

a brief and concise guide on how
to be good and make ethical
decisions for yourself and others.
lightning talk

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It really irritates me that my research agenda has to be based on what tech bros decide to chase. They get \$\$\$ chase X, X gets proliferated, then we spend all our time analyzing and mitigating the harms of X. We never wanted to build X, that was never in our research agenda, or interests, but now we have to spend all our time thinking about and dealing with X.

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- “move fast and break things”
- current ethical machine learning is shitstorm driven
- inherently toxic discourse around ethics
- reliance on small group of ai bias researchers
- small businesses do harm, but are never held accountable
- ethics can tell us how to act ethically instead of reacting to past mistakes

- teleological ethics:
"objectives and purposes, impact assessment, costs and benefits."¹
documentation, data sheets and impact statements.
- deontological ethics:
"duties and rights, intrinsic moral values."¹
red lines, regulation, ethics codes.
- virtue ethics:
"striving for a good, happy life."¹
embedded ethics, open source, aspirations.

¹All definitions translated from [GKZ19].

so is it all solved? just write impact statements, follow company guidelines, maybe push a fix once in a while?

- documentation is sloppy and will be ignored
- businesses do not care and ethics guidelines are not enforced
- universities are too slow to change and ethics don't make graduates more employable
- projects are never abandoned for failing ethics assessments

will we ever move past only responding to past harms?

- no ethical consumption under capitalism
- no ethical **data** under capitalism
- an inherently exploitative ideology will always need people fighting exploitation

- push politicians to pass ai legislation because your company won't legislate itself
- ethics assessments are part of your job, make that clear to your employer
- negotiate for open source contributions to be part of your hours, lawyers do pro bono work, so should you
- hold others in the community accountable and push for standards in your industry
- unionise

thank you!

slides, resources and contact info:

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- [GKZ19] Petra Grimm, Tobias O. Keber, and Oliver Zöllner, eds. *Digitale Ethik: Leben in vernetzten Welten*. Reclam, 2019.