

International AI Research: The Issue of Moral Pluralism

Serene Ong,

Science Health, and Policy Relevant Ethics, Singapore
(SHAPES)

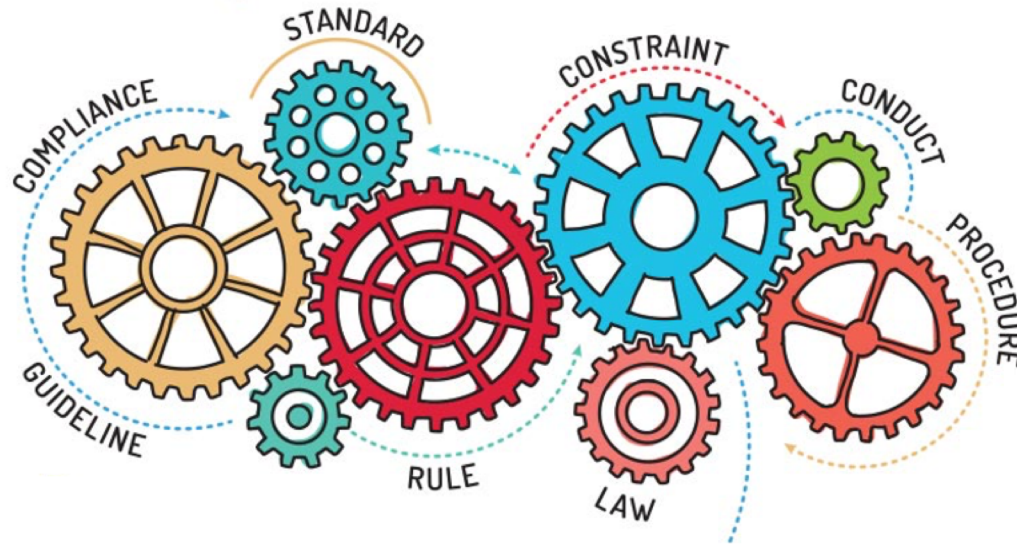
Centre for Biomedical Ethics, Yong Loo Lin School of
Medicine, National University of Singapore



Transnational approach AI can

- optimise the advantages of AI
- avoid duplicative work





- Roche et al. 2022 noted at least 470 AI policies as of May 2021
- What should we do when regulations differ?

Roche et al. (2022) 10.1007/s43681-022-00218-9



A universal framework of common principles could

- focus AI research
- build trust across boundaries



Notable gaps in representation

- US and UK alone accounted for more than a third of published frameworks (Jobin et al., 2019)
- Very few frameworks applicable specifically to AI research in LMICs have been published



Problem 1: Need for localisation

- AI research must be contextualised
- “Different cancer types showed different concordances... [IBM Watson for Oncology] needs to accelerate localization” (Zhou et al., 2019)

However

- LMICs often lack resources to carry out AI research; e.g. lack of funding, lack of expertise, underdeveloped technological constraints

Zhou et al. (2019) 10.1634/theoncologist.2018-0255



Problem 2: What of plural ethical values?



There is value in diversity of perspectives

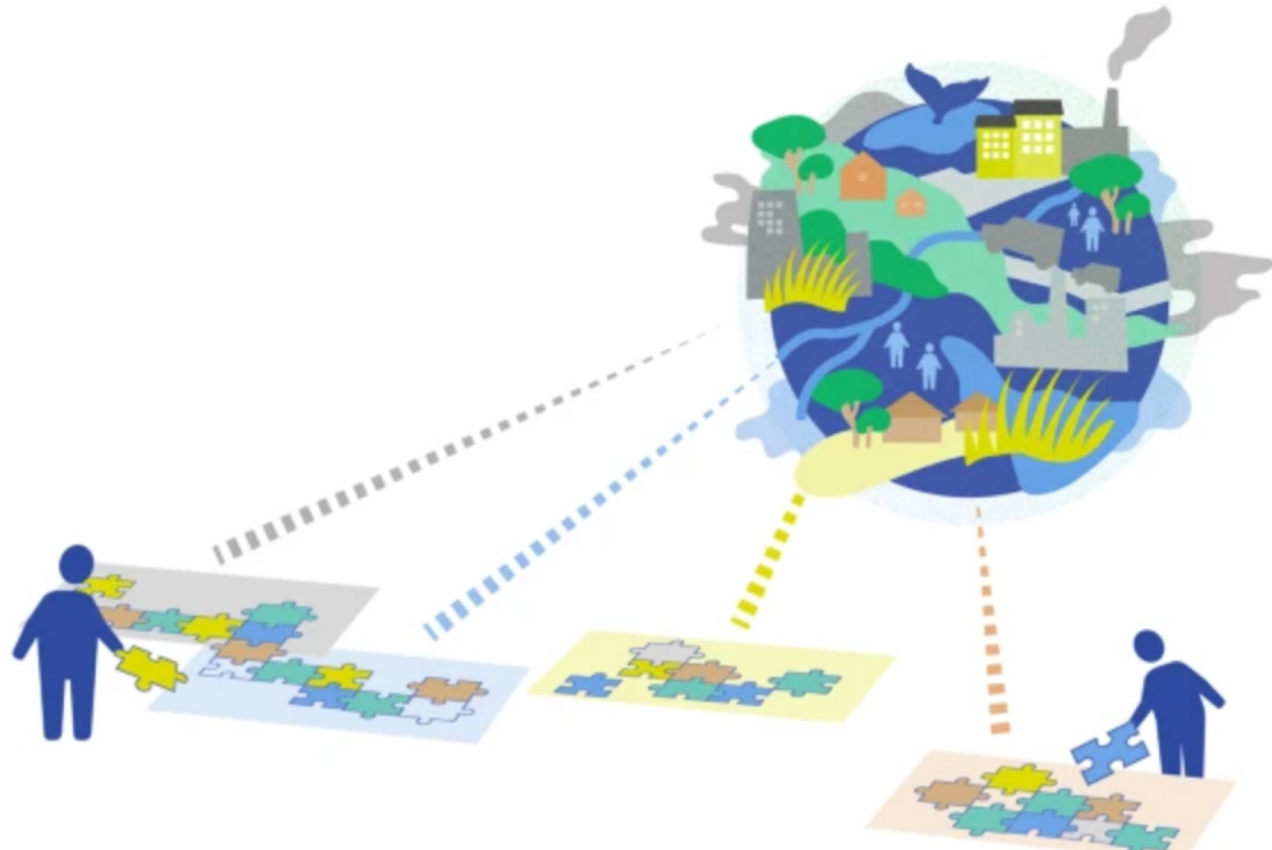
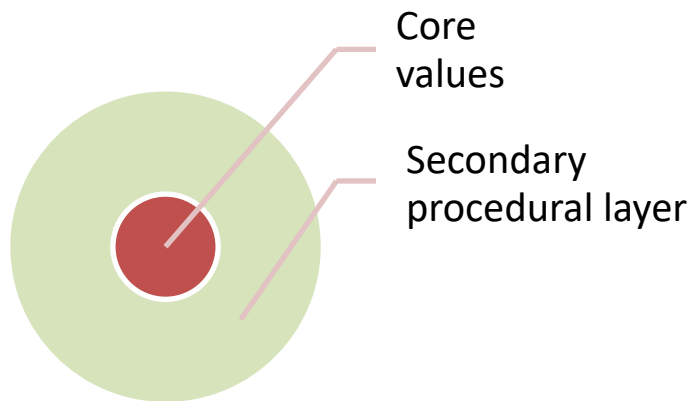


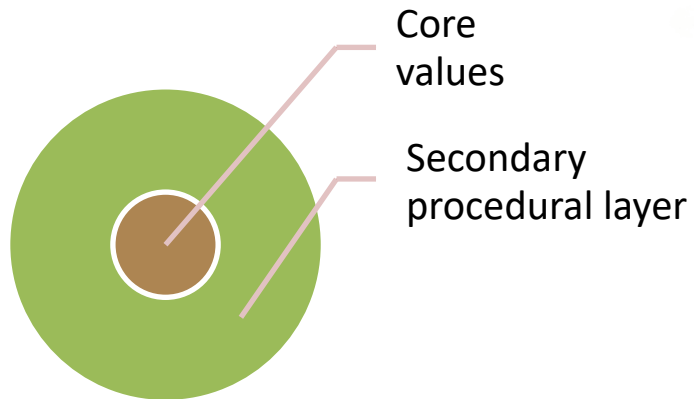
Illustration by Elsa Wikander/Azote. doi.org/10.1057/s41599-022-01297-z



Core
values

Secondary
procedural layer

A two-level approach to AI ethics in research



A two-level approach to AI ethics in research



Harmonisation

- Not of (all) values
- Focus on procedural engagement in decision-making





This framework is also respectful of national governance strategies and research prioritisation.



Challenges

- To gain consensus around shared value commitments
- To accommodate and respect the pluralism across transnational frameworks
- To share research ownership and investment across countries



Thank you

Special thanks to Tamra Lysaght, Michael Dunn,
Victor Cole and Joseph Liew

This research is supported by the Singapore Ministry of Health's National Medical Research Council under its Science Health, and Policy Relevant Ethics, Singapore (SHAPES) Programme (MOH-000951).



SHAPES

An NUS Centre for Biomedical Ethics initiative supported by the
Singapore Ministry of Health's National Medical Research Council

