

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Governance and Equity: Dealing with Testimonial Injustice, Hermeneutical Erasure, Algorithmic Bias and Cultural Homogenisation

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Table of Contents

Abstract.....	3
1.0 Introduction	3
2.0 Governance Concerns in Artificial Intelligence	5
3.0 Conclusion	8
References	9

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Abstract

This paper discusses how Artificial Intelligence (AI) can be appropriately and effectively governed for justice, equity and development. The paper observes that effective AI governance is key towards harnessing its immense benefits while tackling its risks and challenges. In particular, the paper posits that sound governance of AI is necessary in order to deal with testimonial injustice, hermeneutical erasure, algorithmic bias and cultural homogenisation. The paper discusses how these phenomena manifest in AI. In addition, it suggests how testimonial injustice, hermeneutical erasure, algorithmic bias and cultural homogenisation can be effectively addressed towards promoting effective, appropriate and ethical AI governance for justice, equity and development.

1.0 Introduction

With the world witnessing a technological revolution characterized by widespread development, deployment and use of Artificial Intelligence (AI), effective governance of modern technologies is a prerequisite for justice, equity and development. In particular, it has been observed that AI governance aims to promote the safe, ethical and appropriate development, adoption and use of AI that is universal, adapted to cultural diversities all over the world, free from biases and discrimination, and respectful of democratic values and fundamental rights and freedoms for every person¹. Through appropriate and effective governance, it is possible to harness the positive impacts of AI while mitigating its risks and challenges. For instance, it has been observed that AI can revolutionize education, delivery of public services, transportation, finance, data storage, communications, healthcare, environmental governance, access to justice and law enforcement thus providing numerous opportunities to unlock Sustainable Development². However, on the other hand, AI is associated with risks and challenges such as skewed and biased data sets, digital colonialism, inadequate transparency and accountability, breach of data sovereignty, digital

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¹ French Institute of International Relations., 'Artificial Promises or Real Regulation? Inventing Global AI Governance' Available at <https://www.ifri.org/en/studies/artificial-promises-or-real-regulation-inventing-global-ai-governance> (Accessed on 09/08/2026)

² Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development., 'Governing with Artificial Intelligence' Available at https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/2025/06/governing-with-artificial-intelligence_398fa287.html (Accessed on 09/08/2026)

divides, errors and the potential for human right violations thus creating the need for good governance of this powerful technology³.

AI governance relies on the ability of state and non-state actors to set common universal standards on technological risks, the boundaries to be drawn, and the principles and standards to be safeguarded when developing, adopting and using AI⁴. This concept covers a set of practices for developing, deploying, and monitoring AI applications in a safe, trustworthy, and ethical manner that ensures appropriate functionality of AI over its entire lifecycle⁵. AI governance has also been described as set of rules, processes, standards and frameworks that help to ensure AI systems and tools are safe, appropriate, responsive and ethical⁶.

AI governance therefore covers laws, policies, regulations, and ethical guidelines that oversee the development, deployment and use of AI in order to harness its transformative potential while addressing social implications, ensuring accountability, and promoting responsible innovation for human rights, justice and equity⁷. It has been observed that effective, appropriate and ethical AI governance is vital in broadening access to AI for governments, industry, and civil society especially for developing countries while also ensuring that the adoption of AI responds to differing AI needs among regions, countries, communities and individuals⁸. In addition, through sound governance, it is possible to strengthen international and regional cooperation towards effectively responding to the rapid pace at which AI is developing⁹.

However, given the rapid pace at which AI is being developed and adopted, its governance faces several hurdles. For example, the United Nations observes that the explosive growth and adoption of AI tools around the world has yet to be matched by effective, internationally agreed rules, policies and frameworks on how this powerful technology is to be governed¹⁰. Consequently, there is need for appropriate and effective governance approaches towards ensuring the safe, ethical, responsive and purposeful development, deployment and use of AI for justice, equity and development.

³ Ibid

⁴ French Institute of International Relations., 'Artificial Promises or Real Regulation? Inventing Global AI Governance' Op Cit

⁵ Papagiannidis. E., Mikalef. P., & Conboy. K., ' Responsible artificial intelligence governance: A review and research framework' *The Journal of Strategic Information Systems.*, Volume 34, Issue 2, 2025

⁶ What is AI Governance?., Available at <https://www.ibm.com/think/topics/ai-governance> (Accessed on 09/08/2026)

⁷ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization., 'AI Governance' Available at <https://www.unesco.org/en/tags/ai-governance-0> (Accessed on 09/08/2026)

⁸ Network architecture for global AI policy., Available at <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/network-architecture-for-global-ai-policy/> (Accessed on 09/08/2026)

⁹ Ibid

¹⁰ United Nations., 'UN moves to close dangerous void in AI governance' Available at <https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/09/1165898> (Accessed on 09/08/2026)

This paper discusses how AI can be appropriately and effectively governed for justice, equity and development. The paper observes that effective AI governance is key towards harnessing its immense benefits while tackling its risks and challenges. In particular, the paper posits that sound governance of AI is necessary in order to deal with testimonial injustice, hermeneutical erasure, algorithmic bias and cultural homogenisation. The paper discusses how these phenomena manifest in AI. In addition, it suggests how testimonial injustice, hermeneutical erasure, algorithmic bias and cultural homogenisation can be effectively addressed towards promoting effective, appropriate and ethical AI governance for justice, equity and development.

2.0 Governance Concerns in Artificial Intelligence

The rapid growth and use of AI raises several concerns which need to be carefully navigated in order to ensure that this powerful and transformative technology is effectively harnessed. One of the key governance risk and concern in AI is testimonial injustice. Testimonial injustice arises due to discriminatory and unfair practices that question the epistemic status of individuals belonging to disadvantaged groups based on unfounded prejudices¹¹. It has been observed that a person suffers testimonial injustice when they receive less credibility, as a result of unfounded prejudices, than they would have received if such prejudices did not exist¹².

It has been observed that testimonial injustice manifests when AI tools and systems undermine or discredit a person's lived testimony due to prejudice, discrimination and marginalization¹³. Testimonial injustice flows from unequal social relations which unfairly and disproportionately determine what gets to count as knowledge and who gets to count as a credible knower or epistemic agent¹⁴. It has been argued with AI being widely deployed and adopted across different sectors, regions and cultural-contexts, it is imperative to re-evaluate not just the role of the speaker (the person or entity giving testimony), but also the role of the hearer (the person or entity receiving testimony)¹⁵. In most contexts, AI raises testimonial injustices by magnifying the voice of the speaker while discriminating and marginalizing the role of hearers¹⁶. For example, AI tools deployed in healthcare, finance, education and justice systems among other key sectors have demonstrated testimonial injustices by systematically devaluing the lived experiences, knowledge systems and testimonies of marginalized groups¹⁷. The systematic silencing, exclusion

¹¹ Pozzi. G., 'Testimonial injustice in medical machine learning' Available at <https://jme.bmj.com/content/49/8/536> (Accessed on 10/08/2026)

¹² Ibid

¹³ Gray. C., 'Testimonial Injustice in Governmental AI Systems' Available at https://www.researchgate.net/publication/377005233_Testimonial_Injustice_in_Governmental_AI_Systems/fulltext/65919f743c472d2e8ea2f1b3/Testimonial-Injustice-in-Governmental-AI-Systems.pdf (Accessed on 10/08/2026)

¹⁴ Ibid

¹⁵ Ibid

¹⁶ Ibid

¹⁷ Mollema. W., 'A taxonomy of epistemic injustice in the context of AI and the case for generative hermeneutical erasure' Available at <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s43681-025-00801-w> (Accessed on 10/08/2026)

and distortion on non-Western testimonies, knowledge systems, worldviews and languages has been identified as a clear manifestation of testimonial injustice in technology and AI¹⁸.

Another key governance concern in AI is hermeneutical erasure. It has been observed that hermeneutical erasure is a form of epistemic injustice where the knowledge systems, languages, philosophies and worldviews of marginalized groups are systematically ignored, dismissed and removed within a dominant society¹⁹. In particular, it has been pointed out that AI systems and tools usually inferiorize non-Western epistemologies thereby contributing to the erosion of their epistemic particulars, gradually contributing to hermeneutical erasure²⁰. Most AI systems and models often reproduce colonial language hierarchies, undermine indigenous data sovereignty in the Global South, and marginalize indigenous languages, philosophies and knowledge systems²¹. This situation can lead to hermeneutical erasure by making indigenous data sets, knowledge systems, values, philosophies and languages invisible and underutilized in the era of technology and AI²². The widespread development, deployment and use of AI can therefore lead to the loss and erasure of hermeneutics by enforcing dominant worldviews, languages and philosophies while sidelining, eroding and marginalizing non-dominant perspectives and epistemologies²³.

Algorithmic bias is also a pertinent risk and concern in AI. It has been correctly noted that AI models are only as good and accurate as the data they are trained on²⁴. Therefore, if the training data is biased, incomplete, or inaccurate, the AI model's predictions and decisions will also be biased, incomplete, or inaccurate²⁵. In particular, it has been observed that since most AI systems are designed in the Global North, they may perpetuate bias and prejudices in the Global South unless they are tuned to fit with local circumstances²⁶. Use of AI models in key sectors such as healthcare, agriculture, education and finance has often resulted in biases and discrimination against marginalized groups including people of colour while also fuelling injustices against

¹⁸ Ibid

¹⁹ Ibid

²⁰ Ibid

²¹ Pluriversal AI: Language Justice, Infrastructures, and Global Inequalities., Available at <https://www.tuni.fi/en/tau/research/pluriversal-ai-language-justice-infrastructures-and-global-inequalities> (Accessed on 10/08/2026)

²² Mollema. W., 'A taxonomy of epistemic injustice in the context of AI and the case for generative hermeneutical erasure' Op Cit

²³ Ibid

²⁴ Vinciullo. A., 'The Risk of Law Firms Relying on Chat GPT to Perform Contract analysis and Legal Research.' Available at <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/risk-law-firms-relying-chat-gpt-perform-contract-legal-vinciullo/> (Accessed on 10/08/2026)

²⁵ Ibid

²⁶ Orero. L.O., & Kaaniru. J., 'Automated Decision-Making Policies in Africa' Available at <https://cipit.strathmore.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Policy-Brief-Design-Automated-Decision-Making.pdf> (Accessed on 10/08/2026)

indigenous knowledge systems, philosophies and languages²⁷. Algorithmic bias is a negative phenomenon since it affects the safe, inclusive, appropriate and equitable development and use of AI.

Cultural homegenisation is another risk that can arise unless AI is governed appropriately, ethically and responsibly. Cultural homogenization is the process through which local cultures become similar or identical to a dominant global culture²⁸. In addition, it has been observed that cultural homogenisation occurs when cultures sufficiently blend to the extent that they no longer exist as unique, separate entities within a country or region²⁹. Cultural homogenization can result in a dominant culture erasing other cultures, co-opting other cultures, or transforming other cultures in a manner such that they lose their uniqueness³⁰. Despite its positive benefits, cultural homogenization can lead to erosion of cultural diversity³¹. In particular, it has been observed that local languages, traditions, philosophies and customs are at risk of disappearing as global culture becomes dominant³². Consequently, cultural homogenization can lead to a diminished sense of identity and belonging for individuals and communities³³.

In the context of technology, it has been observed that AI is fuelling cultural homogenisation by merging diverse human cultures, philosophies, ways of knowing and perspectives into standardized Western-centric norms³⁴. While AI has potential to empower and transform cultures, this technology is also leading to a more monolithic and less diverse world as it imposes a dominant cultural perspective³⁵. The dominance of Western-centric narratives, philosophies, knowledge systems and languages can therefore lead to cultural homogenisation³⁶.

It is imperative to address the foregoing risks and concerns in order to effectively and appropriately harness AI for justice, equity and development.

²⁷ Ibid

²⁸ Aimie. C., 'Globalization and Its Impact on Cultural Homogenization: A Comprehensive Analysis' Available at <https://www.longdom.org/open-access/globalization-and-its-impact-on-cultural-homogenization-a-comprehensive-analysis-110068.html> (Accessed on 10/08/2026)

²⁹ Collins. L. H., 'Cultural Homogenization' Available at <https://sk.sagepub.com/ency/edvol/the-sage-encyclopedia-of-multicultural-counseling/chpt/cultural-homogenization#> (Accessed on 10/08/2026)

³⁰ Ibid

³¹ Aimie. C., 'Globalization and Its Impact on Cultural Homogenization: A Comprehensive Analysis' Op Cit

³² Ibid

³³ Ibid

³⁴ Mann. H., 'AI Homogenization Is Shaping The World' Available at <https://www.forbes.com/sites/hamiltonmann/2024/03/05/the-ai-homogenization-is-shaping-the-world/> (Accessed on 10/08/2026)

³⁵ Ibid

³⁶ Ramos. F.F., & Siqueira. F.W., 'Pluriversal Strategies for Human-AI Design: Onto-Technological Reframings inspired by Brazilian Indigenous Knowings and Practices' Available at <https://salt.uniriotec.br/2025/09/08/pluriversal-strategies-for-human-ai-design-onto-technological-reframings-inspired-by-brazilian-indigenous-knowings-and-practices/> (Accessed on 10/08/2026)

3.0 Conclusion

With AI being widely developed, deployed and used all over the world, it is imperative to ensure that this powerful technology is appropriately governed in order to harness its positive attributes while mitigating its risks and challenges. In particular, dealing with testimonial injustice, hermeneutical erasure, algorithmic bias and cultural homegenisation is key towards the safe, ethical, appropriate and responsible development and use of AI. In order to achieve this goal, there have been calls for the development and deployment of pluriversal AI models and systems which incorporate different cultures, worldviews, philosophies and languages³⁷. Through pluriversal AI tools, it is possible to harness indigenous philosophies, cultural knowledge and languages especially in the Global South towards the development of AI models that ensure inclusivity, diversity and social cohesion³⁸. This is key towards tackling testimonial injustice, hermeneutical erasure, algorithmic bias and cultural homegenisation by ensuring that different worldviews, philosophies, languages and cultures are harnessed, utilised and preserved through AI³⁹. In addition, ensuring that AI models are trained on diverse, inclusive and accurate data sets is also necessary towards tackling algorithmic bias among other risks and challenges in AI⁴⁰.

Dealing with testimonial injustice, hermeneutical erasure, algorithmic bias and cultural homogenisation is vital towards effective and appropriate AI governance for justice and equity.

³⁷ Ramos. F.F., & Siqueira. F.W., 'Pluriversal Strategies for Human-AI Design: Onto-Technological Reframings inspired by Brazilian Indigenous Knowings and Practices' Op Cit

³⁸ Kilungu. N., 'Pluriversal AI: Bridging African Epistemologies and Peace Innovation' Available at <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/pluriversal-ai-bridging-african-epistemologies-peace-mwelu-kilungu-g-acl1f/> (Accessed on 10/08/2026)

³⁹ Ibid

⁴⁰ Orero. L.O., & Kaaniru. J., 'Automated Decision-Making Policies in Africa' Op Cit

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