

Artificial Intelligence and Philosophy: Why Do They Need Each Other?

A Roundtable Discussion Hosted by NCH London



Join us for this stimulating and thought-provoking conversation by leading experts in the field of AI, Philosophy, and Ethics

April 9, 2021

5 PM London/12 PM Boston
9 AM Vancouver

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Artificial Intelligence has undergone a boom in recent years, and its applications are now ubiquitous, figuring in our private and professional lives, and raising profound issues for society at large (e.g. in relation to algorithmic bias, autonomous machines, data privacy, democratic deliberation, etc). In this international roundtable, hosted by NCH London, a range of experts will address the question of how both industry and the field of AI can benefit from input from philosophy (in areas including ethical system design and explainability) ... and *vice versa*. We also hear first-hand perspectives from some current students engaged in interdisciplinary study in this area at the NCH London.

Audience participation is very much encouraged, and attendees can expect to acquire – and perhaps contribute – insights on the value of interdisciplinary engagement, and education, across these diverse fields.

Topics to be discussed include:
Algorithmic Bias | Big Data | Human-Robot Interaction | Machine Learning
| Interdisciplinary Research and Education

Meet the panelists



Brian Ball
Head of Faculty in
Philosophy, NCH

Dr Brian Ball is the Head of Faculty in Philosophy at New College of the Humanities (NCH), London, and an Associate Member of the Philosophy Faculty at Oxford University. He researches various topics in the philosophy of mind and language, and the theory of knowledge, ranging from numerical cognition to speech act theory, and is currently pursuing a project in information ethics. Brian also directs NCH's MA in Philosophy and Artificial Intelligence.



John Basl
Associate Professor in
Philosophy,
Northeastern University

Dr. John Basl's work focuses on issues in ethics, especially applied ethics, and in the philosophy of biology. Among his research topics are such issues as whether non-sentient organisms and collectives can be said to have interests and whether such interests are morally relevant, how the moral status of non-human subjects might be altered, and others. In 2019-20 he served as an AI Initiative Joint Fellow-in-Residence at Edmond J Safra Center for Ethics at Harvard.



Emily C. Collins
Research Associate, Dept
of Computer Science,
University of Manchester

Dr. Emily Collins' research interests include Human-Robot Interaction (HRI), biomimetics and brain-based robotics, animal- and robot-assisted therapy, and AI ethics. Her research focus spans social, as well as hazardous industrial robotics. She currently works on the RAIN (Robots and AI in Nuclear Research) Project, and supervises the Computer Science Department's Home Robot Lab at the University of Manchester, England.



Bethany Edmunds
Director of Computer
Science – Vancouver,
Northeastern University

Dr. Bethany Edmunds has a background in software development, machine learning, and educational innovation. She holds a Ph.D. in Computer Science with a specialization in AI. Recently, she was named as one of BC Business's Most Influential Women in STEM, Business in Vancouver's Forty under 40, and YWCA Women of Distinction.



Alexandros Koliouis
Senior Lecturer in Computer
Science, NCH

Dr. Alexandros Koliouis' research focuses on scalable data systems and deep learning. He has worked on the design and implementation of data-parallel processing systems that best utilize hardware accelerators with applications to deep learning and data streaming. Prior to joining NCH, Dr. Koliouis held research positions in industry and academia, including Imperial College London and the University of Glasgow.



Shreya Rajesh
MA Philosophy and
Artificial Intelligence, in
progress, NCH



Isaac Lambert
BA Philosophy and Data
Science, in progress, NCH