



Philosophy & Technology

Editor-in-Chief: Luciano Floridi (University of Oxford)

The journal addresses the expanding scope and unprecedented impact of technologies, in order to improve the critical understanding of their conceptual nature and practical consequences, and hence provide the conceptual foundations for their fruitful and sustainable development. The journal welcomes high-quality submissions, regardless of the tradition, school of thought or disciplinary background from which they derive.

Call for Papers for a **Special Issue on *Intercultural Digital Ethics***

Guest Editor: Nikita Aggarwal (Digital Ethics Lab and Faculty of Law, University of Oxford)

INTRODUCTION

Recent advances in the capability of digital information technologies, particularly due to advances in machine learning, have invigorated the debate on the ethical issues surrounding their use. However, up till now, this debate has been dominated by ‘Western’ ethical perspectives, to the exclusion of broader ethical and socio-cultural perspectives. This imbalance carries risks, particularly where the ethical norms and values designed into these technologies collide with those of the communities in which they are delivered and deployed. This edited collection seeks to fill this crucial gap in the literature on digital ethics by bringing together a range of cultural, social and structural perspectives on the ethical issues relating to digital information technologies. It forms part of an ongoing research project at the Digital Ethics Lab, Oxford Internet Institute, University of Oxford on intercultural digital ethics (see further <https://digitaleticslab.oii.ox.ac.uk/intercultural-digital-ethics-symposium/>).

TOPICS

The journal seeks submissions of research articles (approximately 8,000 words, but this is flexible) and commentaries (approximately 4,000 words) that engage with the theme of intercultural digital ethics, including but not limited to:

- Why is a pluralistic ethical approach important in understanding the impact of digital technologies? What are the different levels and domains of digital ethics? We are interested in both secular philosophical perspectives (e.g. utilitarianism, deontological ethics, virtue ethics), religious and cultural ethical perspectives (e.g. Buddhism, Christianity, Ubuntu, and Shinto, amongst others) as well as social and intersectional perspectives (e.g. race, gender, sexual orientation, and the intersections between these categories).
- How do digital technologies impact different cultural and social groups differently? How do these communities view issues such as privacy, consent, security and identity differently?
- How do the practices and responsibilities of those developing digital technologies differ between different social groups and cultures? Do the upstream (design and development) and

downstream (delivery and deployment) phases of digital technology require different ethical considerations, and how can these accommodate cultural and social differences?

- What are the different ethical impacts of endogenous factors (e.g. lack of diversity, conscious and unconscious bias of technologists) versus exogenous factors (e.g. embedded bias in datasets), and how can these harms be addressed?
- Can we design governance frameworks for digital technologies that are tailored to the ethical values of different cultures, whilst also harmonizing these frameworks at the international level? What lessons can be drawn from international governance frameworks developed in other contexts? Does ethical pluralism advocate in favour of more soft law approaches to digital governance (e.g. self-regulatory ethical guidelines rather than legislation)?
- How does the discourse of human rights support or hinder the observance of intercultural ethical values?
- Do digital information technologies represent a new form of colonialism and exploitation, for example through ‘ethics dumping’ in low-rights environments? We welcome perspectives on the outsourcing of ‘digital labour’ and the protection of vulnerable communities such as migrants and refugees, *inter alia*.

TIMETABLE

December 31, 2019: deadline for paper submissions

January 31, 2020: decisions and revisions returned

February 29, 2020: deadline for revised papers

March-April, 2020: final corrections, proofs revision

SUBMISSION DETAILS

To submit a paper for this special issue, authors should go to the journal’s Editorial Manager

<http://www.editorialmanager.com/phte/>

The author (or a corresponding author for each submission in case of co-authored papers) must register into EM.

The author must then select the special article type: ***Intercultural Digital Ethics*** from the selection provided in the submission process. This is needed in order to assign the submissions to the Guest Editor. Submissions will then be assessed according to the following procedure:

New Submission ⇒ Journal Editorial Office ⇒ Guest Editor(s) ⇒ (double-blind) Reviewers ⇒ Reviewers’ Recommendations ⇒ Guest Editor(s)’ Recommendation ⇒ Editor-in-Chief’s Decision ⇒ Author Notification of the Decision.

The process will be reiterated in case of requests for revisions.

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