

Editors' Introduction: Telling Human Stories in the Age of Generative AI

Editorial Introduction: Vol. 3 No. 1 (2025) — *Generative AI and Global Futures*

This issue of *GRACE: Global Review of AI Community Ethics* arrives at a critical juncture, as generative AI rapidly reshapes the boundaries of creative labor, authorship, policymaking, and public life. From courtroom debates and copyright disputes to deeply personal accounts of disability, mental health, and surveillance, the contributions in this volume offer grounded, often urgent reflections on how AI-generated content and systems are altering the core of our shared human experience.

We received more than 3,000 submissions for this issue, and we were moved by the breadth, originality, and thoughtfulness of the work. The selected pieces reflect our editorial commitment to uplifting community-based, student-led, and ethics-oriented perspectives on AI ethics. Most contributions come from undergraduate students, with the exception of “Who Holds the Camera?” co-authored by former *GRACE* editors Muhammad Khattak and Samuel Eli Cohen—now in graduate school—and Stanford staff member Kiyoshi Taylor. Their continued work affirms *GRACE's* mission to remain a platform for emerging thinkers and those who began here and continue to shape the field. In many of our editorial discussions we addressed concerns about censorship and trolling of student work that uses language of design justice and equity. Rather than filter those words to avoid trolls, we opted to affirm the rhetorical choices of our authors.

The **Social Impact Papers** section opens with “Harvesting Hope,” where author Ava S. Acevedo reflects on AI and farm labor, asking how we might build technologies that serve people rather than extract from them. Britney Bennett’s “De-Identified Medical Datasets and the 2025 Readiness Gap” explores the limitations of current healthcare data infrastructure and calls for a more equitable, scalable framework for foundation model training. In “Breaking the Silence with Direct-Speech Brain Computer Interfaces,” Alice Finkelstein centers on communicative disability in conversations about algorithmic bias, offering critical ethical recommendations.

“A.I. in Law: Adversary or Ally?” by Abe Jonathan Selvas examines the role of AI in adversarial legal systems, while Claudia I. Moses’ *The “Big” Blueprint* draws compelling parallels between tobacco regulation and the regulatory future of AI, challenging readers to learn from past public health battles. Also addressing issues of addiction and technology, Taralyn Nguyen’s “Regulatory Measures and Consumer Protection in Electronic Gambling” critically interrogates iGaming platforms, raising concerns about addiction, algorithmic manipulation, and underregulated digital environments. Omotunde Falade’s “Serving Whom?” takes a critical look at mental health chatbots, urging developers to consider the needs and cultural contexts of marginalized communities.

The final two essays in this section turn directly to questions of authorship, culture, and appropriation. “The Ethics of AI-Generated Music” Vilasini Nayar interrogates how generative systems blur the lines between creativity, consent, and commodification. With a broad historical and philosophical perspective Khattak, Cohen, and Taylor write “Who Holds the Camera?” addressing trauma, state violence, and the politics of representation in AI-generated imagery. They frame their discussion with recent political appropriations of the style of Hayao Miyazaki’s Studio Ghibli.

In the **Research and Technology Reviews** section, Johann Lee and Darynne Lee’s “Towards Safe and Ethical AI” offers an overview of current proposals and frameworks for developing socially accountable AI systems. This piece highlights both the promise and the limitations of technical fixes, emphasizing the need for deeper structural thinking.

Our **Book Reviews** section engages with highly impactful texts in the field. Gift Iyioku’s “Teaching Justice: Why Mitigating Bias in Machine Learning” reviews *Mitigating Bias in Machine Learning* by Carlotta A. Berry and Brandeis Hill Marshall, an accessible, classroom-ready framework for equity-centered AI design. In “Navigating the AI Hype,” Komal Vij reviews Arvind Narayanan and Sayash Kapoor’s widely discussed *AI Snake Oil: What Artificial Intelligence Can Do, What It Can’t, and How to Tell the Difference*. Justin Ahn reviews Mark Coeckelbergh’s *Why AI Undermines Democracy and What To Do About It* reflecting on how political philosophy can inform participatory models of AI governance. Chelsea Ma reviews Giovanni Rubeis’ *Ethics of Care in the Era of Algorithms* for integrating care ethics into medical AI systems. Oluwakemisola Omolola Adeus reviews Marietje Schaake’s *The Tech Coup* examining the chilling implications of platform power as portrayed in while Angela Nguyen’s *Unmasking AI* challenges the ways artificial intelligence conceals systemic bias and human labor behind a facade of neutrality.

We conclude the issue with **Interviews**. Ayaan Chand discusses how growing up without access to digital tools shaped his current work in sustainability and equitable technology. Maria Fernanda (Mafer) Velasquez highlights the infrastructural and educational gaps facing Latin American countries and the collaborative efforts needed to ensure generative AI systems do not replicate global hierarchies.

Taken together, the essays, reviews, and interviews in this volume assert that the future of AI is no mere technical challenge, but remains ultimately a human and political one. As generative technologies increasingly influence decision-making across education, law, medicine, and culture, we must examine how these systems function, whom they benefit, whom they exclude, and how they are governed. The authors in this issue invite us to think critically, collaborate, and imagine more just technological futures.

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