

# Review of: "Cultural and Regional Influences on Global AI Apprehension"

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As someone deeply invested in the digital ethical and inclusive governance of AI for the last couple of decades, this article resonates strongly with my global values and experience for human dignity. It is an invaluable addition to AI policy discourse, emphasising the need to integrate cultural and socio-political diversity into AI governance. The author aptly illustrates that while it's beneficial for any nation to review existing AI frameworks for learning opportunities, a truly robust AI policy and standards must be rooted in the unique cultural and socio-political fabric of each region and peoples' beliefs.

The examples of regional disparities provided are highly relevant, as they underscore how diverse socio-economic conditions and governance frameworks shape distinct challenges and attitudes toward AI, especially for indigenous identity. This is especially pertinent in post-colonial contexts, where a blend of resilience and innovation has emerged within technology sectors, as seen in Kenya and South Africa. Here, the dynamics of growth and adaptation to new technologies reveal the importance of inclusive AI strategies that recognise these histories while respecting local identities and cultural values. This article is a crucial step toward advocating for research and dialogue that promotes fair, contextual, and locally resonant AI governance, ensuring ethical AI practices that honor the diverse identities of every community. Inviting global researchers to respect local realities and avoid the market push for uniformities in the implementation phases.

Suggestions from my part to the authors include:

## **Localised Ethical Standards and Privacy Concerns**

A practical example could involve the customization of data privacy regulations. For instance, while legal acts are a comprehensive privacy framework suitable for Australia, Europe, regions in Latin America, Asia, or Africa might prioritise privacy alongside collective human rights, like community data ownership or use for the public good, given the often communal focus in these societies. Highlighting specific adaptations to privacy and data use would demonstrate how AI governance could resonate more deeply with local values and support community growth.

## **Public Engagement and Localised AI Literacy Programs**

Regional strategies could include public engagement initiatives that align with the communication styles and information ecosystems of specific areas, using their own local dialects and languages. For example, in countries where oral traditions are stronger, AI literacy programs could be disseminated through storytelling or community workshops rather than text-

based materials. This approach respects cultural norms and engages citizens who might otherwise be excluded due to language or literacy barriers.

### **Promoting AI for Socio-Economic Empowerment**

In post-colonial contexts, AI can be used as a tool for socio-economic empowerment by focusing on solutions that address local challenges. For instance, health, justice, and/or agriculture-focused AI tools tailored to the needs of rural Latin American, Asian, and African communities could help improve crop yields while maintaining traditional healing, legal, and farming practices. Here, AI policy would not just import Western AI applications but rather foster AI as a means to strengthen local economies and preserve indigenous practices, especially women's involvement as mothers, daughters, and sisters.

### **Encouraging Indigenous and Local Knowledge in AI**

The authors could suggest that regional AI strategies be guided by indigenous knowledge systems, particularly in sectors like environmental monitoring and healthcare. For example, AI algorithms that respect traditional ecological knowledge can assist in conservation efforts that align with cultural land use practices. Incorporating such knowledge would add a layer of cultural sensitivity and respect for historical land relationships into AI governance. Several examples exist in Australia.

### **Differentiating Ethical Principles in Response to Regional Histories**

Post-colonial regions often grapple with a dual challenge of innovation and protection against external influences that may not align with local values. The authors could suggest differentiating ethical principles, such as fairness or transparency, by emphasizing their meaning in local contexts. For instance, transparency in AI might involve more than just algorithmic openness but also culturally attuned explanations that can be easily understood and discussed within the community.

## **Additional Recommendations on Cultural Values in AI Governance in Post-Colonial Contexts:**

### **Focus on Sovereign Data Control and Data Nationalism**

In many post-colonial regions, data sovereignty is vital. AI governance could reflect this by prioritizing local data centers and encouraging legislation that mandates data localization, ensuring that data generated by citizens is protected within national borders and utilized primarily for the benefit of the local population.

### **Addressing AI Bias with Cultural Sensitivity**

The authors could emphasize the importance of developing AI systems that are sensitive to local biases and work against replicating historical inequities. For instance, in regions with a history of systemic exclusion or marginalization, like caste in Africa, South Asia, or racial dynamics in Latin America, AI models must be audited to ensure they do not inadvertently reinforce these social divides.

### **Engagement with Cultural Leaders and Local Institutions**

Engaging cultural leaders, religious scholars, and community elders in AI policy discussions can provide valuable insights into local ethical standards and increase community buy-in. The authors could suggest that AI governance frameworks

include representatives from these groups to ensure policies align with the cultural and moral values of the region.