Reflecting on AI: Some Historical, Epistemological and Ethical Insights

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There is a great deal of discussion in society and academic circles about the ethical and epistemic stakes of artificial intelligence today, without defining precisely what AI is. Confusion arises from a mixture of ideologies, fantasized representations and actual achievements. Starting with historical considerations, I will first clarify the meaning of these terms (AI, ethics, epistemic issues). I will then discuss issues related to the nature of the knowledge produced by AI alone or by its coupling with conceptual models. I will then talk about knowledge production, explainability, and validation of a decision or prediction. On this basis, I will discuss how to make an ethical decision in connection with AI. To do this, I will share with the audience a method that I have used in the medical field or within the process of reflection developed by ethics committees. This presentation is intended to be interactive and to create links between us with a view to developing a research and teaching collaboration in the years to come.

Friday, December 1, 2023, 10:00 AM
Remote: https://utep-edu.zoom.us/j/84398694840

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Associate professor in humanities and social sciences at the Ecole Centrale Casablanca (Morocco) and permanent member of the department of humanities and social sciences at the Ecole CentraleSupélec (France), Jean-Pierre Llored was first trained as a chemist (chemical engineer, Professor 'agrégé' of chemistry, PhD in physical chemistry) before becoming Doctor in philosophy (PhD under the supervision of Isabelle Stengers, Free University of Brussels, Belgium) and Doctor in epistemology and history of science (PhD under the supervision of Michel Bitbol, Ecole Polytechnique, France). He got his Habilitation to supervize research in 2022 in two domains, that is in philosophy (all domains) and in epistemology and history of science and technology.

His papers deal with philosophy of science, philosophy of technology (NBIC and ICT), mereology, epistemology, environmental philosophy, social modeling and ethics. He has worked with several ethics committees around the world on health, social, legal and environmental issues related to NBICs. He has also set up training courses for engineers in the epistemology and ethics of AI. An important part of his work is dedicated to the study of both relational, processual and emergentists approaches and their influence on contemporary thought. He edited the volume Philosophy of Chemistry: Practices, Methodologies, and Concepts (Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2013) and coauthored the book The analyses of practices with Rom Harré (Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2019). He is deputy editor of Foundations of chemistry (Springer) and of the International Journal of Bioethics and the Ethics of Science.