Summer Institute on AI and Society
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, July 21 – 24, 2019

Applications invited from graduate students and early-career researchers and professionals

The inaugural Summer Institute on AI and Society, co-convened by the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research (CIFAR), the AI PULSE program at UCLA School of Law, and the Alberta Machine Intelligence Institute (Amii), will take place July 21-24, 2019 in Edmonton, Canada. We invite applications to participate in the summer institute from graduate students and early-career researchers and professionals working in any disciplinary area with interests in the societal impacts, governance, and ethics of AI, Machine Learning, and related technologies.

About the Summer Institute:

Rapid advances in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning have raised concerns about the societal impacts and potential risks of these technologies, the legal and governance challenges they may pose, and the ethical responsibilities of researchers and organizations working on these high-stakes and potentially transformative technologies.

To help advance understanding and debate on these issues, the summer institute will promote a cross-disciplinary dialogue across multiple research, scholarly, and professional communities. It will aim to both advance current debates and build longer-term capacity by bringing together distinguished experts with graduate students and early-career researchers. It will aim to create a setting in which opportunities for engagement, collaboration, and leadership are shared between junior and senior participants. In addition to addressing current controversies such as algorithmic bias, privacy, transparency, and liability, the SI will also aim to bring increased critical attention to potential AI/ML impacts and governance issues that are less immediate and larger in scale, such as potential large-scale reconfigurations of economic organization, political power, state decision-making, or geopolitics.

The SI will begin with a set of briefings and mini-lectures to introduce key background material, concepts, and controversies, to provide participants with a common grounding. These will be followed by self-organized discussion sessions and collaborative workgroups on emergent areas of interest. These will aim to seed collaborations that advance research, risk assessment, policy development, and advanced professional instruction.
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Who should apply?

We invite applications from graduate students and early-career researchers and professionals with demonstrated interest in the societal impacts, governance, and ethics of AI/ML, working in any disciplinary area (e.g., social sciences and humanities, law, public policy, as well as scientific and technical fields related to AI). Participants must be prepared to engage actively in an intensely collaborative environment. To help bring new and under-represented perspectives into the debate, prior engagement with AI and Society issues is preferable, but not required. In view of the intensely collaborative nature of the Summer Institute, strong English-language communication skills are essential.

Application and Cost:

Participation in the Summer Institute is free of charge, including on-site accommodation and meals. Participants are responsible for their own costs of travel, but some scholarship funds are available for participants who would not otherwise be able to attend.

Application and Deadline

The (revised) deadline for applications is May 15, 2019.

Additional information and instructions how to apply are at: https://dlrlsummerschool.ca/the-summer-institute/