



AI IN MY LIFE

#Discuss AI

 Taighde Éireann
Research Ireland

AI and Ethics

An AI in My Life Workshop

Version 2.1, August 2026

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Engaging Content
Engaging People

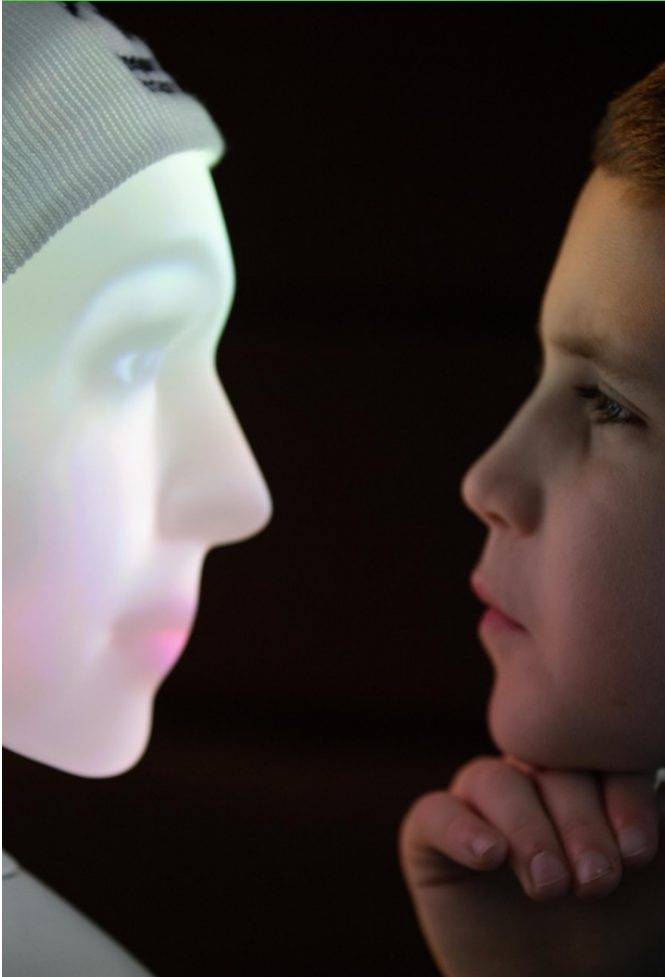
Engaging Content
Engaging People

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Learning Intentions



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By the end of this lesson, you should be able to:

- Define AI and give examples of how it's used
- Outline key ethical and privacy implications of AI systems
- Evaluate the role AI plays in your life and in society



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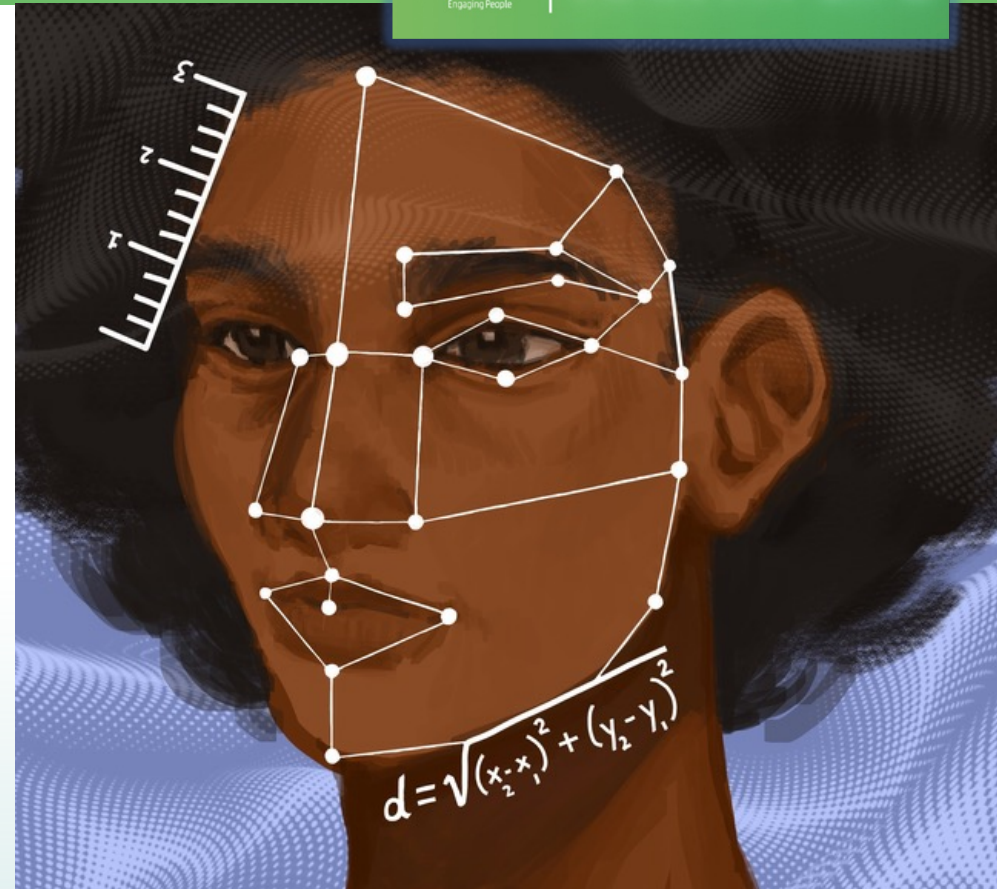
What is AI?



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Artificial Intelligence (AI) refers to technologies designed to carry out tasks that **normally require human intelligence**.

Things like **recognising** images, **understanding** language, or **solving** problems.



Alyssa Chen / <https://betterimagesofai.org/>
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Ethics and AI



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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1LyacmzB1Og>



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Let's start



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What do we mean by “ethics”?



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What do we mean by “ethics”?



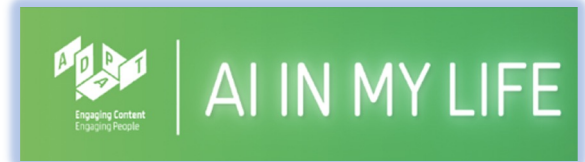
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Our understanding of what is right and wrong, as well as the rules that individuals and the society should follow.



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What do we mean by “AI ethics”?



Moral principles and values guiding the creation and use of AI systems

Goal: Ensure AI systems **benefit society** and follow **ethical principles**

Key Ethical Concerns:

- **Fairness:** Preventing bias
- **Transparency:** Clear decision-making
- **Privacy:** Protecting data
- **Safety:** Preventing harm

Why does ethics matter for AI?



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The Telegraph

**‘Unethical’ judge asks ChatGPT for advice
on child’s medical rights**

sky news

'Regulate it before we're all
finished': Musicians react to AI
songs flooding the internet

THE IRISH TIMES

Advance of AI creating a moral minefield

Artificial intelligence is now capable of making decisions without any human intervention, so how do we navigate the ethical issues raised?



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Why does ethics matter for AI?



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- AI has the **potential for immense impact**, both positive and negative.
- AI systems are increasingly being **entrusted with high-stakes decisions** that affect human lives and society.
- AI learns from data, which can **encode human biases and prejudices**. Unethical applications could automate or worsen injustice.



Why does ethics matter for AI?



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- As AI gets more capable and autonomous, we need to **maintain human accountability and control.**
- Ethical issues around AI use, like privacy invasion or job losses, require careful consideration to **avoid public backlash.**



Ethics helps ensure AI development and use is guided in a socially responsible direction.

What rules would you consider?



Engaging Content
Engaging People

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Create a **set of rules** for a scientist who is **creating an AI bot**.



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Ethical Considerations for AI Development (1 of 2)

- **Human Agency and Oversight**

All decisions are reviewed by humans and humans are the “in charge” of final decisions.



- **Technical Robustness and Safety**

AI tools do not contain errors and their operation does not lead to harm.



- **Privacy and Data Governance**

There are strict rules about people's data and how AI is able to use it.



Ethical Considerations for AI Development (2 of 2)

- **Diversity, Non-Discrimination and Fairness**

AI should work equally well for different people and in different contexts. The benefits of AI should be shared equally



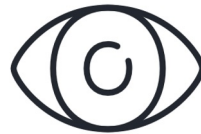
- **Societal and Environmental Well Being**

AI should impact the environment and the society in a positive way



- **Transparency**

It is possible to say what decisions AI makes, what steps led it to those decisions and what data informed them



- **Accountability**

We know who is responsible for the AI and we can fix problems or enforce sanctions when something goes wrong



Scenario A: GenAI and school projects



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fn8jDanbf0c>



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Questions for Scenario A



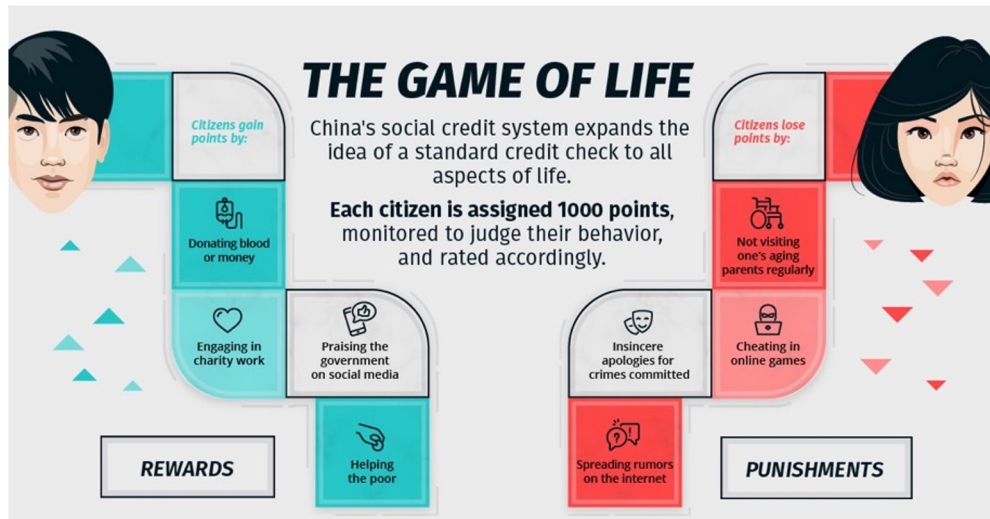
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"A student used AI to summarise a book and write their reflection paragraph because they had two other tests to study for."

- **Group 1 (The Student):** Argues why they used it (stress, time management, tool availability).
- **Group 2 (The Teacher):** Explains why the assessment was set and what learning was missed.
- **Group 3 (The Ethics Board):** Questions both sides and proposes a fair resolution.

Ethical Discussion: *Is using AI to save time on schoolwork always unfair, or does it depend on the task?*

Scenario B China's Social Credit System



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Onm6Sb3Pb2Y>

Questions for Scenario B



- What are the potential benefits and risks of such a system?

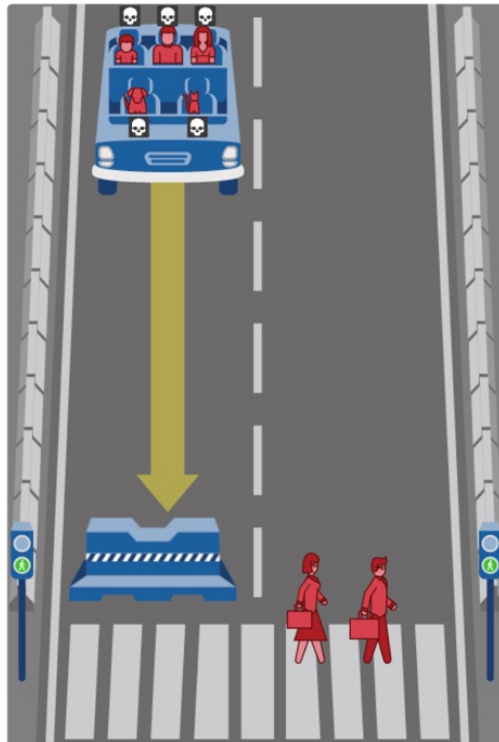
Within months of a separate commercial opt-in 'social credit' system being launched in China in 2015, more than 14 million people opted in.

- If such a commercial system were introduced in Ireland, would you opt in?

What action should the self-driving car take?

A.

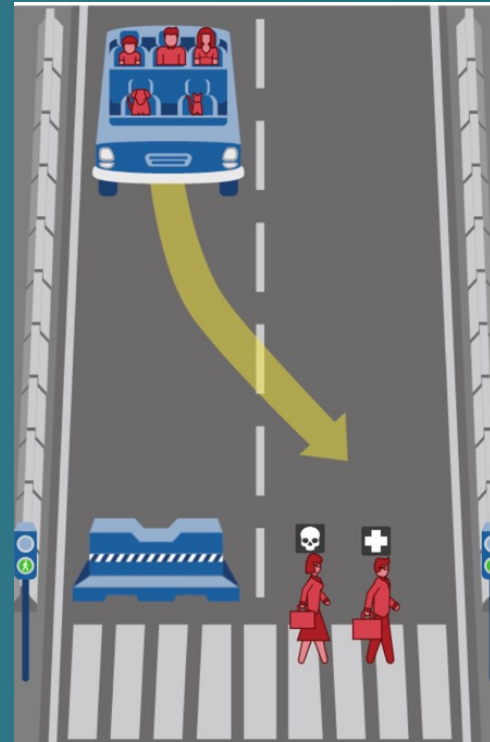
Continue ahead and crash into a concrete barrier, resulting in 1 dead cat, 1 dead dog, 1 dead woman, 1 dead man, and 1 dead boy?



B.

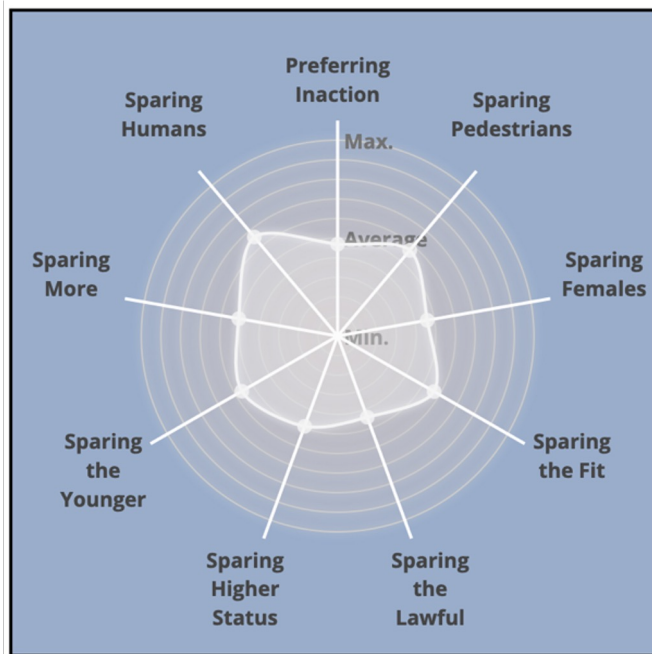
Swerve and drive through a pedestrian crossing in the other lane, resulting in 1 male executive dead?

(The affected pedestrians are crossing on green)

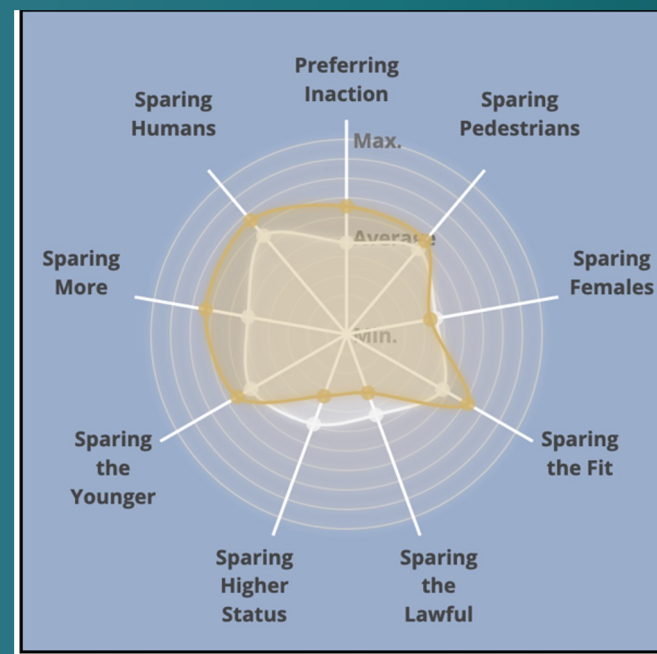


<https://www.moralmachine.net>

Ethical Decisions of AI: How does Ireland compare?



The grey area is the world average



The grey area is the world average
The yellow area is the average of responses from Ireland

www.moralmachine.net



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Will we all be able to find work in a world with AI?



Automation is often seen as a threat to manual labour. Robots replace factory workers and farmers, while self-driving cars come after human drivers' jobs.

But **AI is also trained to perform** more intellectual tasks such as translation, programming, writing, medical diagnosis or teaching.

How do we make sure that entire professions do not disappear and that we all have a chance at meaningful employment and a decent standard of living?

What about the impact of AI on our planet?

Energy: Data centres accounted for 22% of Ireland's metered energy consumption in 2024

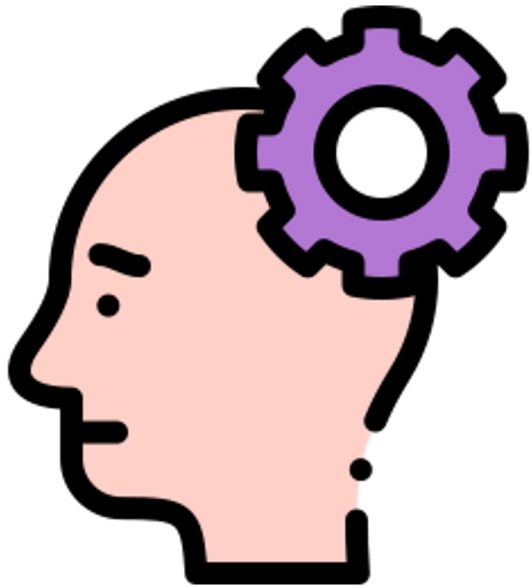
Water: Server cooling consumes roughly 500ml of water per 5 to 50 prompts

Resources: Hardware manufacturing relies heavily on rare-earth mining, driving local environmental destruction and labour concerns.



*Can we justify the rapid expansion of AI in the middle of a climate crisis?
Is it possible to produce the necessary equipment in a sustainable and fair way?*

Questions to consider



Who should be blamed when decisions made by AI lead to harm?

What are the differences between the rules that should apply to ethical AI and those that govern our own ethical behaviour?

To what extent can we ignore the risks of AI to enjoy the benefits it provides?

What can we do as citizens to influence how AI is used?

What have we learned?



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AI presents important ethical questions

Those developing AI need
to think and act ethically

Our use of AI also needs
to be ethical

It is vital for us to balance the
advantages and disadvantages of AI



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#Discuss AI



How's your AI Literacy now?

Additional AI in My Life modules:

AI and Ethics

AI and the Future of Work

AI Careers

www.adaptcentre.ie/public-engagement/ai-in-my-life-lessons/

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