everyday life
- Not only robots – mostly software
- Recommender systems, decision making systems, generative AI / communication systems (chat bots – chatGPT), systems that create profiles on the basis of data
- On the basis of automation and a deep and large-scale connection between technologies and our lifeworld (Marc Weiser: ‚ubiquitous computing‘)
- High influence on individual lives and society – AI ethics are necessary to shape, inform and reflect

# The challenge of AI ethics





## 2. The challenge of AI ethics

### Two (iterative) steps of making AI ethical

- Transforming human values into evaluation criteria
  - HLEG on Trustworthy AI: respect for human autonomy; prevention of harm; fairness; explicability
- Designing an appropriate practice (systems + usage)
  - HLEG: human agency and oversight; technical robustness and safety; privacy and data governance; transparency; diversity, non-discrimination and fairness; environmental and societal well-being; accountability

### The problem of technological ,invisibility‘

- Philosophy, media theory: Heidegger, McLuhan...
- When we use technologies, we quit to ‘see’ them
- Already with physical tools – even more with software
- Additional task for AI ethics: making and keeping risks and potentials visible



# The challenge of AI ethics

## AI ethics is about ...

... asking the right questions ...

... at the right time ...

... and provide a persistent space for reflection

## Change is the moment of visibility!



<https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/ethics-guidelines-trustworthy-ai>

## Tasks of AI ethics







## 3. Tasks of AI ethics

### Shaping

- Accompany technological development and deployment – e. g. ethical-by-design, value-sensitive design
- Co-create the technological future in a participative and anticipative process – e. g. constructive technology assessment
- Prepare regulations (e. g. policy advice)

### Informing

- ... about risks and potentials
- Clarify realistic expectations (ascriptions vs. responsible usage – frustration vs. acceptance)
- Show options for human oversight and control

### Reflecting

- ... on long-term risks and impact, on tension between values
- ... on an appropriate human self-understanding in relation to technologies (autonomy!)
- Re-bind technologies to the practices they transform or even replace – reflect gains and losses



# Bibliography

High-Level Expert Group on Artificial Intelligence, set up by the European Commission (2019): Ethics Guidelines for Trustworthy AI. Online: <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/ethics-guidelines-trustworthy-ai>



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**Thank you for your interest and attention!**

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