
Pan-African AI & Smart Systems Conference, October 15-17, Ghana. Website: <https://paaiss.com/>
Theme: AI: Ethics – and an African Case Study
Date: TBD – see conference agenda

Panel Objective

AI has emerged as a core technology of the future, empowering many countries around the world to adopt it as a strategic technology around which various sectors of their economy from defense, health care, manufacturing to utility infrastructures will be developed. Many of these countries will get AI systems as off-the-shelf solutions to be retrofitted into legacy systems without a careful consideration of its impacts on local cultures, values systems, legal systems, and the country's digital sovereignty. This approach raises some serious questions on how to identify undesirable built-in features such as lack of transparency, algorithmic and data biases, lack of trust and verifiability, to name but a few.

The goal of this panel is to explore the above issues in the context of AI technology adoption and implementation in Africa where the technology will be imported as black boxes than through a local development process.

Discussion Points

- General AI ethics – Implications of AI applications in modern societies (transparency, algorithms and data biases, surveillance, deepfakes, discrimination, automation and job displacement, etc.)
- AI Geopolitics - AI as a strategic technology to propagate imperialism, recolonization, loss of data sovereignty, political disinformation, etc.
- AI ethics and impacts in traditional societies - An African case study that may be in conflict with local value systems, oral knowledge encoding and transmission, and other time-tested practices.

Panelists/Presenters

- Dr. Thomas Ndousse, Program Director, Imhotep Geostrategic Innovations, Maryland, USA
- Dr. Jake Okechukwu Effoduh, | Lincoln Alexander School of Law, Toronto Metropolitan University, Canada
- Other panelists (TBD)

Panel Structure

Each panelist will make a 15-minute presentation. The panel will be open for Q&A follow by opened discussions involving all participants. The panel discussion will be recorded and made available on the conference website.
