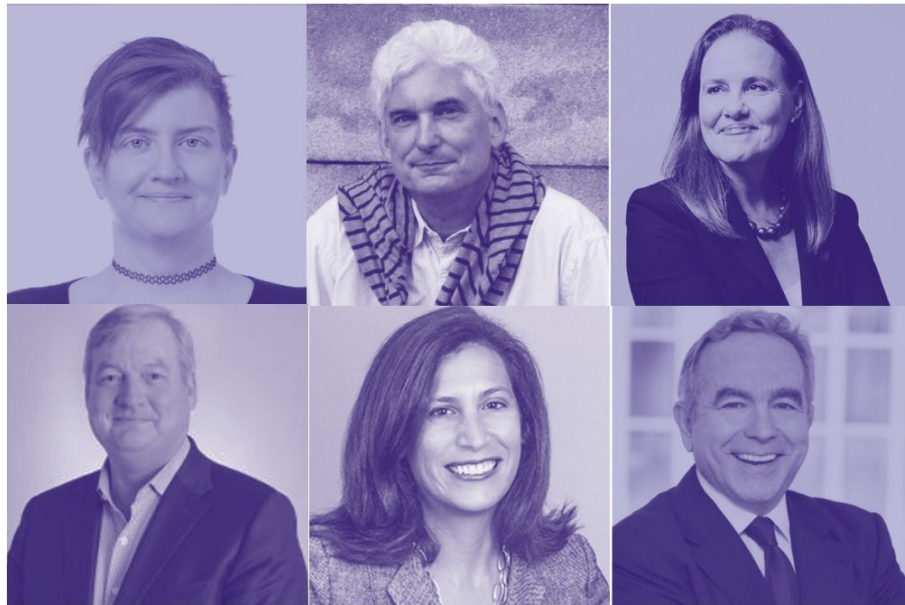


## #EqualAI

*Bulletin on Bias & Artificial Intelligence:  
Issue 9, October 2020*

### Spotlight of the Week: Senior Advisory Board



*The People Behind the Pledge (1/3): EqualAI's Senior Advisors*

### Hot Topics in Business and Technology 🔥

- **The Police Can Probably Break Into Your Phone.** New research suggests that more than 2,000 U.S. law enforcement agencies, including 49 of the 50 largest ones, are using technology that lets them access locked, encrypted smartphones. (10/22)
- **Facebook Allegedly Manipulated the News to Appease Republicans.** Former Facebook employees say the company deliberately tweaked its News Feed algorithm to protect conservative sites and throttle liberal ones. (10/22)
- **We are increasingly confiding in robots.** A survey of thousands of employees and executives released earlier this month by Oracle and the HR research and advisory firm Workplace Intelligence found 68% of people reported they would prefer to talk to a robot over their manager about stress and anxiety at work.
  - 80% said they were open to having a robot as a counselor or therapist.

- "Workers said that robots can support their mental health better than humans because they can provide a judgment-free zone," says Dan Schawbel, managing partner of Workplace Intelligence. (10/22)
- **TikTok expands their hate speech ban to white nationalism:** The social media platform announced new and strengthened content guidelines on Wednesday, committing to banning hate symbols and "coded hate language." TikTok explicitly included white supremacy, white genocide theory, and male supremacy as hate speech (10/21).
- **Deepfake AI bot weaponized against underage girls:** A recent cybersecurity investigation from Sensity AI uncovered that a bot on the messaging app Telegram is being used to generate free nudes from photos of dressed women and young girls. This comes after a similar scandal using deepfake algorithms in 2019, and the investigation reveals that at least 100,000 women had been "stripped" by the bot as of July 2020 (10/20).
- **The race to a self-driving future gains boost from the city of San Francisco:** Cruise LLC, a San-Francisco based autonomous car company, becomes the first company to receive a permit to test empty, self-driving cars in a major U.S. city. Under the permit issued by California's Department of Motor Vehicles, Cruise cars can go anywhere on San Francisco streets without human backup drivers, both day and night and up to 30 miles per hour (10/15).
- **IBM partners with ServiceNow to create AI-based management service:** IBM revealed that its Watson AIOps will be offering a tool enabling organizations to predict, avert, and remedy their IT problems at a rate 60% faster than human monitors (10/15).
- **Intel launches AI into space:** The tech company announced that it sent an AI-infused satellite "beyond the boundaries of Earth." About the size of a cereal box, the experimental satellite uses an AI system trained to distinguish between valuable and useless images (10/20).
- **BCG and MIT Sloan Management report low AI profitability:** A recent analysis examined 3,000 company managers across industries, finding that only 11% of companies "reap a 'sizable' return on their investments" and that continued experimentation with AI products "doesn't yield a big payoff." Two other key takeaways from the report: insight into why certain companies

are better at profiting from AI than others, and 57% of managers claimed to be piloting or using AI, a 13% increase from 2018 (10/20).

- **Facebook open sources multilingual translation algorithm:** The company on Monday made the code for their machine learning translation model, M2M-100, publicly available. This allows for further evaluation of existing bias mitigation in AI, as the algorithm performs better than machine translation models trained on English data (10/19).
- **New survey reveals executives are unaware of AI ethical concerns:** NTT's analysis showed that most business executives lack a comprehensive understanding of AI ethical challenges. They found that only 19% "believe that AI will discriminate against minority groups, while only 12% believe that it will drive unethical consumer data collection practices" (10/20).
- **AI Summit: The Next Cold War:** Politico's AI Summit focused on how to promote AI amidst the rising competitive and security tensions between the US and China, in a world without a "common rulebook for the ethical use of AI (10/16). Some key takeaways include:
  - Eric Schmidt, chairman of the National Security Commission on AI and former Google CEO, said the U.S. urgently needs a national AI strategy focused on: "whatever it takes."
  - "The countries that get the best data sets will develop the best AI: no doubt about it," said Nand Mulchandani, acting director of the U.S. DoD Joint Artificial Intelligence Center. "Global partnerships are so incredibly important" because they give access to global data, which in aggregate is better than even a huge dataset from within a single country.
  - Government has a role in making data widely available for the development of AI to give smaller companies an opportunity to research and innovate, said Charles Romine, Director of the Information Technology Laboratory at NIST.
- **Adobe Photoshop releases update with new ML tools:** Adobe dropped their latest product, Photoshop version 22.0, that includes AI features, including a sky replacement tool, AI edge selection, and new image-editing tools they call "neural filters" that can adjust a subject's age and facial expression, amplifying or removing feelings like "joy," "surprise," or "anger" (10/20).

## AI & Public Health

- **CognitiveCare launches AI platform to predict maternal and infant health risks:** CognitiveCare announced the Maternal Infant Health Insights and Cognitive Intelligence platform, to detect early maternal, fetal, and infant health risks (10/20).

## US Federal and State Government News

- **The Justice Department filed long-awaited antitrust suit against Google:** The DOJ, along with 11 states, formally accused Google of using anticompetitive strategies to monopolize the online search market. Deputy Attorney General Jeffrey Rosen called the lawsuit a "milestone, but not a stopping point" for the department's investigations into Big Tech's power (10/20).
- **U.S. government agencies use AI to cut regulations:** The White House announced plans to use machine learning and natural language processing to cut federal agency regulations they find to be outdated (10/16).
- **U.S. lawmakers decry the chilling effect of federal surveillance at protests** Over the past year, facial recognition technologies and AI-powered predictive policing have come under public scrutiny.
  - Representatives Anna Eshoo (D-CA) and Bobby Rush (D-IL), along with Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR), wrote a letter to the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board requesting an investigation into the federal government's surveillance of recent protests against police violence as well as adherence to required procedures in using surveillance equipment (10/16).

## AI Around the World

- **Brazil launches AI research center:** The Artificial Intelligence Center (C4AI) co-run by IBM and Brazilian public foundations, is focused on developing AI-based health, environment, food production, and work development solutions (10/14).
- **Singapore joins growing list of countries to release AI ethics guide:** The Singapore Computer Society launched an ethics reference document (BoK) for businesses and governance on AI development. Highlighting the importance of training and certification of professionals, the BoK

expanded on the Singapore government's latest Model AI Governance Framework (10/16).

- **AI Innovation in Europe**: Two of the biggest construction firms in Europe are now using AI image recognition software to scan their sites and boost their efficiency (10/16).

## EqualAI in the News

- **Cognizant to Acquire Bright Wolf, Accelerating Growth in Industrial Internet of Things Services**: Cognizant announced acquisition of Bright Wolf, a privately-held technology services provider specializing in custom Industrial IoT solutions:
  - *“Combining Bright Wolf's experience in production-class IIoT deployments with Cognizant's expertise in foundational IIoT technologies will increase our clients' resiliency, operational efficiency, and competitive advantage” - Malcolm Frank (10/22).*

## Op-Eds: Top Picks of the Week

- **AI has exacerbated racial bias in housing. Could it help eliminate it instead?** Redlining, blockbusting, racial zoning, restrictive covenants, and racial steering are illegal, however, they persist today and often by way of AI technology. MIT Tech Review interviews three experts on the subject of AI's role in perpetuating housing discrimination (10/20).
- **Even “gender neutral,” smart devices are sexist**: Mashable interviews the authors of new MIT Press book, *The Smart Wife: Why Siri, Alexa, and Other Smart Home Devices Need a Feminist Reboot*, which chronicles the ways that AI, robots, and other devices have been gendered as “smart wives” (10/19).
- **What to take away from POLITICO's 2020 AI Summit**: POLITICO compiled the 4 key takeaways from their summit on the future of AI last week, including the “double-edged sword” of “supercharging” AI development while concerned about a lack of regulations, the role and effect of AI from Covid-19, and the implications of a Biden administration (10/16).
- **COVID-19 has destroyed millions of jobs — It's time to reskill America**: An opinion from The Hill examines the deep-rooted economic transformation due to the pandemic. Accelerating the trend towards automation and AI, as companies work to replace human contact with virtual and digital services, this article lays out three broad initiatives to re-educate workers and future

generation in machine learning. One pillar is to expand data science and technology literacy programs, with an emphasis on minorities and women (10/17).

- **The true dangers of AI are closer than we think:** Senior researcher William Isaac of DeepMind discusses his view of the more real threat posed by AI — the ability to embed biased values into technical systems at scale (10/21).

## Upcoming Events 🎉

- Machine Learning Informed Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare webinar, organized by DataRobot: [October 27](#).
- Artificial Intelligence Executive Form, hosted by the Wall Street Journal: [October 28](#).
- Senate Commerce Hearing with Facebook, Twitter, Google CEOs: [October 28](#).
- Livestream virtual panel on social media's role in the U.S. election, hosted by TheBridge and All Tech is Human: [October 29](#).
- AI Robotics 2020 Webinar, hosted by Larix International: [November 5](#).