



EQUITABLE AI COMMUNITY



The Equitable AI Newsletter

June 2023

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT:

Equitable AI's First Public Event!



On Wednesday, May 31st, the Equitable AI Community of practice hosted the first public webinar in its series, focusing on integrating gender equity into AI applications within international development (ID).

The webinar featured current practitioners in the AI space working to develop and deploy equitable AI solutions in Mexico and India. Following an overview of gender equity in AI by USAID's Gender and AI Fellow Genevieve Smith, the webinar provided overviews of how three organizations are addressing the challenges of implementing gender equitable AI in ID applications.

First, Women in Digital 's (WinDT) co-founder, Kate Gromova, provided insight into her organization's work with PIT Policy Lab, Itad, and Athena Infonomics to improve the gender equity within algorithms used by the Ministry of Education in Guanajuato, Mexico. This program is part of USAID's [Equitable AI Challenge](#). By providing training on the AI Fairness 360 toolkit, the team identified gaps within the ministry's system identifying and monitoring students at risk of dropping out. Through this project, the teams successfully identified areas for improvement within the Educational Paths algorithm to mitigate gender bias that was systematically excluding at-risk female students due to varying indicators between genders. Next, Wadhvani AI's Mihir Kulkarni presented the Wadhvani AI Responsible AI Playbook which the organization currently uses to inform and monitor AI-enabled solutions in health, agriculture, and education within India. Finally, Athena Infonomics' Mike Minkoff expanded on his organization's work in India to foster South-South cooperation between the Mexican government and Indian government representatives to share lessons learned on applications of AI.

The first public webinar emphasized the critical importance of integrating gender equity within AI solutions, and the real-world cases in which practitioners are currently implementing these practices within the global south.

[Watch the Webinar Here](#)

LinkedIn Community

Looking to connect, collaborate, or confer with other practitioners in the equitable AI space? Join the conversation in our Community of Practice LinkedIn group below! Discussion, questions, and sharing your work are highly encouraged.

[Join the Conversation on LinkedIn](#)

Upcoming Events

Mark your calendars!

- Upcoming virtual core working group sessions (invite-only):
 - **Transparency and Accountability:** Wednesday, June 28th, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. ET
 - **Representation:** Wednesday, August 23rd, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. ET
 - Upcoming community of practice webinars (registration required):
 - **Governance:** Wednesday, July 26th, 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. ET
 - **Collective Action:** Wednesday, September 27th, 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. ET
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Critical Resources

Given the theme of our next set of core working group and community of practice sessions, here are some tools and resources to learn more about transparency, accountability, and governance of AI systems:

Watch & Discover

[Build a Data Nutrition Label](#) - *The Data Nutrition Project*

Test the tool: the second generation Dataset Nutrition Label from core working group members The Data Nutrition Project provides targeted information about a dataset including meta-data, population distributions, missing data, comparisons to 'ground-truth' data sets, and details based on intended use cases.

[fAIr LAC in a Box](#) - *Inter-American Development Bank*

Five tools for the application of the ethical principles of artificial intelligence in all phases of a project from core working group members IADB.

[Who Audits the Auditors?](#) - *Algorithmic Justice League, June 2022*

Dr. Joy Boulamwini, founder of the Algorithmic Justice League, provides a brief video overview of the state of the field and recommendations to create a robust and fair algorithmic audit system.

[AI and Equality Human Rights Toolbox](#) - *AI and Equality*

The AI & Equality Toolbox is a platform for education, action, and encounter, aiming to create an environment where technologists, policy makers, and citizens can share a common vocabulary, unlocking informed debates about their visions for data with purpose.

Must-See Articles

[The Dataset Nutrition Label \(2nd Gen\): Leveraging Context to Mitigate Harms in Artificial Intelligence](#) - *The Data Nutrition Project*, December 2020

This brief white paper provides an overview of the state of the field and research that informs the revolutionary Dataset Nutrition Label tool from core working group members, The Data Nutrition Project. “The Data Nutrition Project takes inspiration from nutritional labels on food, aiming to build labels that highlight the key ingredients in a dataset such as meta-data and populations, as well as unique or anomalous features regarding distributions, missing data, and comparisons to other ‘ground truth’ dataset.”

[To Avoid AI Doom, Learn from Nuclear Safety](#) - *MIT Technology Review*, June 2023

MIT’s Melissa Heikkilä provides an overview of new recommendations from a recent research paper co-authored by top universities and private AI companies Google DeepMind, Anthropic AI, and OpenAI suggesting AI safety models reflecting external nuclear auditing processes.

[Building Transparency into AI Projects](#) - *Harvard Business Review*, June 2022

Authors Reid Blackman and Beena Ammanath explore the specific effects of increased transparency in AI processes and how to balance them with company and stakeholder needs.

[There’s More to AI Bias than Biased Data, NIST Report Highlights](#) - *National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST, U.S.)*, May 2022

NIST authors make the case for a “socio-technical” approach to mitigating bias in AI, emphasizing the importance of mitigating biases in an interdisciplinary fashion beyond just technical solutions.

Suggested Long Reads

[Datasheets for Datasets](#) - *Association for Computing Machinery*, December 2021

Coauthored by equitable AI advocates and experts including Timnit Gebru, this paper proposes “every dataset be accompanied with a datasheet that documents its motivation, composition, collection process, recommended uses, and so on.”

These datasheets for datasets are intended to “facilitate better communication between dataset creators and dataset consumers, and encourage the machine learning community to prioritize transparency and accountability.”

[Transparency for Whom? Assessing Discriminatory AI](#) - *Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers*, June 2020

“AI decision-making can cause discriminatory harm to many vulnerable groups. Redress is often suggested through increased transparency of these systems. But who are we implementing it for? This article seeks to identify what transparency means for technical, legislative and public realities and stakeholders.”

Funding Announcements

[Democratic Inputs to AI \(OpenAI\)](#) - *due June 24th*

OpenAI, Inc., is launching a program to award ten \$100,000 grants to fund experiments in setting up a democratic process for deciding what rules AI systems should follow, within the bounds defined by the law.

[Prix Galien Africa 2023: Launch of the Call-for-Applications](#) - *due July 21st*

The Prix Galien is intended to reward researchers, institutions and pharmaceutical industries from the public or private sector that have developed initiatives, services, pharmaceutical, biotechnological, herbal medicine, diagnostic products, medical devices and digital solutions recently introduced on the African market.

Upcoming Events/Opportunities

- [AfricAI Conference](#) - June 12 - 14, 2023
 - [FAccT Conference](#) - June 12 - 15, 2023
 - [Internet Governance Forum Annual Meeting](#) - October 8 - 22, 2023
 - [Equity and Access in Algorithms, Mechanisms, and Optimization Conference](#) - October 30 - November 1, 2023
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USAID's Equitable AI Challenge in Action

CFI Investor Guide - Learn more when CFI presents in our June workshop!

CFI will soon publish its Investing in Equitable AI for Inclusive Finance: A Conversational Guide for Impact Investors. The first part of this guide sets the stage in describing growing use cases of AI in the fintech industry and explains potential sources of bias and resultant risks. The second part of the guide suggests specific questions investment officers can use for conversations with investees, as well as points of reflection for them. The questions in the second section could be used during due diligence or post investment, depending on the stage of development of the fintech and/or the investors' own internal processes. The objectives of the guide are the following:

1. Recognize the business case for investing in fintechs that practice responsible/equitable AI.
2. Integrate/Incentivize emerging good practices of AI fairness and equity by fintechs within the investment lifecycle.
3. Assess the risks of potential for harmful bias in a fintech business model that leverages AI in consumer-facing financial decisions.

CFI will present at the June 28th workshop to the Core Working Group on how its Guide can foster greater transparency into how AI tools are used for decision-making processes and risk mitigation efforts within the fintech industry.

USAID launched its Equitable AI Challenge and Community of Practice to address gender bias and harm resulting from the inequitable design and use of AI tools. [Learn more about the challenge here.](#)

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