

Introduction to *GRACE* first issue  
By  
*GRACE* editors

*GRACE: Global Review of AI Community Ethics* is a student-initiated, open-source, peer-reviewed journal showcasing Stanford University student writing that also welcomes student and young scholars' work from around the globe. Our journal interrogates machine and deep learning technologies that describe themselves as “artificial intelligence” or AI, but are in fact stochastic models built on massive amounts of data. In our first call for papers, we hoped to receive collaborative writing on the ethics and social impacts of algorithms from global perspectives. We were keen to learn about frameworks outside the Global North, about linguistic communities working toward their data sovereignty, and mitigating harm to marginalized groups. Many of the papers submitted originated from Stanford writing courses in the Program in Writing and Rhetoric, several came from Writing in the Major courses like CS182W: Ethics, Public Policy, and Technological Change, and other courses. In addition to sending out calls for papers on social media, we advertised at California public institutions of higher education as well as HBCUs, and were pleased to receive several papers from UC Berkeley, Howard University, and Spelman College, one of which appears in this issue, and several others are slated for the next issue. All these responses dazzled with great writing and ideas. In total there were 2591

submissions, and it took us a long time to select papers for this first issue. With much delight, we bring you papers written by students and young scholars from around the globe, Stanford, and other institutions as well.

There were also two unforeseen results with this first issue, one we had not anticipated and another we wished we had thought to organize, but in fact materialized on its own. The first has proven a case study in the challenges of securing a space for young diverse scholars' research on algorithmic ethics. 1900+ submissions included an unexpected mixture of corporate in-house AI Ethics frameworks written by senior managers in search of dialogue with university communities, which we found fascinating, but needing a research investigation of its own. There were also highly energetic papers on AGI, longtermism, robot consciousness, human rights for robots, medical applications of AI for predicting disability, comparisons between the human brain and computers, written both by students and young tech researchers. Many of these papers were indeed excellent but remained outside of our focus on global ethics frameworks, social impact, and algorithmic culture. Lastly in this group, there were a number of op-ed style commentaries on AI Ethics written by senior scholars and tech researchers, which argued against the AI Ethics "in-group" and their "innovation-hostile," "woke" ethics and supposed "lack" of engineering building experience, even naming many of these ethicists, all of whom are women, gender minorities, and people of color. Reeling from the inverted logic that these minority voices were somehow "dominating" ubiquitous multi-billion dollar tech conversations, we sought to portray the volatile rhetorics surrounding "AI" and consider the out-sized global impact of both the technology and the conversations. Intensely debating these critical communications, we searched for excellent arguments that were willing to engage with the manifold mission of AI

Ethics and its diverse practitioners. We found several, one of which is forthcoming in this issue, and we are excited about its lucidity and thoughtfulness.

The second surprise, which we wished we had actually planned, were 30+ submissions on Dr. Abeba Birhane's [Algorithmic Injustice](#) and on relational ethics in general. So much enthusiasm for the topic of relational ethics, both from the Global North and Global South, makes perfect sense for *GRACE*. While we retained several of these submissions for future editions, for this issue, we chose three papers which most clearly came in dialogue with Birhane, relational ethics, and each other's arguments. Our editors have addressed these papers in our special frameworks section below, which includes articles by Mimi St. Johns, Julia Kwak, Nakeema Stefflbauer, Tolúlopé Ògúnrèmi, Wilhelmina Onyothi Nekoto, and Saron Samuel. We are excited to invite more conversation about relational ethics and other global frameworks for future issues.

Equally provocative as the frameworks articles, *GRACE* social impact articles ask audiences to rethink data subjects and data sovereignty. Among the many excellent submissions, we chose four: "Reimagining the Data Subject in GDPR" by Ananya Karthik, a co-winner of Stanford's Terry Winograd Prize and the Eric Roberts Prize for Best Paper on Ethics & Technology, invites audiences to understand the reality of living as a member of a marginalized group and that directly addressing the impact of race, gender, or on human experience avoids the obfuscating abstraction that has so long preserved societal hierarchies. Sergio Charles's "The Algorithmic Bias and Misrepresentation of Mixed Race Identities" was an Honorable Mention for the Winograd and Roberts' prizes, his paper argues that for multiracial individuals, building fairer and more representative AI helps us rethink reductive racial categories and that such inclusion can make the difference between life and death for mixed race people. "Mitigating

Racial Bias in Healthcare AI Development” by Athena Xue, Jodie Meng, and Casey Nguyen propose increased minority representation in datasets and AI development teams, building algorithmic fairness through transparency and contextual awareness, and the development of legislative measures that prospectively evaluate AI performance and mandate stricter testing protocols. In “Algorithmic Palestine, A Partial Path to Liberation,” Lara Hafez, Maryam Khalil, and Ronnie Hafez acknowledge the potential harms of algorithms, but argue also for their liberatory potential if Palestinians can retain agency over the technology and data.

In our notes and commentary section, Wayne Chinganga makes a similar argument in his “Centering Africans in the Digital Scramble for Africa.” Cautiously in favor of Big Tech investment in Africa, he calls for greater regulation to protect African labor and intellectual property. In “Kiwibots on Kampus: The Ethical Concerns of Autonomous Vehicles in Black Spaces,” Teanna Barrett makes the strongest argument for how corporate computer vision impacts Black people in their learning environments, which in her case is Howard University. Reviews include Alyssa Jones and Alexis Mack on Dr. Brandeis Marshall’s new book, which they call “the Bible” for young data scientists and engineers, *Data Conscience: Algorithmic Siege on our Humanity* and subtitle “Inclusive Actionable Data Ethics For Practitioners.” Sayo Stefflbauer, in her review of Ruha Benjamin’s *Viral Justice*, elaborates how Benjamin’s technology-critical work informs community liberation. Lastly, we include Roberto Gozalo-Brizuela, Eduardo C. Garrido-Merchán’s great review article from “ChatGPT is not all you need. A State of the Art Review of large Generative AI models” which provides a taxonomy of the main generative models published recently.

Given that we *GRACE* editors are a group of STEM students with only a couple among us who double majored in philosophy as well as computer science, we remain greatly indebted to

brilliant guidance of our mentors Dr. Harriett Jernigan and Dr. Brittany S. Hull, who are experts in rhetoric, language, committed to linguistic and social justice. As we struggled through this year to assemble this first issue we took inspiration from Dr. J.'s ever-optimistic faith in us, when she said "This first issue of *GRACE* is not only a labor of love, but a reflection of the diverse writing spaces, processes, and aspirations that surround and sustain us. The articles in the journal represent the kind of nuanced work our students want to do. They combine science communication and cultural rhetorics and underscore the importance of writing in community." Upon finishing, we shared with Dr. Hull who read the issue and responded enthusiastically: "The editors were purposeful and strategic in their selection of articles. Since culturally diverse voices within AI is an underexplored topic, I'm glad *GRACE* is providing a space for these unique voices to be heard. Moreover, I'm very proud of how they are kicking off this first issue and excited for the issues to come! Big congratulations to the GRACE editorial team and the authors!"

Please join us for this issue and get ready to submit to our next issue this summer, which will have a special section on generative models like ChatGPT. Thanks for reading! *Sapere Aude! Dare to know!*