

Special Sessions - Panels Norris University Center (2nd floor) Northwestern University

Session A1, Sat. June 7, 10:30 AM – Noon, Lake – Panel: Ethics and Equity in the Engineering Classroom

Moderator: Brent Jesiek, Purdue University (Director, National Institute for Engineering Ethics)

Panelists:

Fenella Amarasinghe, York University Renato Bezerra, University of Manitoba Carter Neal, University of Waterloo Alexi Orchard, University of Notre Dame Janna Rosales, Memorial University of Newfoundland

This roundtable discussion features a group of scholars who mobilize their expertise in humanities and social sciences (HSS) approaches to foster STEM students' engagement with issues related to equity, race, and social justice. Each speaker will provide short remarks that showcase some of the specific pedagogical strategies they have used, and the group will then engage in a moderated discussion about the value, the potential, and the challenges of incorporating interdisciplinary perspectives into engineering curriculum.

Session B1, Sat. June 7, 1:00 – 2:30 PM. Lake – Panel: What is Public Interest Technology? The Midwest Answers

Moderator: Casey Canfield, Missouri University of Science & Technology

Panelists:

Sylvester Johnson, Northwestern University
Francisca García-Cobián Richter, Case Western Reserve University
Susan Paykin, University of Chicago
Lisa Frazier, Ohio State University
Kelsey Badger, Ohio State University
Nathan Ensmenger, Indiana University

The objective of this panel session is to bring together leaders in Public Interest Technology (PIT) from across the Midwest to discuss how they are approaching this work and how it fits into the larger regional and national landscape. In particular, we will address the specific challenges and opportunities posed by the Midwest region. This will support efforts to build momentum within the PIT-Midwest regional hub as well as engage with additional universities and organizations who would like to get involved in the hub. This session emphasizes that technology development and deployment does not happen in a vacuum. There are real communities that are impacted and they should be part of the solution. By diversifying the PIT workforce, we will be able to leverage the experiential knowledge of communities traditionally left out of technology and move towards PIT that meets the needs of the Midwest.

Session C1, Sat. June 7, 2:45 – 4:15 PM, Lake – Panel: Engineering Meets Philosophy: Creating Ethically-Behaving Al Agents

Moderator: Nathaniel Kremer-Herman, Seattle University

Panelists:

Ankur Gupta, Butler University
Tyler Cook, Georgia Institute of Technology
Eric Severson, Seattle University
Yixiao Wang, Georgia Institute of Technology

This panel seeks to spread awareness of the need for ethically-behaving AI agents as society continues to adopt AI technologies en masse. Additionally, we intend to increase awareness that progress has been and actively is being made in the field of machine ethics. The panelists will share their own contributions to the field and the contributions of peers. We also seek engagement in this topic. The panel will use the birds-of-a-feather (BOF) discussion format. It is not enough for participants to hear what is going on. We want them to actively participate in the conversation and in the field. Since AI affects society broadly, we believe it is beneficial that more people act as stakeholders in decisions to create, adopt, and

regulate AI technologies. Panelists will identify avenues for engagement with their research, with professional organizations, and with governing bodies.

Session E1, Sun. June 8, 10:30 AM – Noon, Lake – Panel: The Routledge International Handbook of Engineering Ethics Education

Moderator: Diana Martin, University College London

Panelists:

Heather Love, University of Waterloo

Qin Zhu, Virginia Tech

Rebecca Bates, Minnesota State University, Mankato

Brent Jesiek, Purdue University

Renato Bezerra, University of Manitoba

Engineering ethics education has emerged in the last decades as a discipline in its own right, seeing philosophers and engineers expanding their work to comprise a pedagogical focus. This roundtable session aims to foster an active discussion connected to the recent launch of the Routledge International Handbook of Engineering Ethics Education (Chance, Boersen et al., 2025). The volume includes contributions on both theoretical and practical themes ranging from foundational aspects, interdisciplinary and disciplinary approaches, accreditation, teaching, and assessment in engineering ethics education. It is authored by 115 established and emerging scholars based on 6 continents. The panel discussion will feature an editor of the handbook, North American contributors to the Handbook, and engineering ethics educators for a conversation on the prospects, challenges and innovations in the teaching of engineering ethics. The aim of this session is to use the launch of Routledge International Handbook of Engineering Ethics Education as an opportunity to take stock of the key advancements in the field of teaching of engineering ethics and to look ahead by making a series of recommendations for the next decade. The insights and recommendations are closely linked to emerging issues in the philosophy and ethics of technology. The audience will be an active part of this conversation.

Session F1, Sun. June 8. 1:00 – 2:30 PM, Lake – Panel: Supporting Ethical Frameworks & Practices

Moderator: **Sylvester Johnson**, Northwestern University (CEO, Corporation for Public Interest Technology) Panelists:

Leonard Bruce, Tribal DataWorks
Lisa Frazier, Ohio State University
Laura Bingham, Temple University
Shanna Crumley, Mastercard Center for Inclusive Growth

This panel session aims to bring panelists from academia and industry to discuss how they support ethical frameworks and practices within technology and the use of AI to encourage more individuals to become practicing ethical public-interest technologists. Panelists from academia, government, industry, and the nonprofit sector will discuss the difficulties of embedding ethics and accountability in AI. Key questions will include:

- What is public interest technology and its relevance to ethical frameworks & practices
- What makes ethics harder given the popularity of AI?
- How do you see philanthropy impacting ethics, technology, and Al?
- If you could make one recommendation on how to embed and strengthen ethics in technology and technology usage, what would that be?

Session G1, Sun. June 8, 2:45 – 4:15 PM, Lake – Panel: Scraping the Surface: Ethical Collection Practices in the Age of Al

Moderator: Jo Levy, Partner at The Norton Law Firm

Panelists:

Greg Lindahl, Common Crawl Dana Mazia, The Bright Initiative Leonard Rosenthol, Adobe Systems

The foundation of today's emerging technologies is data. Without it, artificial intelligence, self-driving cars, and other innovations could not exist. While much has been written and discussed about the use of data within Al models, until

recently, there has been little focus on the manner in which data is collected— and more particularly, on the collection of data that data owners have made publicly available on the internet. This roundtable discussion, presented by the Alliance for Responsible Data Collection (ARDC), will address the issue of responsible data collection in the age of Al. Key Discussion Points:

- Navigating the Ethical Considerations of Data Collection
- Balancing Innovation with Regulation
- Voluntary Data Collection Standards