Editors' Introduction

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GRACE, Global Review of AI Community Ethics, a Stanford student-run journal mentored by Dr. Harriett Jernigan in the Program in Writing and Rhetorics and the Notation in Cultural Rhetorics, provides a unique venue for young scholars, undergraduates, and early career researchers writing about justice and tech from global perspectives. This year for volume two, GRACE received more than 3000 papers from young scholars. Many submissions addressed problems related to generative models, but most fell outside the range of global frameworks and social impacts, which is the focus of GRACE. Such interest confirmed for us the need for more venues for early career grad students, college students, as well as high school students. We selected these seven exceptional social impact essays all reflecting on generative models.

Social impact Essays

George Kojo Frimpong Birikorang's "Preparing Ghana for the Artificial Intelligence Ghanaians Want" explores the impact of Big Tech in Ghana alongside actual Ghanaian needs. Asking the role generative AI might play in Ghana while the country's challenges remain largely infrastructural, Birikorang offers an empirical study drawing on interviews with Ghanaians who work in tech. The essay then considers the kinds of infrastructural investments that enable Ghanian participation in building algorithms while also serving their community's needs.

Jonathan Xue and **Lifu Guo's** "AI Cold War with China? America's Ethical Advantage" challenges critics of the American AI Ethics discussion, who claim that the United States forfeits its competitive advantage by asking ethical questions about AI. Instead, Xue and Guo assert that American public debates addressing AI ethics and the search for third-party oversight will ultimately serve the U.S. better than China, which silences such conversations and centralizes all AI production under the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). The paper calls for greater public conversations on AI and shows how these promote innovation as well as better, more just generative models.

Hayden Thompson's "Regulating FinTech: The Path to Actual Financial Inclusion in the United States" argues that despite FinTech's growth and success over the past decade, the industry has made little to no positive impact on financial inclusion for Black, Hispanic, and lower-class Americans. Rather, some FinTech products trap these groups into cycles of debt, which further extends generational cycles of wealth inequality. To counter this injustice, Thompson demonstrates how FinTech companies can partner with nonprofits and introduce socially conscious practices to expand financial resources. She concludes that the government must introduce FinTech-specific legislation and enforce current laws to protect underserved Americans and fix the inequalities that they helped create.

Lila Shroff's "AI & Copyright: A Case Study of the Music Industry" studies tensions between generative models and the interests of creative workers. Elaborating the lack of legal protections for artists, she reflects on the possibilities of human-centered AI, examines the use of AI in the music industry, and proposes a set of artist-centered principles to inform the development of copyright law by combining the opinions reported by artists with a human-centered approach to AI development.

Azure Zhou's "Queer Bias in Natural Language Processing: Towards More Expansive Frameworks of Gender and Sexuality in NLP Bias Research" presents the case for a closer examination of queer bias as one of many urgent questions of social impacts of NLP, in a landscape where the content is extracted without consent, data workers are exploited, and disproportionate harm to marginalized groups abounds. Calling for an expanded bias intervention, Zhou offers approaches to better include queer identities. Zhou highlights the opportunity to protect vulnerable groups and create language technologies which affirm and uplift queer individuals.

Thomas Yim's "Technology's Dual Role in Language Marginalization and Revitalization" reflects on best practices for researchers of marginalized, or as they are known to their communities: "treasure languages:" small languages still spoken in the world today. Offering approaches that preserve community data sovereignty, reconnect diasporic treasure language communities, and foreground the importance of community consent in all collection and research efforts, Yim concludes that digital tools could revitalize endangered languages.

Joey Ji's "Demystify ChatGPT: Anthropomorphism around generative AI" takes on all the industry hype about how close AGI might be and whether AI is in any way similar to human consciousness. Arguing that such anthropomorphization obscures the limits and actual harms of generative models, Ji offers a better way to think about the increasing role generative models play in human decision-making.

Frameworks

As we finalized the Social impacts essays and prepared the Frameworks section, our editorial process ground to a halt October 7, 2023 when Hamas, a militant group in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, attacked Israel and Israel responded with total war against Gaza. In light of the massive destruction inflicted on Gaza and the role of AI in warfare, we postponed the publication of our volume of essays. We made this decision both out of respect for the suffering and to allow for submissions of essays that critically address this situation. Very quickly dozens of new submissions arrived, largely in op-ed format. We asked instead for researched papers and by the end of the Autumn quarter we received many more submissions in every genre and format.

The role of AI in the Israel-Hamas war weighed upon us as we read through the submitted Frameworks essays which mirrored the intensely divided conversations taking place on college campuses, but we also found many people looking to understand counterarguments and complexities, as well as plausible suggestions for post-conflict resolutions. Nearly all submissions leaned heavily into theories of settler colonialism without being specific on the concept. GRACE offered a reading group on Palestine and Israel, highlighting the works of the late Palestinian scholars Edward W. Said and Elia Zureik, which influenced most of the submissions we received. Ultimately, we chose two essays for our Frameworks section. The first piece emerged from the GRACE reading group. Critical of Israel's occupation of Palestine and total war on Gaza, this paper also rejects the apologies for Hamas terror, in which anti-Zionist groups like NoTechForApartheid and several letters from AI Ethics groups engage. The paper ends with suggestions for Palestinian and Israeli anti-racist technology critique. The second piece represents the perspective of **Stanford's Sit-In to Stop Genocide**, an ongoing student protest which has occupied Stanford's White Plaza since October 20th. The sit-in demands that Stanford divests from companies complicit in Israel's human rights abuses. In line with this goal, they have been continuously organizing events and offering educational tabling. The Sit-In's piece addresses Israel's apartheid against Palestinians, with a focus on the complicity of American industrial, financial and technological firms in Israel's violations of international law. The article discusses case studies of grassroots activism against apartheid within corporate environments, including NoTechForApartheid. After vetting these two articles and ensuring their adherence to the journal's commitments to scholarship, GRACE agreed to grant anonymity to the authors due to expressed safety and doxxing concerns. Both works will be added retroactively to the issue in order to give both parties more time to finalize their pieces in the midst of the ongoing war.

Awaiting the two pieces on the war, the Frameworks section currently contains only one submission that appears alongside those collected before October 7, 2023. **Shawn Filer** and **Christian K. Davis'** essay, "Computer Science as a Black Vocation: Revisiting W.E.B DuBois and Booker T. Washington." It addresses the persistent question of whether historically marginalized people,

especially Black people, should work in tech, given how tech disproportionately harms their communities. Their project is both theoretical and empirical, demonstrating how much of this discussion has been shaped by the DuBois-Washington Debate, despite few people having read the texts closely. After a reconstruction of the debate with a critical view of DuBois' initial hostility to vocational training and misplaced optimism that classical liberal education would equip Black people to enter positions of power, Filer and Davis offer an empirical study, exploring interviews with Black engineers whose educational experiences often reflect the problems already apparent in the DuBois-Washington debate.

Interviews

Lastly, we are lucky to have had three interviews with African AI researchers on the cutting edge. Dr. **Paul Azunre** talks about his work with GhanaNLP and how building language models with community participation makes for a much better, more ethical product. **Bonaventure F. P. Dossou**, Computer Science Ph.D. student at McGill University, in the NLP group specializing in Natural Language Processing (NLP) + Healthcare, who shares his experiences at Deep Learning Indaba, and work with Lelapa.ai. Computer Scientist **Misgina Gebretsedik** closes out this volume with reflections on the challenges of participating in a global industry during war, famine, and infrastructural instability. He leaves us with the most inspiration, modeling for students everywhere the achievements of African scholars as well as his commitments to serving hearing impaired communities and Tigrayans everywhere.

Thanks!

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