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ACADEMIC NEWS

AI GOVERNANCE IN 2019 — A YEAR IN REVIEW: OBSERVATIONS OF 50 GLOBAL EXPERTS

On April 30, 2020, the Shanghai Institute for Science of Science held an international conference on artificial intelligence (AI) governance and released an important report, *AI Governance in 2019 — A Year in Review: Observations of 50 Global Experts*. This report promotes exchanges and communication between academic researchers, policymakers, and industry practitioners in this rapidly changing (AI) field.[1] GUO Rui, a law professor at Renmin University of China (RUC) who specializes in the ethics and governance of AI, offered his view. Professor GUO is a member of the Sub-Committee of User Interface, National Standardization Committee of Information Technology, and the Lead Expert for the Research Group on the Ethics of AI appointed by AI Working Group, Standardization Administration of the People's Republic of China (SAC). He participated in the drafting of the first AI standardization white paper (published in 2018) and led the drafting of the *AI Ethical Risks of AI Research Report* (published in May 2019 by AI Working Group, SAC).

AI Governance in 2019 — A Year in Review: Observations of 50 Global Experts attracted contributions from 50 world-class experts (44 institutions), from AI scientists, academic researchers, industry representatives to policy experts, among others, including some world-renowned experts: FU Ying, former Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs and Director of the Center for International Security and Strategy at Tsinghua University; John Hopcroft, a professor at Cornell University and a winner of the Turing Award; Irakli Beridze, the Head of the Centre for AI and Robotics at the United Nations, who was one of the recipients of the Nobel Peace Prize; Eva Kaili, a member of the European Parliament; YANG Qiang, a professor at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology and General Chair of the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AAAI) 2021; Francesca Rossi, the AI Ethics Global Leader and a member of the EU High-Level Expert Group on AI; Allan Dafoe, Director of the Centre for the Governance of AI, University of Oxford; Wendell Wallach, a professor and a science and technology ethicist at Yale University, etc. This group of experts covers a wide range of regional developments and perspectives, including those in the United States, Europe, and

[1] See *AI Governance in 2019 — A Year in Review: Observations of 50 Global Experts*, Shanghai Institute for Science of Science (Shanghai), (Apr., 2020), available at https://www.aigovernancereview.com/ (last visited Jun. 15, 2019).

Asia.[2]

The AI Governance in 2019 — A Year in Review: Observations of 50 Global Experts focuses on the key progress in the governance of AI over 2019. This report consists of six parts: Part 1 Technical Perspectives from World-Class Scientists; Part 2 Interdisciplinary Analyses from Professional Researchers; Part 3 Responsible Leadership from the Industry; Part 4 Global Efforts from the International Community; Part 5 Regional Developments from Policy Practitioners; Part 6 Emerging Initiatives from China.

As experts observed, 2019 marked the year of transition from the formulation of AI governance principles to action. Countries strived to promote AI governance to keep pace with technological development by holding forums, publishing reports, and formulating specifications. New AI strategies and governance documents were proposed in 2019 by the United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the EU, European Parliament, China, the US, Japan, the UAE, etc. Top AI companies around the world are working actively in research and development of ethical and beneficial AI, as well as good governance.[3]

In 2019, there was an increasing number of professional institutions introduced into the field, including the Schwartz Reisman Institute for Technology and Society at the University of Toronto, the Center for Security and Emerging Technology in Washington, DC, the Institute for AI Ethics, and the Governance of Emerging Technologies Programme at the Oxford Internet Institute. Several meaningful new global forums were held, including the United Nations Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Digital Cooperation, the Global Partnership for AI, and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Principles and Policy Observatory. A growing degree of global consensus and a convergence of attention from industry and policymaking communities can be witnessed in 2019.[4]

One of the distinguishing features of this report is that some of the key policy advisors and experts from China were invited to introduce the current status on China's AI governance, including FU Ying, former Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs and Director of the Center for International Security and Strategy at Tsinghua University; ZHAO Zhiyun, Director of the New-Generation AI Development Research Center of the Ministry of Science and Technology; LI Xiuquan, Research Fellow of Chinese Academy of Science

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[2] Id.

[3] Danit Gal, *Localizing AI Ethics and Governance in East Asia* (73–74); CHEN Dingding, *An Important Issue of the International Relations: AI Governance* (63–64); Pascale Fung, *Towards a Formal Process of Ethical AI* (13–14), respectively in *AI Governance in 2019 — A Year in Review: Observations of 50 Global Experts*, fn. 1.

[4] Allan Dafoe & Markus Anderljung, *The Rapid Growth in the Field of AI Governance* (17–18); Jessica Cussins Newman, *A Global Reference Point for AI Governance* (61–62), respectively in *AI Governance in 2019 — A Year in Review: Observations of 50 Global Experts*, fn. 1.

and Technology for Development; DUAN Weiwen, a professor at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences; LUAN Qun, from the China Center for Information Industry Development under the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology; GUO Rui, Director of the Center for Social Responsibility and Governance of the RUC's Law and Technology Institute; WANG Yingchun, Head of Research Department of Science, Technology and Society at Shanghai Institute for Science of Science.

Moreover, in 2019, various principles, standards, and declarations of AI ethics and governance were released. These include "Governance Principles for a New Generation of Artificial Intelligence: Develop Responsible Artificial Intelligence," the "Beijing AI Principles" released by Beijing Academy of Artificial Intelligence (BAAI), the artificial intelligence ethical principles in "AI Ethical Risks of AI Research Report" proposed by AI Working Group, SAC, and "Chinese Prospects for the Standardization of Robot Ethics" (2019) by National Robotics Standardization Working Group and Peking University.[5]

From the global perspective, AI governance has attracted worldwide attention. But just as one expert said that in 2020 and beyond, we need to work actively to implement the proposed good practice guidelines and a formal software process to ensure fairness, accountability, and transparency of AI systems.[6]

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[5] DUAN Weiwen, *Towards a Robust and Agile Framework for the Ethics and Governance of AI* (87–88), in *AI Governance in 2019 — A Year in Review: Observations of 50 Global Experts*, fn. 1.

[6] See Fung, fn. 3.

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