Novos Desafios da Administração Pública: Inteligência Artificial e Ética nos Sistemas Inteligentes com Autonomia

New Challenges for Public Administration: Artificial Intelligence and Ethics for Intelligent Systems with Autonomy

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ABSTRACT

The present dissertation approaches the ethics in Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the Public Administration, according to an exploratory descriptive approach in a qualitative perspective based on the grounded theory methodology. In the risk assessment, unemployment was identified as a high relevant risk, however the methods for its resolution are not yet unanimous. We analyzed opaque algorithms that generate prejudiced and unfair decisions, e.g., judicial decisions in the USA, penalizing black people, and the contradictory evaluation of teacher’s performance. Opacity prevents the explanation of decisions, making it difficult to appeal, so it is clear that the decisions of these systems, need to be explained. The Machines ethics (behavior and interaction
of Machines with Humans and other machines) try to avoid that AI systems with responsibilities for decision making without human intervention, perpetuate or reinforce traditional prejudices of society due to sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or beliefs, disability’s, age or sexual orientation. From the analysis of the existing AI code of ethics, it was possible to conclude that its applicability is quite weak. The EU has produced a lot of documentation in this field with concerns centered on human dignity and fundamental rights. Finally, we made a framework of these elements in the Public Administration, identifying AI in the program of the XXII Portuguese Constitutional Government, we identified the absence of express guardianship of AI in the Portuguese Government Organic Law. At the Public Administration levei, the implementation of AI is still insufficient, however this sector could lead it. Ethical issues are transversal to society as a whole, but the difficulty to explain automatic decisions, is an obstacle in the implementation of AI. By interviewing eleven experts in AI, it allowed us to cross theoretical data, as well as provide new inputs do the investigation.

**Keywords:** Ethics, Artificial Intelligence, Public Administration, European Union, Opaque System, Automatic Decisions.