AI & Society Task Force

**Who**
Reflective of the research community at York to which AI is relevant
Providing strategic advice that represents broader community interests

**Why**
Develop ideas and examine options for building and featuring York’s research strengths and curricular offerings in the area of Artificial Intelligence and its implications for society

**How**
Solicit advice from the York community, generate recommendations on how to advance York’s research, scholarship and academic programming in AI
Provide a series of high-level recommendations by spring 2019

Website: research.info.yorku.ca/artificial-intelligence-and-society-task-force/
Al & Society Task Force - Membership

- Pina D'Agostino (Co-Chair), Associate Professor, Osgoode
- James Elder (Co-Chair), Professor & York Research Chair, Psychology, Health, EECS, Lassonde
- Kristin Andrews, Associate Professor & York Research Chair, Philosophy, LA&PS
- Barbara Edwards, Senior Policy Advisor, Research, (Task Force Support), VPRI
- Aviv Gaon, PhD Student, Osgoode
- Hui Jiang, iFLYTEK Endowed Professor, EECS, Lassonde
- Murat Kristal, Associate Professor, Management Science, Schulich
- Rebecca Pillai Riddell, Professor & Associate Vice-President Research, VPRI, Psychology, Health
- Alice Pitt, Professor & Vice-Provost Academic
- Mark Roseman, Director, SIRI, Office of Research Services, VPRI
- Shayna Rosenbaum, Professor & York Research Chair, Psychology, Health
- Terry Sachlos, Assistant Professor, Mechanical Engineering, Lassonde
- Ian Stedman, PhD Student, Osgoode
- Ruth Urner, Assistant Professor, EECS, Lassonde
- Graham Wakefield, Assistant Professor & Canada Research Chair, Visual Art & Art History, AMPD
- Jianhong Wu, Professor & Canada Research Chair, Mathematics & Statistics, Science

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AI & Society Task Force – Working Groups

Working Groups:

→ Summarize current status @ York & identify major issues
→ Compare to other institutions
→ Propose key recommendations, where to we want to go from here to differentiate/ distinguish York

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Faculty Recruiting

• What are the existing resources available to attract top talent?
• Do we have Canada Research Chairs or ability to attract?
• Potential for industry partnerships to endow chairships?
• Diversity: what we have and what we need to get
• Potential for cross-appointments?
• How do we recruit/retain faculty given headhunting from industry
• Potential for joint positions with industry?
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Grad Student and Postdoc Recruiting & Training

• How do we attract top talent?
• How do we train top talent to be academic and AI industry ready?
• What are the available resources to attract top talent? Scholarships to attract students from far and wide?
• How important are international grad students to AI research at York? How can we relax restrictions on recruiting international grad students?

Space / Infrastructure

• Review of existing space & infrastructure; identify gaps or ability for greater efficiencies
• Is space and infrastructure required to attract top talent?
• Do we need an actual AI footprint/ORU?
• Are there any industry/provincial/federal resources we can tap into?
• What is the importance of a research-focused AI building (cf. MIT’s AI Lab, now CSAIL)
AI & Society Task Force – Working Groups

Curriculum / Academic Partnerships

• Survey existing curriculum
• Identify curricular interventions necessary to promote AI
• What are the resource implications for developing AI curriculum?

Networking: Seminars, Websites, Social Media

• What has already happened/review of past activities and outputs
• What needs to happen (engagement with industry and community)?
• What are the available resources? What are the resource requirements?

Ethics

• Can we identify some areas where AI has potential to do the greatest good for society? Should we promote these research directions?
• Should York establish an ethical position on issues relating to AI (bias, data ownership, privacy, etc.)?
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**Intellectual Property, Commercialization & Entrepreneurship**

- What are York’s current strengths and resources in this area?
- Can York be a leader in research and practice in IP law for AI?
- How can we facilitate IP protection for AI research @ York?
- How can we facilitate licensing?
- How can we facilitate start-ups? Incubators? Joint grad programs with Schulich? Team projects with Schulich?

**Public & Private Sector Partnerships**

- Review of existing relationships
- ‘Nexus’ labs where public/private sector staff can have temporary space to facilitate interaction?
- Marketing campaign focused on GTA, particularly North York, Vaughan, Markham?
- Additional permanent York staff who can handle complex agreements and negotiations?
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International Partnerships / Integration

• With which international universities do we have strong/growing connections in AI domain?
• What international university partnerships would be most strategic for York’s AI vision?
• How can international partnerships strengthen our access to top grad students?

Areas of Research Focus

• What are areas of current strengths in AI@York (core and applications)
• How are we distinguished from our competitors in these areas?
• What areas/questions do we predict to be most important in the next 5/10 years?
• How can we draw on York’s broader strengths outside the AI domain to define a unique made@York AI strategy?
AI & Society Task Force

We want to hear from you....

Please send your thoughts to Co-Chairs:

Pina D’Agostino: pina.dagostino@gmail.com

James Elder: jelder@yorku.ca

Website: research.info.yorku.ca/artificial-intelligence-and-society-task-force/