

Preface

Currently, we are moving from a stage in which conviction of the efficacy and suitability of the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) is needed, to another stage, where it seems that platforms become obsolete, algorithms and machine learning surpass us, and where more technological advances are pursued with a correct and efficient development of the human being, who is the last recipient of the benefits we hope said technological developments will bring.

This is where Artificial Intelligence (AI) comes into play, assisting in decision-making, streamlining productivity, transforming our way of communicating, not only between human beings but also in our interaction with virtual assistants, bots and other technological expressions, revolutionizing the way of doing business, making complex logistical processes more efficient and predicting particular consumer needs, innovating in the automation of all kinds of land, air and maritime vehicles, among many other expressions of a technology that has acquired the ability to learn by itself by collecting and processing data under specific guidelines. All of this imposes on us, legal scholars, the very transcendent premise of encircling the scope of these technologies to the protective mantle of ethics and responsibility, placing the human being at the center of their interests and purposes.

In a future society, in the short or medium term, we must incorporate the advantages of complementing the benefits that artificial intelligence brings with human intelligence, thus creating technologies characterized by a correct symbiosis that takes advantage of all capabilities. People, through their Human Intelligence (HI), and AI bring different abilities and strengths.

The real question is: How can human intelligence work with artificial intelligence to produce augmented intelligence?

We are not talking about competition, but about balance (AI/HI) as a primal goal that we should focus on if we really want to plan a future society with correct, satisfactory and, therefore, happy levels of progress.

Unfortunately, the history of humankind tells innumerable examples in which the use (and even the development) of various technologies has been motivated by purposes other than the virtue and flourishing of our species. As scientific advances make more and more powerful tools available to us, it is imperative to understand their magnitude and effects, in case they are be misused. Updating and reforming the legal framework in a robust and serious manner to prevent the enormous potential of using artificial intelligence for the destruction and annihilation of the human being is an imperative of the highest order.

Our author, Jimena Sofía Viveros Álvarez, not only raises these convincing premises for their validity, but goes further by exposing, in this contribution, the dilemma of accountability regarding autonomous weapons systems, the most advanced technology and at the same time, the most dangerous for the human species.

She does not present an apocalyptic vision, on the contrary, she presents a positive vision that contributes to the development of effective algorithms only if the human being, who will always be behind them, has the skills not to instruct and repeat inappropriate patterns.

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