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

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This article makes an important contribution to the literature and discussions about AI policy making and AI governance. The author clearly demonstrates the importance of context when AI policies and regulations are developed. For any country, it is wise to explore existing AI policies and regulations with a view to learn from them, but what is emphasised in this article is the importance of considering the local context as well.

I think the examples of regional differences cited in the article are important and useful. The initiative by the UN Secretary General to establish a high-level advisory panel on AI governance was an attempt to follow an inclusive process on global AI governance and reflect on regional differences.

The point that colonial and post-colonial legacies play a role in attitudes towards the adoption of AI and also related to AI policy making is acknowledged. However, there is also a practical reality in some countries that were previously colonised, namely the flourishing of technology sectors and support for innovation. Kenya and South Africa are good examples of this.

The discussion of ethical and religious perspectives under 6.1.2 is an important part of this article. I think it could have been slightly longer to include a discussion of the Universal Guidelines on AI and/or the UNESCO Recommendations on the Ethics of AI, since these policy documents form the basis for many other AI policy developments and have a universal character. It is evident from the article that different countries attach different weights to individual AI ethical principles, e.g., privacy or transparency. This reality underscores the need for more inclusive debates about AI policy making around the globe, a point which is made clearly in the article.

A useful publication that provides a comparative presentation of AI policy developments in many countries around the world is the AIDV report, which is published annually by the Centre for AI and Digital Policy (https://www.caidp.org). This report provides some insight into regional differences.

I welcome the publication of this article and trust that future research, as is recommended in the article, will be done.