EQUAI™

Bulletin on Bias & Artificial Intelligence: Late August 2020

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AI in Business and Technology

- ❏ **Robots:** AI researchers at Google and Columbia University <u>devised</u> inexpensive methods to scale robot training (8/13).
- ❏ **Social Robots:** University of Waterloo researchers <u>found</u> that the pandemic has affected people's perception of social robots and that feelings of loneliness can drive the purchase of these robots (8/13).
- ❏ **Surveillance:** Flock Safety <u>expanded</u> their AI license plate surveillance services with new TALON technology (8/18).
- ❏ **Global Childcare Software Market:** Business Wire highlighted that growth in the global childcare software market can be partially <u>attributed</u> to developments in AI (8/19).
- ❏ **Facial Recognition:** AI identity-verification startup Onfido <u>is working</u> to eliminate their platform's existing algorithmic bias by reducing recognition errors for customers with darker complexion (8/19).
- ❏ **Lightship Capital:** Candace Matthews Brackeen of Lightship Capital (the largest VC fund ever launched by a black woman) plans to <u>invest</u> in LGBTQIA, disabled, and BIPOC founders in sectors including AI (8/20).
- ❏ **Diversity in AI:** Black Public Media and MIT launched a new endeavor <u>designed</u> to support Black technologists in AI and AR (8/20).
- ❏ **Dataiku:** The enterprise AI platform vendor announced a $100 million <u>funding</u> round (8/24).
- ❏ **Verta:** Manasi Vartak, MIT CSAIL graduate, <u>launched</u> Verta, a machine learning platform, with $10M Series A (8/25).
- ❏ **YouTube:** After sending content moderators home in March and relying more on algorithms for content moderation, YouTube <u>doubled</u> its video removals, in an attempt to 'cast a wider net' (8/25).
- ❏ **Deloitte:** The Deloitte AI Institute <u>announced</u> a Trustworthy AI framework to guide organizations on how to apply AI responsibly and ethically within their businesses (8/26).
- ❏ **LinkedIn:** LinkedIn Corp. <u>unveiled</u> a software tool designed to spot potential bias in AI algorithms (8/26).
- ❏ **AI-Driven Beauty E-Commerce:** Yutybazar, a new AI-driven beauty e-commerce site, created by UK-based Simi Lindgren, <u>aims</u> to create a global beauty destination for all ethnicities, and to provide personalized product recommendations using proprietary AI technology (8/26).

EqualAI & Our Partners in the News

- ❏ PRNewswire announces the EqualAI pledge and highlights EqualAI's mission and work, with quotes from our leaders and partners including Miriam Vogel, Heather Cox, Robert LoCasio, and Vikrum Aiyer (8/13).
- ❏ EqualAI Senior Advisor Victoria Espinel was featured in 'Leading through Change: Building Trust and Reopening Safely,' a webinar hosted by Salesforce (8/20).

AI & Public Health

- ❏ **AI & Health Disparities:** AMIA claimed that bias in AI models can exacerbate disproportionate impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on BIPOC (8/17). James Madara of the AMA echoed similar concerns (8/20).
- ❏ **MRI Scanning:** FastMRI, a joint research initiative from Facebook and NYU, aims to use AI to accelerate the MRI scanning process (8/18).
- ❏ **Mental Health Monitoring:** Brigham and Women's Hospital recruited Rose, a remote patient monitoring solution, to help support their clinicians' mental health (8/19).
- ❏ **Autonomous AI in Healthcare:** AI healthcare software company Digital Diagnostics acquired 3Derm Systems, Inc., making them the global leader in healthcare autonomous AI (8/19).
- ❏ **Bias in Medicine:** The Genetic Literacy Project explained why AI can make poorer black patients appear healthier than they actually are (8/24).
- ❏ **Cancer Detection:** DIC, DHA, JAIC, and three private-sector businesses launched a project that aims to teach computers how to identify cancers and other medical irregularities (8/24).
- ❏ **Verily:** Alphabet's Life Sciences Unit gets into health insurance using AI data (8/24).

Government News

- ❏ **Biden-Harris & AI:** The Brookings Institute predicted that an Biden-Harris White House would move to address AI bias (8/13). VentureBeat also explores how the duo has incorporated AI policy into their platform (8/21).
- ❏ **White House:** The White House announces over $1 billion to establish 12 new federal research centers dedicated to AI and quantum sciences (8/25).
- ❏ **JAIC:** Moved to expand their in-house ethics staff (8/19).
- ❏ **NAIC:** Adopted new AI principles (8/19).
- ❏ **Air Force:** Heron System's AI algorithm was victorious over top human pilots in battle simulations (8/20).
- ❏ **The National Biometric Information Privacy Act:** Sens. Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.) and Bernie Sanders (D-Vt.), introduced a bill that limits biometric data collection and allows consumer recourse for violations thereof (8/20).
- ❏ **NSF:** The University of Texas at Austin was selected to spearhead new initiatives for the NSF AI Institute for Foundations of Machine Learning (8/26).

AI Around the World

- **Australia:**
  - Dr. Alan Finkel delivered the keynote address to an IPAA and ACOLA event on the role of AI in Australia (8/19).
  - The NSW government looks at using machine learning to analyse data from satellites and local sensor networks in a bid to better detect, predict and respond to bushfires (8/24).
- **Brazil:** Brazilian firm 99 uses AI to identify sexual offenders quicker and provide better support to victims (8/21).
- **Bulgaria:** Bulgarian Ministry of Transport, Information Technology, and Communications released guidelines for AI in Bulgaria until 2030 (8/19).
- **Canada:** The world's first AI in PR Ethics Guide was published through a transatlantic partnership between the Chartered Institute of Public Relations AIinPR Panel and the Canadian Public Relation Society (8/26).
- **China:**
  - Nikkei Asian Review analyzed AI and ethics in China (8/23).
  - New apps use AI to prevent food waste (8/25).
- **Dubai:** Smart Dubai's AI Ethics Advisory Board held its second meeting (8/19).
- **India:**
  - Government utilizes AI and CCTV to ensure social distancing (8/19).
  - NITI Aayog and partners are developing an approach towards ensuring responsible usage of AI in India (8/21).
- **Indonesia:** Government released a long-term strategy for AI advancements (8/20).
- **Scotland:** Scottish universities announced plans to research the potential risks and harmful gender biases posed by female voice assistants and chatbots (8/23).
- **South Africa:**
  - Gciniwe Dlamini, Research Engineer at IBM Research in Johannesburg, spoke about women in the technology sector (8/20).
  - Huawei Technologies adds online training in AI to a portfolio of free training it offers to South African ICT students (8/25).
  - iAfrica looks at the career opportunities that AI, blockchain, and IoT create for women in South Africa (8/26).
- **Switzerland:** Head of the Bank for International Settlements warned the fintech industry of the 'black box problem' (8/19).
- **U.A.E.:** Mohamed bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence, an Abu Dhabi-based AI-focused university, is the first AI-focused University in the world (8/21).
- **United Kingdom:**
  - The Information Commissioner's Office published new guidelines on AI and data protection (8/19).
  - Controversy erupted over the AI algorithm that was implemented to substitute advanced-levels qualifications tests (8/19).

- ❏ **Japan:** White & Case LLP's Arthur Mitchell contrasted AI regulation in Japan to AI regulation in the EU (8/24).

Op-Eds: Top 3 Picks of the Week
- ❏ **Mastercard:** Ajay Bhalla, president of cyber and intelligence solutions for Mastercard, explained why businesses should work to promote trust in AI (8/20).
- ❏ **VentureBeat:** Carly Kind provided a review of ethics and AI over the years, considering 'what can we do' vs. 'what should we do' (8/23).
- ❏ **Samasource:** Wendy Gonzalez, president and interim CEO of Samasource, wrote about the importance of unbiased training data for AI (8/26).

Upcoming Events
- ❏ Society for Healthcare Innovation's inaugural 'Edge of Innovation Series' on AI in healthcare: August 29.
- ❏ Women in AI Global Summit: September 8.
- ❏ AI in Healthcare Summit, 'Business and Academia for Innovations in Healthcare,' co-hosted by MIT CSAIL and STEMM Global: October 1-2.
- ❏ HAI Summit, 'Triangulating Intelligence: Melding Neuroscience, Psychology, and AI,' hosted by Stanford University: October 7.

Hadley's Weekly Take
This week, we saw several important developments in AI and the public health realm. Alongside announcements of promising new technologies came troubling updates surrounding AI bias in healthcare. I find myself wondering: how can we better incorporate accountability for bias in AI into the conceptualization, design, and development phases of medical research and invention?