



# AI Ethics for Systemic Issues

## A Structural Approach

### The dominant discourse on AI ethics adopts an "agency" approach

Focuses on safety and security while solutions rely on holding individual actors accountable → necessary but not enough.

### Systemic risks neglected

More complex and indirect causes of harmful outcomes, caused by AI's interaction with the socio-economic and political context.

### Need structural approach

Contextual understanding of AI's broader and longer-term impacts for which no individual can be held accountable.

### Climate change

Example where AI can be very beneficial but carries systemic risks such as increasing inequality → need to engage with social scientists and policy makers.

### AI Governance required

1) standardised ethics codes with agency + structural approach 2) interdisciplinary collaboration between industry, academia, government and civil society 3) enforcement mechanisms at company, national and international level.

### Further questions

What other types of systemic risks? Who should be responsible for the implementation of ethics codes? How can a structural approach be enforced?