P100 / Ingredients for Responsible AI: Rethinking Capacity and Coordination in AI Governance

Topic : State and Policy Capacity

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GENERAL OBJECTIVES, RESEARCH QUESTIONS AND SCIENTIFIC RELEVANCE

In recent years, innovations driven by artificial intelligence (AI) have been developed and deployed across sectors, including healthcare, agriculture, education, finance, policing, public administration and business. Globally, its growing use creates new governance challenges. As such, governments across the globe are working with technology companies, researchers, professional organisations, civil society, international organisations and other stakeholders to shape regulatory and overall governance frameworks that can promote responsible and ethical use of AI. However, governments may not always have access to the technical knowledge, data, infrastructure or financial resources needed to understand and regulate AI. Different government departments may also have different responsibilities, which can create coordination problems. At the same time, technology companies may control important technologies, data, expertise and infrastructure. As a result, AI technologies develop much faster than existing policies and regulatory processes. We aim to contribute to the dialogues for public policy on responsible innovation for AI with the following key question: Do governments have the capacity to coordinate these different actors and effectively govern AI?

In this backdrop, this panel brings together research on two connected issues mapping AI governance: capacity and coordination. First, it examines what types of capacity are required to govern AI effectively, including technical, analytical, regulatory, organisational, financial and relational capacity. Second, it asks how different actors coordinate and why some coordination arrangements work while others produce delays, conflict, or limited results.

The panel also moves beyond the idea that governments either ‘have’ or ‘lack' capacity. In AI governance, governments may depend on private actors for technical expertise, data, computing infrastructure, or standards. Therefore, an important question is not only who has resources, but also who controls access to those resources and who can influence how they are used. Therefore, AI governance is understood as a process in which capacity and power are closely connected. It seeks to explain how different actors mobilize resources, coordinate their actions, and influence policy outcomes. The contributions may examine AI governance at national, sub-national, regional, or global levels and may focus on any sector or policy area.

CALL FOR PAPERS

We invite theoretical, methodological, and empirical papers examining capacity and coordination in AI governance, broadly or within a particular sector, policy area, country, or level of governance . We encourage contributions that demonstrate what capacities are required, how different actors and institutions coordinate, and why some governance arrangements are better able to translate policy goals into implementation than others. Papers drawing on diverse empirical contexts, including perspectives from the Global South, are of particular interest, as are those that clearly connect conceptual arguments to empirical evidence. Such contributions may explore how public agencies, technology companies, researchers, civil society organisations and international bodies negotiate resources, expertise and authority in practice. Papers using a range of approaches, including comparative studies, case studies, process tracing, institutional analysis, network analysis, qualitative or mixed-method research, and critical policy approaches, are welcome. Work that draws practical lessons for policymakers, strengthens cross-sector dialogue, and proposes workable ways to build institutional capacity and improve coordination will advance debates on responsible AI governance.

The panel will focus on, but not be limited to, the following research questions shaping capacity and coordination of AI governance in different sectors and contexts:

What capacities are required to govern AI effectively, and how are these capacities distributed across governments and other actors?
What factors enable or constrain governments and other actors in developing and mobilising these

capacities?
How can existing institutional capacities be measured and reimagined to address ongoing governance challenges?
How does the involvement of different stakeholders such as technology companies, researchers, international organisations, civil society etc. and other stakeholders impact government capacity?
What roles do different actors play in policy processes, from problem definition and agenda-setting to policy formulation, implementation and evaluation?
How do governments coordinate with diverse stakeholders, including private companies, researchers, civil society, international organisations etc.?
How does coordination among different actors shape government capacity to govern AI?