LDR 801-52 – Ethics in Global Society

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Professor

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**Assignment**

* 1. ***Assignment #4 – Course Learning Journal***
  2. ***The journal is a written reflection of your learning journey while working in each course. The Learning Journal integrates the essential elements of the course within your professional field of interest. The objective of the course journal is to produce a degree of acculturation, integrating new ideas into your existing knowledge of each course. This is also an opportunity to communicate with your professor insights gained as a result of the course. The course learning journal should be 3-5 pages in length and should include the following sections:***
  3. ***1. Introduction –Summarize the intent of the course, how it fits into the graduate program as a whole, and the relevance of its position in the curricular sequence.***
  4. ***2. Personal Growth - Describe your personal growth–how the course stretched or challenged you– and your progress in mastery of course content and skills during the week and through subsequent readings – what new insights or skills you gained.***
  5. ***3. Reflective Entry - Add a reflective entry that describes the contextualization (or adaptation and relevant application) of new learning in your professional field. What questions or concerns have surfaced about your professional field as a result of your study?***
  6. ***4. Conclusion – Evaluate the effectiveness of the course in meeting your professional, religious, and educational goals.***

Ethics in Global Society served as a capstone course to complete my classroom coursework for the DSL program at OGS. This course energizes each student to freshly comprehend the implications of the topic of study or project endeavored. In my course of study, global ethics is a “hot topic” amidst all fields of digital expansion, and in particular, AI with its rapid adoption in all marketplaces, spheres of communication, media, commerce, and governance mechanisms.

Ethical questions are questions keenly asked and answered by the people within a culture. Ethics are value-based, and as such, directly influence and impact the types of relationships those people have with each other, the current social structures, as well as the folks that are not tied to the social ethics of a people group. Thus, “global” ethics attempts to find the largest categories of values that are shared by all peoples. Global ethics attempts to ask questions that every nation, tribe, and tongue might have in common within the human experience. Global ethics seeks answers that promote the best possible relationship non-negotiables within and between people, groups, social strata, and nationalities.

AI presents a specific dilemma to the ethical equation. AI is a distinctly non-human tool, even though it is ostensibly built with human input data. The pre-curser dilemma to the ethical questions surrounding AI is whether a non-human entity (dare I say “personality”) be allowed to structure ethical and deeply relational frameworks which only humans must abide? And if allowed to do so, by what standard ethical positions and values will the AI base conclusions and structures for forward-going ethical standards? The pervasive nature of AI already present within the judicial system, insurance agencies, social media access, etc. demonstrates the need for including ethical standards within the *ground floor* of AI integration across all strata of human/digital interface.

The dilemma is real…and so far, remains out of reach, as AI implementers remain relatively disconnected from each other, and thus code a variety of ethical standards, if any at all, within their proprietary systems There is hope on the horizon, however, as the voices within AI communities grow loud for the need to harmonize certain elements within AI, specifically an agreed-upon ethical standard. So, humans and computers will engage in an ongoing conversation attempting to incorporate the largest common denominators of ethical standards amidst the global tech.

I remain skeptical, which is nothing new. I have always been a slow adopter, especially in the realm of new tech. I am keenly aware of the inevitability of AI permeating much of our everyday experiences. That is, of course, if the world doesn’t intervene with massive EMP strikes to reduce the global networks back a few decades. But, the die is cast. Even if setbacks are presented, I suspect that humans will push the authority of the human realm into the digital, artificially intelligent realm with the best of hopes and intentions, all the while roundly ignoring the clear and present dangers. Humanity has a long history of doing things simply because they can be done, consequences (intended or unintended) be damned.

Ironically, the fly in the ointment of digitally enhanced and enforced ethics is and will be the human element…on steroids. The algorithms are built on the bell curve of human behavior, thought, actions, and musings. AI is simply faster than any one human agent or thinktank. AI’s ability to harmonize, homogenize, and synthesize massive amounts of human input is astoundingly fast. Add in “intelligent” designing capabilities and the threat of humans losing control is sure to be a future fact.

My hope is that the past two millennia of ethical debate and conversations will find their way into the field of AI and assist in bringing clarity, coherence, and freedom. On my more pessimistic days, I fear that the opposite will occur: obscureness, confusion, and authoritarianism; a true dystopia of technological human enslavement.

God is not wringing His hands. Nor is God caught unawares. As with every other epic and season of human captivation, the saving God is already on the scene. The Christian role is not to sit, immobilized with fear, but to stand, declaring the Gospel life which needs no digital, ethical intervention. The Spirit, although likely quite mathematical, is not algorithmic. Jesus says of the Spirit that He simply blows where He wills. I suspect that also means the Spirit can blow through, on, or around any circuitry enflamed by human aggrandizement. The true call of ethics, I learn from scripture. It has a human-Spirit origin, not a human-digital source. A clarion call will combine as the human bride and the Spirit combine their voice to at once invite and declare, “Come, Lord, Come.” And He does. On that day, every nation, tribe, and tongue…and algorhythm will declare that Jesus is Lord. This occurs whether we get the proper ethics coded into AI or not. That brings comfort. In practice for that day, I will say today, “Come, Lord! Come!”