

Series Preface

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The book series *Technosophy* is devoted to the conceptual transformations required to engage adequately with the technological revolutions of the present. Among these, artificial intelligence occupies a singular position. AI systems do not merely extend human capacities; they reshape the frameworks within which knowledge, agency, responsibility, and normativity are understood. The question is therefore no longer whether AI can be made more efficient, but how its development and deployment transform the very standards by which efficiency, fairness, and legitimacy are judged.

This volume addresses a dimension of the AI revolution that is both urgent and philosophically profound: the standardization of AI ethics. As artificial intelligence becomes embedded in infrastructures of governance, healthcare, labor markets, finance, and communication, the demand for auditing, certification, and regulatory oversight has intensified. Yet these mechanisms are not neutral instruments. Standards codify values. Audits operationalize conceptions of fairness, transparency, and accountability. Certification regimes institutionalize particular visions of trustworthiness. In this sense, the attempt to standardize AI ethics is itself a transformative intervention into our normative landscape.

Technosophy brings together work from philosophy, the humanities, and the social sciences to examine precisely such transformations. Technological development is never purely technical. It reorganizes social relations, redistributes power, and encodes assumptions about what counts as knowledge and whose interests matter. The ethical governance of AI therefore requires more than compliance checklists or procedural safeguards. It demands reflection on the ontological and epistemological presuppositions embedded in algorithmic systems and on the values that guide their evaluation.

Rapid technological progress generates epistemic and social side effects that are often unforeseen. AI systems abstract from human practices and

reconfigure them in statistical form. When these abstractions are reintroduced into social life through automated decision-making, recommendation systems, or predictive models, they reshape the conditions under which individuals act and institutions operate. Ethical standardization must therefore grapple with a fundamental tension: how to formalize norms without reducing them to mere technical parameters, and how to ensure that quantifiable metrics do not eclipse qualitative dimensions of justice and responsibility.

The contributions assembled in this volume approach these questions from multiple perspectives. They investigate auditing practices, stakeholder participation, institutional accountability, value conflicts, and the economic dimensions of AI deployment. By examining certification schemes and regulatory frameworks, including those emerging in the European context, the volume highlights both the promise and the limits of current governance models. The standardization of AI ethics is shown to be neither a purely legal task nor a purely technical one, but a deeply philosophical undertaking concerning the institutionalization of values.

A central insight guiding this volume is that AI systems are not alien forces imposed upon humanity from outside. They are products of human practices, languages, and data. In this sense, they can be understood as complex self-portraits of contemporary societies. When we seek to audit, certify, and regulate AI, we are not merely controlling external tools; we are negotiating how our own sedimented norms and biases are to be reflected back into collective life. Standardization thus becomes a site of self-interpretation.

At the same time, the rise of certification regimes and auditing infrastructures introduces new layers of mediation between technological innovation and democratic legitimacy. Who defines the criteria of evaluation? Who audits the auditors? How can stakeholder perspectives be meaningfully integrated into formal procedures? These questions reveal that the governance of AI is inseparable from broader concerns about institutional design and public trust. Standards that lack transparency or independence risk becoming instruments of reputational management rather than genuine accountability.

The challenge, then, is to develop forms of ethical standardization that do not collapse normativity into optimization. Efficiency, robustness, and scalability are indispensable values in technical systems. Yet they cannot alone determine what counts as a good or just application of AI. Decisions about risk, fairness, and acceptable trade-offs are ultimately political and ethical judgments. The attempt to encode them into standards must remain open to contestation and revision.

The *Technosophy* series is committed to examining such tensions without succumbing either to technological determinism or to nostalgic resistance. Humanism, understood as a reflective engagement with the conditions of human agency and responsibility, remains indispensable in the age of AI. The standardization of AI ethics does not mark the end of ethical reflection; it intensifies its necessity. For as soon as norms are formalized, the question arises whether the formalization itself is adequate, inclusive, and responsive to evolving social realities.

By situating debates about auditing, certification, and regulation within broader philosophical frameworks, this volume exemplifies the ambition of *Technosophy*: to reconnect technological innovation with critical reflection on meaning, value, and shared worldhood. The governance of artificial intelligence is not only about controlling risk. It is about shaping the normative infrastructures within which future societies will deliberate, decide, and coexist.

Only by bringing philosophical analysis into sustained dialogue with technical and institutional practice can we hope to ensure that the standardization of AI ethics strengthens, rather than undermines, democratic legitimacy and human responsibility.