



Summary of Session: Data Ethics and the Ethics of Digital and Emerging Technologies – Building Trust, Serving Humanity

Globethics

16:00-16:45, Monday, 13 March 2023

[WSIS Forum 2023: Data Ethics and the Ethics of Digital and Emerging Technologies – ITU Video Portal / <https://www.globethics.net/events/wsis-forum-2023/> / <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/203>](#)

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- Almost every day we can discover in the media, how communication technology is constituting much more than a deep paradigm shift, disruptive challenges in social practices and education. The question of banning access to ChatGPT, a popular new software, which generates text on any subject in response to a query, for example, which is becoming gradually a mainstream temptation (see: New South Wales and Queensland public schools in Australia). Only a few months after the world discovers this new information technology, the immediate concerns articulated by many is not only justified, but also becomes a spin, underlining the urgency of unbiased reflections and competency on the matter.
- One of the ways to constructively address this challenge could consist creating an international civil society framework of surveillance, of ethical mentoring of individuals and institutions, holding regular international meetings which serve at assessing the quality of the monitoring and of the social needs for any given emerging digital technology. By preventing the possible black spots and risks associated with emerging digital tech, we meet at WSIS, once a year, a moment, which is sufficient, - provided the very fast development of the phenomenon and concern about the everyday consequences of the massive use of emerging technologies, - only under condition of serious work done on the long run. Globethics Foundation decided on Jan. 2023 to take two steps forward:
- As international non for profit foundation with ECOSOC status and international centers worldwide focusing on ethics the need to focus on emerging technologies has been distinctively recognized in the clear refocusing our new Strategy 2023-2027. Globethics as an international non-governmental organization, working for ethical leadership through its academic and public engagement, made the decision through our highest constituencies for



the coming years to work on emerging technologies. Registered in Geneva, Switzerland, it is an independent, not-for-profit foundation, with an international Board of Trustees, and centers around the world. In having a range of concrete research programs and international and interdisciplinary publications on emerging technologies, Globethics aspires to integrate all most innovative ways of dealing with ethical wisdoms of cultural, religious, philosophical and humanist inspiration in order to weave through them, but also through their differences, bridges between worldviews on ethical issues.

- Since many years but in particular our joint 2013 Declaration on Ethics in the Information Society, the groundwork done in 2018 on cyber ethics and the development of our online library collection on cyber ethics freely accessible and downloadable worldwide: (Access: <https://repository.globethics.net/handle/20.500.12424/31>), Globethics succeeded in turn first in 2022 and 2023 to release two further original research works. Edited by Dr. Erin Green, Divya Singh and Roland Chia, AI ethics and Education (see: <https://www.globethics.net/education-ethics-series>) and the newest Data Ethics, edited by Christoph Stückelbeger and Pavan Duggal (see: <https://www.globethics.net/global-series>) demonstrate ten years of constant efforts in following the evolution of digital communication technologies and their impact of the human social life and education.
- The current 2023 meeting at WSIS has shown the importance of pursuing our mission and work on ethics and the emerging information technologies, bringing on board cutting edge research from all continents, all cultures and religious-spiritual-philosophical beliefs and worldviews, with serious scientific grounding and also inspiring poetical existential meaning for our concrete conditions of living in our communities and ways of life.

Moderator: Dr Ignace Haaz, Managing Editor, Globethics Publications.

Speakers: Dr Dr h.c. Christoph Stückelberger, President and Founder, Globethics, co-editor of Data Ethics: Building Trust How Digital Technologies Can Serve Humanity. Geneva: Globethics, 2023.

Dr Pavan Duggal, co-editor of Data Ethics: Building Trust How Digital Technologies Can Serve Humanity. Geneva: Globethics, 2023; Barrister, Supreme Court of India, President, Cyberlaws.net, Cyberlaw Asia and Mobilelaw.net, Chief Mentor, Blockchain Law Epicentre, Chairman, International Commission on Cyber Security Law and Globethics Board Member

Dr Greta Baliu, Member of the Editorial Board of the Globethics Journal of Ethics in Higher Education, Institut interdisciplinaire d'éthique et des droits de l'homme, Chaire Unesco de la



diversité et des droits culturels, Université de Fribourg et Observatoire de la diversité et des droits culturels, Fribourg, Switzerland.

Dr Erin Green, is the Communications and Asia-Pacific Coordinator for Pax Christi International, an author, philosopher, theologian, communicator and expert in the social impact of AI and related technologies. She is passionate about understanding how AI is changing our world, and making sure we all work for the common good.

Mr Gilles Bach, is a consultant in the data, AI, Internet of Things space and on digital and core transformation, and innovation, and a member of the Globethics Global Pool of Ethics Experts and course instructor at Globethics Academy, *inter alia* for the open course on Cyberethics.

Towards WSIS+20 and WSIS beyond 2025, please share your views on the emerging trends, challenges, achievements, and opportunities in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines to date (5-8 bullets)

- Globethics's Strategy launch on 5 April 2023 is aiming at reaffirming our serious efforts on monitoring the impact of information and emerging technologies on educational quality, economic prosperity, political atmosphere and quality of life. The event will be conducted in a simultaneous manner across all our regional centers, showing the coordination of our efforts and contextualization of our resources.
- The Globethics Journal of Ethics in Higher Education, launched in 2022 as a biannual, open access digital journal, has been positioned as a scholarly platform for international and cross-cultural exchange and high-profile academic contributions, also in languages other than English, on cutting-edge ethical issues pertaining to the higher education sector. The scope of the journal is to bring to the fore a diverse and engaging scholarly discourse also on the emerging ethical preoccupations around the increasing use of Internet-based technologies and integrity-based research at all levels of academia.
- The vision of ethical leadership for a just, inclusive and sustainable world is at the core of the Globethics strategy 2023-2027.
- The specialised Globethics e-library with its more than 75 collections, more than 150 journals, and 3.6 million curated publications provides video tutorials on the use of our open access resources (+Globethics's own publications series and standalone publications).
- Globethics is also an accredited provider of online and blended learning, offering through its [Academy](#) quality open and executive course programmes, *inter alia*, on Cyberethics,

Responsible Leadership, Ethics in Higher Education for Teaching Professionals, and Social Responsibility and Sustainable Development.

- In April 2023, Globethics will launch the second volume of its [Research Ethics Series](#), realized in collaboration with the Institute of Research and Action on Fraud and Plagiarism in the Academia (IRAFPA), based in Geneva, which is a pole of excellency on information risks in higher education, with its 18'000 subscribers, and yearly workshops and trainings, see: **Tangible outcomes (such as key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments (3-5 bullet points))**

Among the key outcomes from research work done on *Data Ethics*, our researchers have pointed out:

- The need to train and institutionalise data ethics officers (see Enrico Panai, <https://doi.org/10.58863/20.500.12424/4276012>);
- The new type of criminal harms and wrongs related to the exponentially increasing (mis)use of the metaverse engendering consequently new types of legal protection measures, see Divya Singh: Sexual Assault in the Metaverse: Caveat Universitates (“Universities Beware”), <https://doi.org/10.58863/20.500.12424/4276067>);
- Satellites and Sea Cables: The Ownership of Data Carriers and Geo-political Implications by A.I Prakash, <https://doi.org/10.58863/20.500.12424/4276065>;
- African value and a new and better intelligence in global AI inclusion discourse as normative ethics perspective, a study by A. Gwagwa, E. Kazim & A. Hilliard, <https://doi.org/10.58863/20.500.12424/4276016>
- Complementary key findings in this volume can be consulted and downloaded free of charge: <https://www.globethics.net/data-ethics>

Actionable plan (2-5 points)

- Globethics Publications follows a publication plan of 20 to 30 publications on ethics per year, among which a large number is on ethical issues related to emerging digital technologies.
- Over the past 3 years we gathered PhD theses from Nigeria on media ethics and we are closely collaborating with teachers and researchers from the Department of Mass Communication, on the African continent and plan many new research and publication projects for the years to come.

- As 2022 outcomes see: Dr. Peter Eshioke Egielewa, see his article in JEHE 1(2022), <https://doi.org/10.26034/fr.jehe.2022.3378>; the author is releasing in 2023 new research on mass media ethics in the Nigerian context.
- Globethics also running a project on ethics excellence in higher education as assessment exercise. Discover about it in the following article: Making Ethics Effective in Higher Education in Africa and Beyond, by N. Balgobin, <https://doi.org/10.26034/fr.jehe.2022.3391>,
- Under the title: Empowering Partnership: Ethics in Context, by C. Housel, H. Makinda, S. Ackah (et al.), <https://doi.org/10.26034/fr.jehe.2022.3392> Globethics staff members present the crucial importance ethics networks and partnerships in context.
- The analysis by Globethics Managing editor on “Ambivalence, creative investment, publishing and development”, I. Haaz, <https://doi.org/10.26034/fr.jehe.2022.3380> helps to address critically some of the difficulties in running an international publishing house, in the 21st century, concerned by both quality work and fair access to service for authors from the majority world.

Suggestions for thematic aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2024 (WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event) (one paragraph)

- **Globethics** is committed to its thematic priorities, i.e. ethical standards in higher education; sustainability and environmental justice; ethics of digital and emerging technologies; inclusive peace and responsible governance. These thematic areas might constitute valid suggestions for consideration related to the WSIS Forum 2024.