

0.3 Bridging Policy and Ethics: On the Launch of AI Policy Corner

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On March 18, 2025, for [The AI Ethics Brief #160](#), we launched a new running series for the MAIEI newsletter called [AI Policy Corner](#). AI Policy Corner is a space where we reflect on the translation of ethics into policy. Since then, we've published more than 15 short articles.

We've covered topics like [deepfakes](#), [mental health](#), [intellectual property](#), [education](#), and [frontier AI](#). We've focused on subnational policy developments with major implications, in US states like [Colorado](#), [Texas](#), and [New York](#), as well as reflecting on [industry developments](#) and [academic summits](#). And we've tried to bring special attention to how AI policy is unfolding around the world, in both countries with established AI leadership, like the [US](#), [Japan](#), [South Korea](#) and [Singapore](#), while also surfacing important developments in regions less often followed in global AI ethics and policy conversations, like [Turkey](#) and [Kenya](#).

AI Policy Corner is a joint initiative of MAIEI and the center I co-direct at Purdue University, the Governance and Responsible AI Lab ([GRAIL](#)). GRAIL's research-focused and student-centered approach shapes the direction of AI Policy Corner in important ways. Most editions emanate directly from student research assistants who analyze policy documents from [AGORA](#) (AI Governance and Regulatory Archive), a collaboration between GRAIL and Georgetown University's Center for Security and Emerging Technology ([CSET](#)), hosted at the [Emerging Technology Observatory](#).

As the website describes, AGORA is “a living collection of AI-relevant laws, regulations, standards, and other governance documents from the US and around the world,” which “includes summaries, document text, thematic tags, and filters to help you quickly discover and analyze key developments in AI governance.”

Before getting into the policy documents in more detail, it's perhaps prudent to speak about the motivation for AI Policy Corner. First, it reflects our belief that policy is the instantiation of ethics into the public will – how our beliefs about intellectual property, sustainability, global inequality, meaningful work, international security, and so on – move from research and advocacy into practice. Of course, policy is not the *only* channel through which ethics has an impact, but it is one of the most significant ones, hence GRAIL's focus on both AI ethics and AI policy. Only by reflecting on policy, I might argue, can we know whether our ethical visions are coming to pass.

The second motivation for AI Policy Corner is more personal. Followers of [The AI Ethics Brief](#) will know that MAIEI has been working diligently to sustain the legacy of its co-founder, [Abhishek Gupta](#), who passed away a year ago and is honored in this issue.

This is a goal I strongly share: Abhishek was one of the voices I admired above all in the AI ethics space, with the Brief and State of AI Ethics Report constituting amongst the most important contributions in all of AI ethics discourse. He and I began working as industry leaders in AI ethics at the same time, Abhishek serving as Director for Responsible AI at Boston Consulting Group, and I as Responsible AI Lead at JPMorgan Chase.

While complex positions for ethicists to inhabit, it reflected our shared belief that AI ethics needs to be instantiated in practice, and afforded us the opportunity to collaboratively troubleshoot on the complex, practical, and organizational dynamics in play. As a peer and kindred soul, his loss was greatly felt. Although I fear his voice and brilliance are irreplaceable, his contributions and spirit motivated us to safeguard this important work. AI Policy Corner thus represents our attempt to help sustain Abhishek's legacy and impact, advancing MAIEI's work.

A little bit more about AI Policy Corner and why we find it to be a meaningful project, *though we are most open to feedback!* Perhaps most meaningful to us is that the authors of each issue are students. Typically, one undergraduate or graduate student serves as first author, with a second individual serving as reviewer. Students bring their own voices, identifying topics through discussion and based on issues they see as important or neglected, sometimes connected with their own particular interests in AI ethics or home countries.

The student analyses don't just come from the void. Students analyze policy documents from the aforementioned AGORA database, not limited to laws or regulations, according to a [structured codebook and annotation process](#). Two researchers cross-validate each entry, giving student authors deep familiarity with both specific policies and the broader governance landscape. In our weekly discussions, we reflect on both the content of these policy documents and the surrounding politics: which new ethical topics are rising to the forefront, which bills are or are not enacted and why, how industry strategies respond to public concerns, the dynamics of the AI ethics and safety communities, and so on.

Thus, while the primary audience of AI Policy Corner is the readership of the Brief, we are especially keen to witness the learning of students and see their unique voices in the public sphere as they become champions of AI ethics. Our talented team of student authors has gone on to graduate school, interned at the offices of elected officials, and worked in industry, themselves becoming leaders of student academic communities focusing on AI ethics.

Going forward, we hope that AI Policy Corner is useful to the community and provides viable insights. We welcome feedback on the content and approach of the Corner, and how we might provide more benefit. Thank you for reading.

About the Author

Dr. Daniel Schiff is an Assistant Professor of Technology Policy at Purdue University and the Co-Director of [GRAIL](#), the Governance and Responsible AI Lab. As a policy scientist, he studies the formal and informal governance of AI through policy and industry, as well as AI's social and ethical implications in domains like education, labor, misinformation, and criminal justice. Daniel was the founding Responsible AI Lead at JP Morgan Chase and Secretary of IEEE 7010-2020, the first AI ethics standard.

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