



Press Corps



A. Introduction to the Committee

The Press Corps Committee is one of a kind where delegates are expected to bring solutions and ideas to the table that are more than standardized. Press Corps committees are designed to represent the group of journalists typically present at the United Nations and other important legislative bodies. Throughout the conference, delegates of the appointed media channels must cover the news and developments within the General Assembly committees and special bodies. They ought to organize and attend various press conferences, interview the delegates, and write committee reports at the end of each day to be published during the conference. It is a multi-dimensional challenge of creativity, application and perseverance.

B. Introduction to the Agenda Item

Undoubtedly, one of the most exciting topics that is being discussed in today's world is artificial intelligence. Artificial as a term was first used in 1955 by emeritus Stanford Professor John McCarthy. It was defined as "the science and engineering of making intelligent machines". The ever so fascinating journey of artificial intelligence can be said to start out as programming certain tasks to machines like algorithms or codes in order to do calculations, playing chess and any other activities. It has gained a central spot in many of our daily tasks and now is an essential for a vast array of fields such as health care, banking, retail, and manufacturing. But today, the machines are said to be learners, by feeding them information and data, they are capable enough machines to complete much more complex tasks as they used to be. However, every development has its own downsides. In this case, the most controversial and a cause of a potential disaster is the ethics and legislative bodies that are overseeing the entire process.

First of many problems regarding the use of artificial intelligence is the nature of its opaque policies. As stated, artificial intelligence is a *tabula rasa*, in that its algorithmic learning and future outcomes thereof come down to the initial stages of development, where the programmer gives a prompt, directions and required information for it to learn and then give answers to various problems. Especially when it comes to current global affairs, radical schools of thought or sensitive topics, it can be clearly seen that AI prefers not to answer or subjectively answer these questions. The recent conflicts in the Middle East and the responses of ChatGPT, one of the most prominent chatbots, is a clear argument in this area. Misinformation is also a common issue in the field. The usage of deepfake, social media bots, and content generators are major problems that need to be resolved.

The question of the accountability in AI decision-making is another critical aspect. As AI systems become more autonomous, determining responsibility for their actions becomes much more complex. Today, there is a lack of regulatory framework about the usage of AI. The scenario where the culprit is artificial intelligence has not been discussed deeply and a rising concern from many groups are rising. The machines once solely dictated by humans are now largely seen as a threat; this begs the question, should AI be extensively utilized, and if so, what cautions must be taken?

C. Historical Timeline

1950	Allen Turing created the “Turing Test” for machine intelligence.
1956	John McCarthy first coined the term artificial intelligence (AI).
1980-1990s	AI started being used in journalism mainly in database searchers and organizers as assistants
Early 21st century	With the increase in computing power and more optimizations, AI started getting better exponentially.
2000s	AI started being used in simple weather, sports, and financial reports. It was also still used for its function as an information sifter.
2010s	AI started being used to target news for individual users and increase engagement.
2024	AI is now capable of writing full-fledged news segments and reports while sounding like a regular person. The question now has become whether practices like these are still considered journalism and if they should be allowed in these fields.

D. General Overview

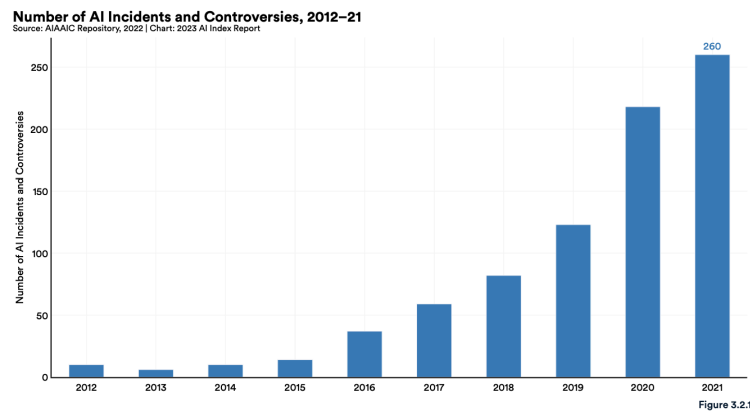
a. Ethical Concerns

From the beginning of its emergence, artificial intelligence was primarily criticized due to the ethical questions it posed. As a universal testament, the founding of journalism requires fairness and objective statements regarding issues. A news channel has many legislative bodies such as their editors and implemented laws. But, when it comes to artificial intelligence, this is yet to be achieved. Bias in artificial intelligence can lead to unfair treatment of individuals or groups, perpetuating and even exacerbating existing inequalities. Addressing these issues is crucial for building trustworthy and equitable AI systems. The first thing to define in order to get a better understanding of the issue is in which areas the said bias occurs. These chatbots or other AI technologies that generate news or inform people are programmed to learn. The main principle is giving them various sources to create their mindset, using facts about many fields from sports to politics that they are able to know. However, this process can cause what is known as **data bias**. They can be given the historical data of only one side in a war or conflict, or overrepresent the demographics of that time. For example, a hiring algorithm trained on historical employment data might favor certain demographics if those groups were historically overrepresented in successful job applications. Or the said algorithm may favor certain genders or sexual orientations for the hiring process. A dramatic example of this bias can be seen at what is called “Robot’s Racist Facial Recognition”. The study was conducted by the John Hopkins University and its findings were published in 2022. The study essentially asked robots to scan people’s faces and categorize them into different boxes based on their characteristics, with three boxes being doctors, criminals, and homemakers. The robot was biased in its process and most often identified women as homemakers, black men as criminals, Latino men as janitors, and women of all ethnicities were less likely to be picked as doctors. The results of the study is a clear indication that the bias we see in today’s society or the remaining of their historical roots are still present in AI’s memory and are used to create outcomes that favor certain stereotypes.

Another type of bias is **algorithmic bias**. Even with unbiased data, algorithms used for the artificial intelligence themselves can be the cause of bias. This can occur through the choice of model, the design of the algorithm, or the way features are selected and weighted. The two most common biases show that the information that you get from AI is not always trustworthy, and contrary to expected, the number of cases of bias is increasing every year. An example of algorithmic bias is the infamous Twitter incident in 2020. A user has claimed that the social media app only showed white faces, while erasing black faces. A white user repeatedly shared pictures featuring his face and that of a black colleague and other black faces in the same image, and it was consistently cropped to show his face in image previews. This was later responded by Twitter claiming “...there is no bias, [...] but they should’ve done a better job in their cropping algorithm.”

Although mentioning two types of biases, there are many more types that users can face every day. Contrary to popular belief, the amount of these incidents does not decrease as the software systems become more advanced. There is a rising trend in the cases reported in the last 10 years.

The Artificial Intelligence Index Report published by Stanford University in 2023 presents this argument with their research. As it can be seen in the graph below, the number of incidents and controversies have reached their peak in 2021 and continues to increase. This clearly indicates that there are still many precautions and steps that need to be taken in order to solve the issue.



1 This figure does not consider AI incidents reported in 2022, as the incidents submitted to the AIAAIC database undergo a lengthy vetting process before they are fully added.

Graph 1: Stanford University AI Metricstudy

b. Accountability

The impact of AI and its effects on their users is undeniable. Its emerging usage of becoming a main modern-age encyclopedia, becoming the doer of many boring tasks and writing many projects or articles all started out as a way to help humans. The popularization became huge with Gen-Z but quickly spread out among adults and from people of many other job fields. Journalism is one of them. The news that we see every day or sources we use to gain information is essential. However, as stated before, the ethical biases and concerns can create controversies and complications. In such a case, who is responsible? What will happen to the victim and how to punish the culprits? These questions are the basis of accountability issues of artificial intelligence and emphasize the current small to none legislative bodies present.

Accountability is defined by Scheddler and still is one of the key terms in business, science and industry. “*A is accountable to B when A is obliged to inform B about A’s (past or future) actions and decisions, to justify them, and to suffer punishment in the case of eventual misconduct.*” In context with AI, it refers to the obligation of individuals and organizations to explain and justify their decisions and actions concerning AI systems. It also involves taking responsibility for the outcomes, including addressing any negative impacts. There are three important challenges of accountability that will be discussed in this guide. The first one is **complexity and opacity**. AI systems, particularly the ones that are based on machine learning, often operate as "black boxes" with decision-making processes that are not easily understood even by their creators. This complexity makes it difficult to pinpoint who is accountable for specific outcomes. Distributed Development AI systems are typically

developed by teams of researchers and engineers, sometimes across multiple organizations and even countries. This distribution of development complicates the assignment of responsibility for any errors or harms caused by the AI. Lastly, the autonomy of AI Systems: Highly autonomous AI systems can make decisions without direct human intervention. This raises questions about who is responsible when an autonomous system makes a harmful decision. These concerns are important, because in an article published or news shown on a media channel, there is a background process where everything is checked. From editors to general publishing judges, a group of qualified people go over the sources, their transparency and grammatical rules, even if it seems minor. All of these elements are required to reach the audience in the clearest way possible, but mistakes are not so rare. In those cases, there are many laws and bodies that are finding and judging the responsible individual or group. This process is essential in a smooth operation. But due to the problems mentioned above, these processes become much more complicated and not enough action is taken.

c. Data Privacy and Public Trust

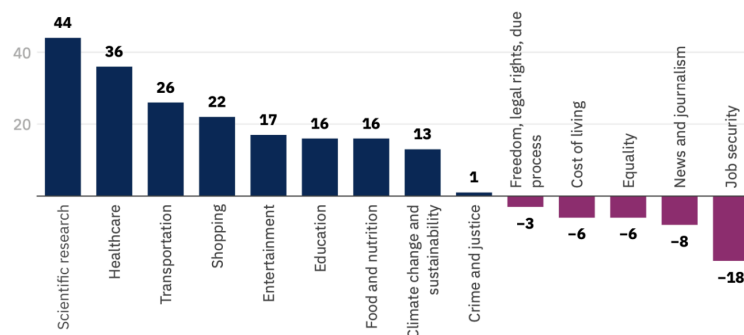
In an era where data is biased and digital technologies are deeply integrated into everyday life, journalism faces new challenges related to data privacy and public trust. Journalists increasingly rely on data from advanced technologies like AI to inform their stories, gather and analyze information. This brings forth the obligation to navigate complex ethical and legal landscapes to protect individuals' privacy and maintain public trust, as the main mission of journalism is being objective and trusted.

Data privacy is crucial in journalism for a number of reasons. Journalists often handle sensitive information, from whistleblower testimonies to personal data gathered during investigations. Protecting this data is essential to safeguard sources, respect individuals' privacy rights, and adhere to legal standards such as the General Data Protection Regulation in Europe, which sets stringent requirements for data protection and privacy. There is a huge responsibility for journalists here as they must ensure that the data they collect is used ethically and responsibly. They need to disallow misinformation. Firstly, this involves obtaining informed consent from sources, which AI certainly does not. Bibliography and clearly indication of resources is a key element. However, when news is written by AI, this can't be provided. Also, if the data itself is generated from AI, as discussed above, there is no guarantee that it is unbiased and, in fact, true. Other guidelines they must abide by are anonymizing data when necessary, and implementing robust security measures to prevent unauthorized access and data breaches. The mishandling of data can lead to severe consequences, including harm to individuals, loss of trust, and legal repercussions. They can target certain audiences, harming them mentally or physically and as a return, the journalist, its agency and whole sector of journalism can be in danger.

Certainly, another cornerstone of journalism is the **public trust**. In order to fulfill their role as informants, journalists must be seen as credible, ethical, and impartial. In today’s digital age, maintaining this trust is more challenging than ever due to the proliferation of misinformation, fake news, and deep fakes, as well as concerns about data privacy. As mentioned above, transparency is key to building trust. Journalists should be open about their data collection methods, the sources of their information, and how they ensure the accuracy and integrity of their reporting. This includes clearly disclosing when AI or other digital tools are used in the reporting process. In a study done by Reuters Institute of Journalism, one of the most prominent stakeholders of the journalism sector, it was found that more than 66 percent of the public did not trust AI.

Figure 14. Net difference between proportion that think generative AI will make each better or worse

Averaging across six countries, large parts of the public think generative AI will make science, healthcare, and many daily routine activities better, but more people think that generative AI will make news worse.



Graph 2: Reuters Data of Public Trust in AI Journalism

From the graph above, while many people believed that AI could make healthcare, science and education better, an opposite stance was taken regarding journalism. Asked to assess what they think news produced mostly by AI with some human oversight might mean for the quality of news, people tend to expect it to be less trustworthy and less transparent, but more up to date and cheaper for publishers to produce. And it was clearly found that people were generally more comfortable with news published by humans, rather than artificial intelligence.

Being transparent helps demystify the journalistic process and reassures the public that ethical standards are being upheld. Fact-checking and verification are also critical. With the speed at which information spreads online, journalists must be diligent in verifying the accuracy of their data and sources. This not only prevents the spread of false information but also reinforces the public's confidence in the reliability of journalistic content.

E. Possible Solutions

The new artificial intelligence programs are certainly proposing many interesting and innovative perspectives to journalism, which can be both advantageous and harmful. The most common problems or concerns can be listed as accuracy, transparency, bias, fairness and accountability. But there can be many new ways or solutions done in order to minimize these problems. Some of the most discussed methods are mentioned below.

- **Staff Training:** One of the most important parts of this is staff training. AI is an ever changing technology, so the journalist who wishes to utilize these systems must undergo a training session which in detail explains the ethical guidelines and key functions.
- **Fairness and Bias Detection Mechanisms:** New techniques must be developed and applied in terms of detecting and fixing bias. These can be **fairness metrics** which can make a quantitative model to identify biases and focus on solving them. Another method could be **human-in-the-loop systems**. These systems aim to incorporate human judgment into AI decision-making processes and can help mitigate bias. Human oversight ensures that AI decisions are checked and balanced, particularly in high-stakes applications.
- **Ethical Guidelines and Regulations:** Developing and adhering to ethical guidelines and regulations is crucial for ensuring fairness in AI. Policies such as the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) in Europe and the Algorithmic Accountability Act in the United States aim to protect individuals from biased and unfair AI systems. More regulatory frames which are internationally binding is a way to regulate AI usage across the world.
- **Clear Governance Frameworks:** Establishing robust governance frameworks that outline the responsibilities of all stakeholders involved in the AI lifecycle is essential. This includes developers, deployers, users, and regulators. These frameworks should define standards for ethical AI development and deployment, including mechanisms for oversight and redress.
- **Collaborative Efforts:** Media organizations can collaborate with AI developers, ethicists, and legal experts to create robust frameworks for AI use in journalism. These collaborations can help anticipate challenges and develop proactive strategies to address them.
- **Public Engagement:** Engaging with audiences about the role of AI in journalism can foster a better understanding and trust. Media organizations educate their audiences on how AI contributes to news production and the safeguards in place to ensure accuracy and integrity.

F. Further Reading Materials Addressing the Agenda

To ensure that every delegate has access to additional materials to further understand and research the agenda, the Chairboard has compiled a list of materials and resources from organizations that have worked specifically on the agenda. These materials will provide valuable insights and information about the agenda, and using them is highly encouraged by the Chairboard.

- The Brookings Institution: “[How Artificial Intelligence is Transforming the World](#)” 2018
 - This comprehensive report discusses the broad impact of AI, including its implications for media and journalism. It provides an overview of AI developments and their potential societal impacts.

- JournalismAI Report by Polis and the London School of Economics: “[New Powers, New Responsibilities: A Global Survey of Journalism and Artificial Intelligence](#)” 2019
 - This global survey explores how news organizations use AI and the ethical considerations involved. It provides insights from journalists worldwide on the benefits and challenges of AI in newsrooms.

- Knight Foundation: “[The Present and Potential of AI in Journalism](#)” 2021
 - This article discusses the current applications (in 2021) and the future potential of AI in journalism. It highlights the ways AI can enhance journalistic practices and the ethical concerns that need to be addressed.

- UNESCO: “[Reporting on Artificial Intelligence](#)” 2022
 - This report by UNESCO discusses the role of artificial intelligence in journalism and its impact on news production and distribution. It covers the ethical considerations, potential benefits, and challenges associated with AI in media. The report also provides guidelines for journalists on how to effectively report on AI technologies.

- The Partnership on AI and Claire Leibowicz: “[On AI & Media Integrity: Insights from the Deepfake Detection Challenge](#)” 2019
 - This report provides insights from the [Deepfake Detection Challenge](#), focusing on challenges and advancements in detecting deepfakes. It discusses the implications of deepfake technology for media integrity and the measures that can be taken to mitigate the risks associated with this technology.

- Two Videos that Must Be Watched: “Artificial Intelligence: What You Need to Know Right Now | Knight Media Forum” 2019 and “What AI Means for the Future of Journalism”

- [Artificial Intelligence: What You Need to Know Right Now | Knight Media Forum 2019](#)
- [What AI Means for the Future of Journalism](#)

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H. The Chairboard's Expectations

The Press Corps of KMUN'24 will be the first committee of its kind in Türkiye, and this debut has likewise elevated expectations from the Secretariat, the Chairboard, and the delegates. To ensure that the first edition of the Press Corps committee functions as well as possible, the Secretariat has devised a set of rules of procedure (ROP) specifically designed and modified for this committee. The ROP of the Press Corps is essential, and it must be well studied by the delegates and the Chairboard for the committee to function. With an ROP explicitly designed for the Press Corps, the delegates of this committee are selected carefully to be a part of this innovative committee experience. So, the first expectation of the Chairboard is for the delegates to carefully read the ROP and prepare their resolutions and work accordingly.

What makes the Press Corps special is its highly interactive structure that allows its delegates to be proactive and dynamic. The first two days of the committee will function just like a THIMUN General Assembly committee (except the fact that the Press Corps will not have any plenary sessions). After a resolution is drafted, they will be debated upon, and the Press Corps will adopt the chosen resolution. The adopted resolution will lead to a conclusion of the agenda item into journalism and media, and the committee will witness their integration through the reports, interviews, videos, and newspapers put together by the delegates during the last two days of the conference. Delegates will have more autonomy compared to any other committee in the conference, and that is because of the second phase of the Press Corps committee, which is where delegates will become proactive.

The Chairboard expects the delegates to have a robust grasp of what generative AI entails, including its capabilities, current applications in journalism, and potential future developments. Delegates are expected to explore and debate the ethical implications of generative AI in journalism, which includes issues related to bias, transparency, accountability, and the ethical use of AI-generated content. Delegates are expected to propose and evaluate strategies to mitigate the risk of misinformation due to AI, which involves discussing the responsibilities of AI developers, journalists, and media organizations in verifying the accuracy of AI-generated content. Delegates are expected to analyze the existing laws and propose new regulations that address the unique challenges posed by generative AI in journalism, including intellectual property, liability, and data privacy. Delegates are expected to create discussions covering the preservation of journalistic standards, the role of human oversight, and the impact of AI on public trust to secure media integrity (or not). These expectations are stated to ensure a healthy resolution drafting and debating process for the debut of the Press Corps committee.

In the second phase, the delegates are expected to be dynamic and proactive. Delegates (who are actually reporters from their own media organizations) will have the privilege of entering different General Assembly committees (SOCHUM, SPECPOL, and LEGAL) and special bodies (such as the UNSC, APQ, ICJ, and ECOSOC) in the conference to watch the committee environments and conduct interviews with the delegates and Chairboards in vicinity. The entirety of Press Corps' delegates are expected to conduct interviews and take notes or film the interview. Then, the delegates are expected to write reports regarding the agenda with the information, analyses, and experience they have gained from interviews. These reports will be used to create the Press Corps' newspaper(s), and delegates are expected to contribute and cooperate for the reports and the newspaper(s). The delegates are expected to film green-screen videos as well. They are expected to reflect and represent their organizations' biases on global topics in their interviews, reports, videos, and in the committee. The delegates have the opportunity to conduct "press conferences", which they are highly encouraged to do so.