

Overview of Gebru's Work and Ethical Concerns

Dr. Timnit Gebru was a co-lead of Google's Ethical AI team. She focused on the societal harm of AI operations and systems, and her research showed that a "Large Language Models"(LLMs) which is a Google technology in their business, is trained on unfiltered data, causing to absorb and amplify harmful societal biases(Perrigo,2021). Her work also raised concerns about the environmental costs of the models and Google's lack of diversity. The problem with Google began when executives ordered her to retract a paper she had written about, which they saw as corporate censorship meant to protect their business interests.(IFOW, 2021)

Influence on Data Science and the AI Industry

Dr. Gebru's dismissal created a big concern that forced the tech industry to confront and respond to difficult questions regarding freedom of speech and ethics at work. The impact of her paper made it a foundational text in responsible AI and shifted the academic conversation towards the power dynamics behind technology.(Perrigo, 2021). These actions called for government regulations and better whistleblowers policies. Gebru founded the Distributed AI Research(DAIR) Institute with the idea of developing AI outside the influence of Big Corporations' motives(Perrigo,2021)

References

Institute for the Future of Work. (2021, January 13). *Timnit Gebru, Google, and institutional discrimination in AI: Lessons for 2021*.

<https://www.ifow.org/news-articles/timnit-gebru-google-and-institutional-discrimination-in-ai-lessons-learned-for-2021>

Perrigo, B. (2021, December 2). *Timnit Gebru is trying to change AI. But she's not doing it from the inside*. TIME. <https://time.com/6132399/timnit-gebru-ai-google/>