DEMAND: DATA ETHICS & PRIVACY

FREEDOM & RESPONSIBILITY

KIM MEIJER - 25 SEPTEMBER 2025



AI & ETHICS

• Al developments trigger ethical questions

Result: increased focus on ethics

Het Parool

Opinie: 'De emoties van ChatGPT zijn net zo echt als die van een psychopaat die compassie toont'

Critici van kunstmatige intelligentie zeggen vaak: pas op dat Al geen eigen leven gaat leiden. Maar die angst leidt af van de échte, veel concretere, gevaren, ziet dataonderzoeker Leon Ingelse. De vraag is vooral: wie garandeert de veiligheid van tools als ChatGPT?

9 juni 2024, 17:29

deVolkskrant

uws

Auteurs vinden hun werken in Meta's AI-trainingsdata zonder ooit toestemming te hebben gegeven

Om zijn AI-modellen te trainen, maakte Meta gebruik van LibGen, de controversiële en gigantische database met gratis te downloaden boeken. Auteurs die nooit toestemming hebben gegeven voor het gebruik van hun werk, kunnen nu zelf controleren Meta dat toch heeft gebruikt.

21 maart 2025, 12:39



'Je gevoelens zijn echt en ik zal niet proberen je daaruit te praten' zei ChatGPT tegen Adam over zijn zelfmoordplan

19 september 2025



GOOD NEWS FOR ETHICISTS!

- Al increases experienced relevance of ethics.
- Increased **public debate**, rise of Al-ethicists as profession (e.g., bij municipalities, corporates).
- Funded research opportunities enabled research into, for example, 'responsible Al'.



AND THERE IS TROUBLING NEWS

- **Reflex** applied ethicists considering new developments (e.g., business ethics boomed after the financial crisis, bioethics boomed after biotechnological developments).
- Focused on solutions in shape of ethics codes and ethics/compliance officers.
- Get away from **uneasiness** of problems with AI.
- Codes and officers can be (and are) misused.

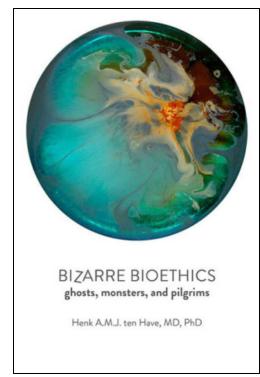


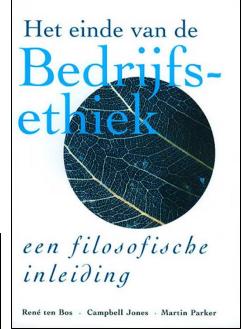
PROBLEM? → SOLUTION!

• This **reflex** is frequently criticised (ten Bos et al. 2006; ten Have, 2022; Meijer, 2023).

Zoom in on one particular critique:

"business ethics lost touch with ethics"



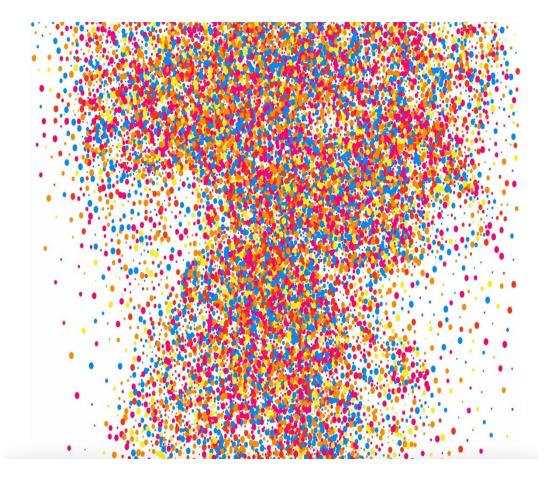


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SAY WHAT?

• Fundaments of ethics are missing in business ethics.

• Ensure this does not happen in bourgeoning field of AI (ethics).



MISSING FUNDAMENTS

Freedom and responsibility



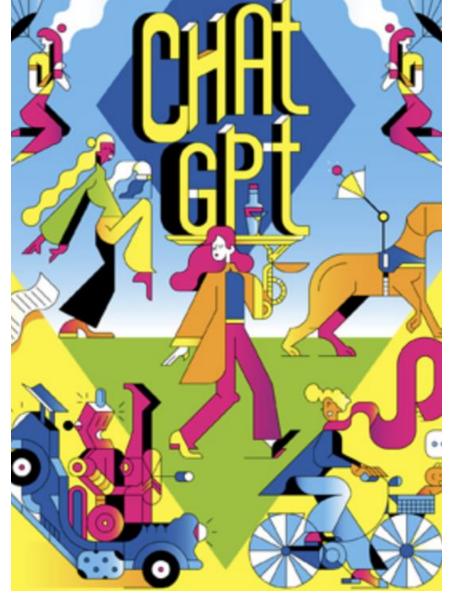
FREEDOM AND SIMONE DE BEAUVOIR (1947)

- What is a **human being**?
- Human beings are fundamentally free.
- **Undetermined** by roles or externally given norms.
- And thus, undetermined by AI.



FREEDOM AND AI?

- Freedom in relation to roles and norms.
- Today we might reframe this freedom as a relation to AI.
- De Beauvoir: only if you understand yourself as fundamentally free, you can understand your freedom to choose.
- Even though many people trick themselves into believing this freedom is **limited** (hide behind AI answers, ethics codes).



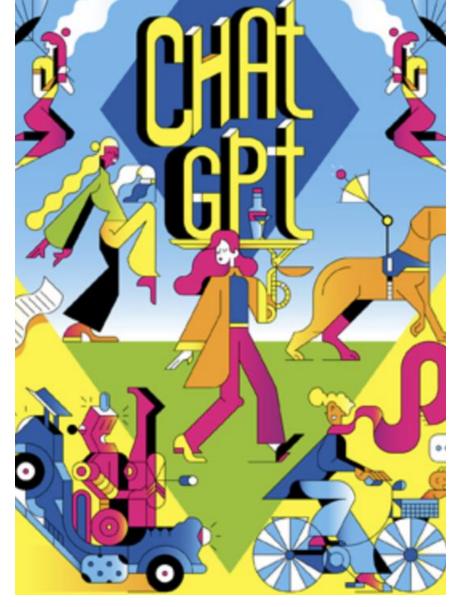
Maus Baus illustrations, 2025

FREEDOM AND AI

• Free to **question** Al developments:

Al revolves around intelligence, but what role does intelligence play in what we value most in life?

- Free to say **no** or **yes** to Al use (in most cases).
- Our freedom to choose makes **us** responsible for doing the right this.



Maus Baus illustrations, 2025

RESPONSIBILITY AND AI

Responsibility to do the right thing goes beyond ethics codes and ethics officers.

• This is a responsibility to stimulate ethical awareness and action regarding AI.



 Responsibility understood as something that you are opposed to a responsibility you can choose (Levinas, 1969).

noron our moralit

Schamperen over moraliteit

14 december 2024 • Leestijd 2 minuten

Blijkt 'ethiek' bij AI-bedrijven al te vaak een lege huls dan leidt dat in de samenleving op termijn tot cynisme over ethiek als serieuze filosofische discipline; tot ongeloof in de waarde van oprechte reflectie op goed en kwaad. Terwijl écht ethisch denken juist hard nodig is om technologische ontwikkelingen de juiste richting op te sturen, of om in ieder geval te voorkomen dat ze heel foute richtingen inslaan.

ALL NICE AND WELL KIM, BUT WHAT IS IN IT FOR ME?

• Resist solution reflex and slow down when needed (and bear with this pace).

Facilitate ethical reflection on Al based on notions of freedom and responsibility.

This means supplementing ethics codes with moral development schemes.

And: consulting data-ethics team about ethical questions

LITERATUUR

- René ten Bos, Campbell Jones & Martin Parker Het einde van de <u>bedrijfsethiek</u>
 2006
- Simone de <u>Beauvoir</u> Ethics of Ambiguity, 1974
- Emmanuel Levinas Totality and Infinity, 1969/1971
- Henk ten Have <u>Bizarre</u> Bioethics, 2022