ETHICS AND NORMATIVITY OF EXPLAINABLE AI

XAI #6-Workshop

Paderborn University

Paderborn, Germany

May 15-17, 2024

Organisers:

Tobias Matzner, Suzana Alpsancar, Martina Philippi, Wessel Reijers.

TRR; Paderborn University.

Call for Abstracts

Explanations are not per se helpful or wanted, they can also be a burden. They are not of absolute but of instrumental value. For the field of explainable AI, it is crucial to determine when and for whom which explanation will most likely be valuable and when not. This normativity of explanations can generally be grasped from an economic point of view (efficiency, comfort), from a social point of view (roles, constellations, contexts, stakeholder interests), and from an ethical-political point of view (obligations, duties, virtues, impacts of (not) explaining). The workshop serves to sort out these different normative expectations and implications and tries to link them to the task of value-oriented technology design. The urgency of this workshop is emphasised by the proliferation of AI systems and their use in decision making processes, from credit score assessments, via risk assessment models, to judicial rulings.

We invite a wide range of perspectives from philosophy of technology, media studies, STS, law, engineering, computer science interested in exploring the normativity of xAI.

Particularly, we invite abstracts discussing the following issues and questions:

First, where are the limits of xAI? When is it helpful for users, needed institutionally or even ethically mandatory and when not? When does it draw the attention away from other ethical, e.g., transparency, concerns? When does it overburden users?

Second, we would like to explore the task of operationalizing ethical demands, such as explainability, and the context-dependency of the value and adequateness of explanations. In how far can existing ethical frameworks cover contextual factors, how would they need to be modified and where are the limits of designing for situated actions? How should we link xAI and conceptual engineering? How to not only bridge the gap between principles and practices but also between what is designable by technological features and what rests on contextual factors such as structural conditions, social roles, individual behavior, implicit and explicit norms governing certain practices.

Third, we like to address the interplay of ethical considerations and regulation, asking how xAI can inform ethical design methods and how it plays a role in upcoming regulations like the EU AI Act.

Important dates:

Abstracts of no longer than one page should be submitted by November 15, 2023, via E-Mail: martina.philippi@uni-paderborn.de

Feedback: End of December

Workshop: May 15-17, 2024, Paderborn University, Germany.

Additional Information:

The workshop is organized by the TRR 318 "Co-Constructing Explainability" subproject B06 "Ethics and Normativity of xAI" (Tobias Matzner, Suzana Alpsancar, Martina Philippi, Wessel Reijers).

Confirmed keynote speakers are
- Prof. Dr. Andrea Aler Tubella, Responsible AI Group, Umeå University, Sweden.
- Prof. Dr. Reinhold Häb-Umbach, Communications Engineering, Paderborn University,Germany.
- Dr. Elettra Bietti, Law, NYU School of Law and the Digital Life Initiative, ornell Tech, US.

The Workshop is part of the series "Issues XAI", which continues and expands! We have now appointed a steering committee (SC) consisting of some of its initiators: Juan M. Durán (Delft), Lena Kästner (Bayreuth), Rune Nyrup (Cambridge), and Eva Schmidt (Dortmund). If you are interested in hosting one of the upcoming events, please just get in touch with one of the SC members.