

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

Paul Verhagen<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> University of Amsterdam, Netherlands

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Very interesting paper and approach; overall, I very much appreciate the insights. I have a couple of smaller points to consider and reflect on.

1. Within the context of the themes you mention, there is a degree of Western-centric language already embedded in the selection itself. Indeed, the themes of privacy, job displacement, and ethics are already a frame that is particularly present within "Western political discourse." Did your thematic selection occur empirically, and if not, how was it reached?

2. A recurrent thought I had while reading your paper is on how you understand job displacement/economic impact in particular. Indeed, while you point out that regions like Africa and Asia are concerned by job displacement, I would challenge this slightly. From economic theory, we would consider capital-labor substitution, i.e., the replacement of human labor by machines, as the concept relevant here. From that perspective, one would be more worried about job displacement in countries with low unemployment and high labor costs, i.e., the West, rather than in high unemployment regimes. In fact, under high unemployment and low labor costs, as is the case in most developing economies, the economic rationale of deploying AI (with associated high up-front costs) does not actually make financial sense. The classic example is airport check-in personnel, which is a good-paying job that is easily automated; yet, the logic of automation is only there if the benefits exceed the costs.

Taking a step back, I understand that you looked at perceptions, not direct economic theory, but nonetheless, it might be worth reflecting on whether job displacement is actually as grave a concern from an economic perspective as thought. What could arguably be a bigger problem is the OECD's fixation on automation and labor substitution as a means to reduce migration, as this will have quite negative effects on global inequality, as labor migration is one of the primary means of global wealth distribution.