

# Fairness in Artificial Intelligence

On accountability and transparency in  
applied AI

[AIML.lu.se](http://AIML.lu.se)

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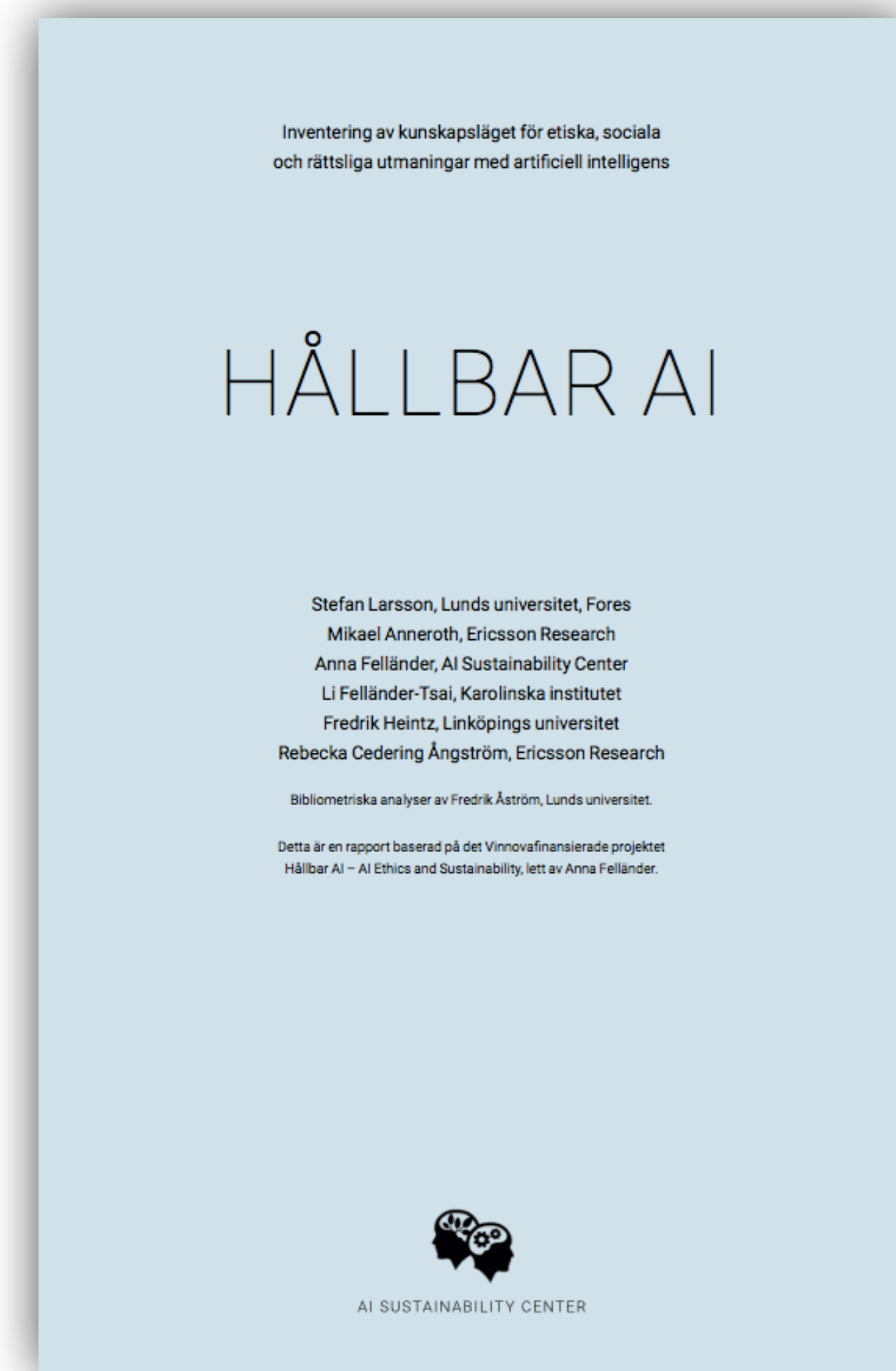
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Scientific advisor for AI Sustainability Center; Konsumentverket



**LUNDS**  
UNIVERSITET



Ladda gärna hem:

<http://fores.se/plattformssamhallet-den-digitala-utvecklingens-politik-innovation-och-reglering/>

<http://fores.se/sju-nyanser-av-transparens/>

<http://www.aisustainability.org/publications/>

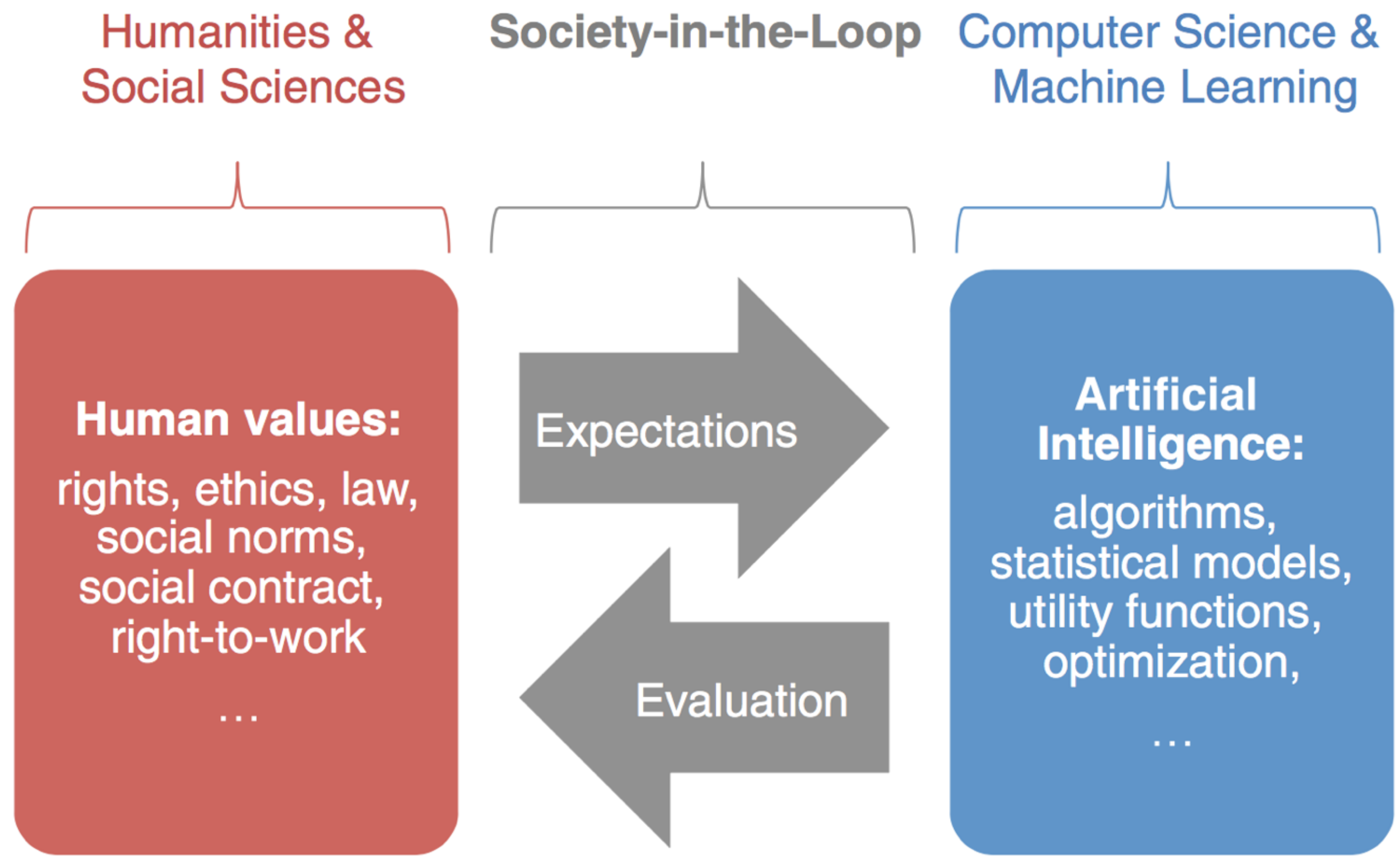
“AI & ethics”

My take: AI governance

**HITL**

**SITL**

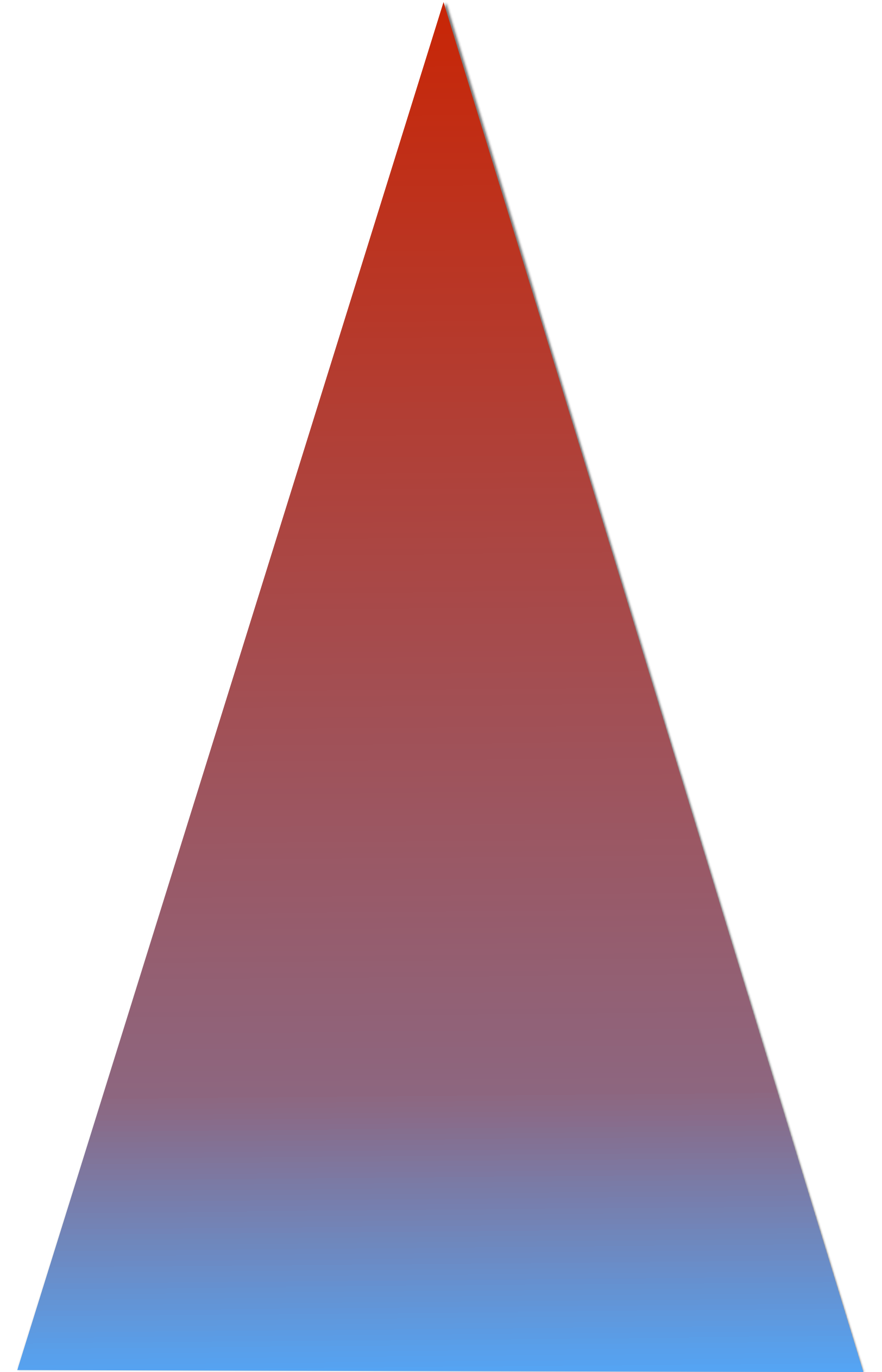
# AI & Society



AI in everyday practice:  
high stakes / low stakes

- Autonomous weapons' systems
- Cancer diagnosis, life/death prediction
- Autonomous cars
- Predictive policing
- Distribution of welfare
- Fraud detection
- Credit assessment
- Insurance risk
- Social media content moderation
- Spam filtering
- Machine translation
- Search engine relevancy
- Personalised feeds in social media
- Ad targeting online
- Media recommendations

Stakes





# Who is doing what research?

Inventering av kunskapsläget för etiska, sociala  
och rättsliga utmaningar med artificiell intelligens

## HÅLLBAR AI

Stefan Larsson, Lunds universitet, Fores  
Mikael Anneroth, Ericsson Research  
Anna Felländer, AI Sustainability Center  
Li Felländer-Tsai, Karolinska institutet  
Fredrik Heintz, Linköpings universitet  
Rebecka Cedering Ångström, Ericsson Research

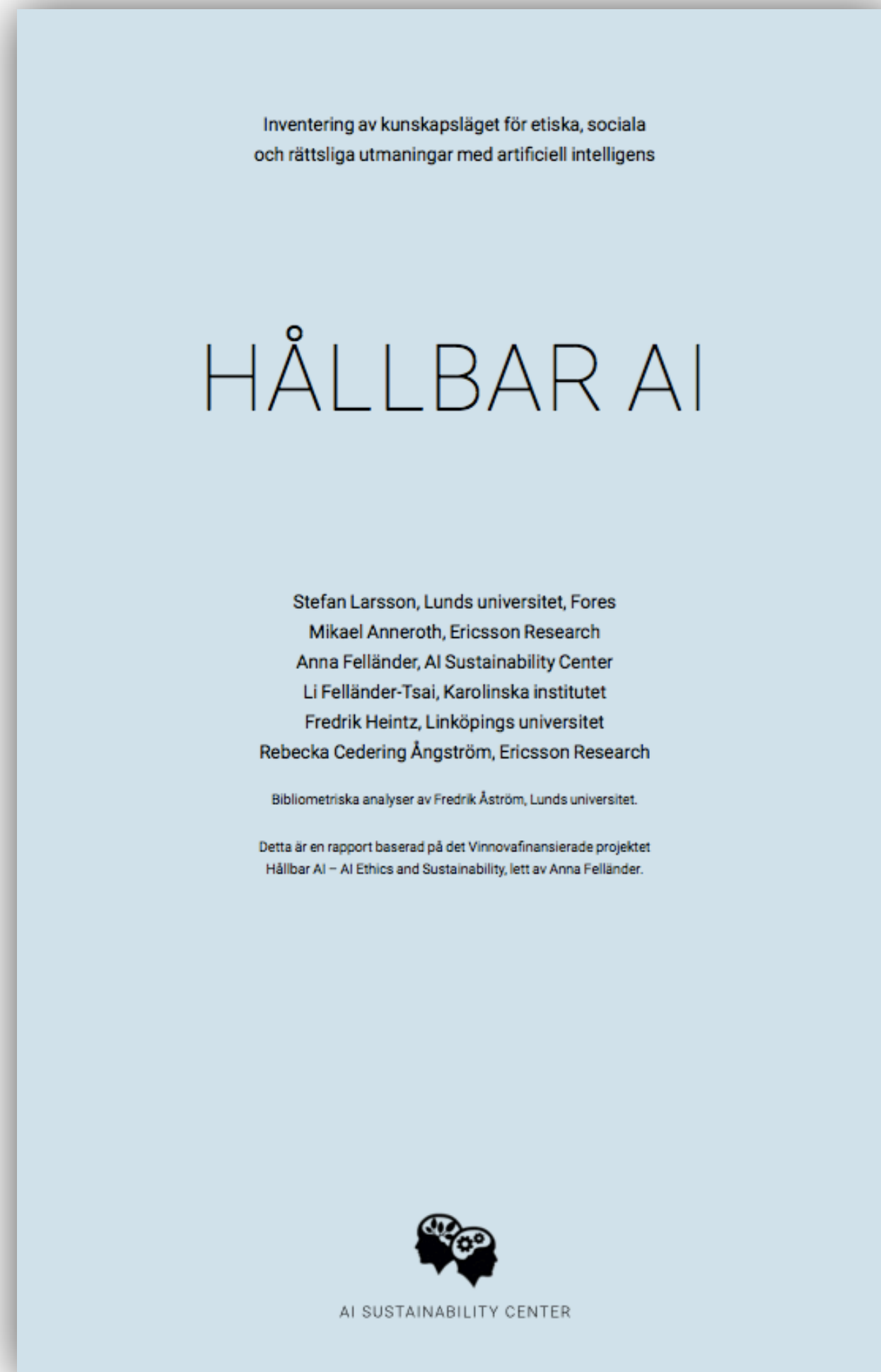
Bibliometriska analyser av Fredrik Åström, Lunds universitet.

Detta är en rapport baserad på det Vinnovafinansierade projektet  
Hållbar AI – AI Ethics and Sustainability, lett av Anna Felländer.



AI SUSTAINABILITY CENTER

# Review of ethical, social and legal challenges of AI



- PART I: mapping of “AI and ethics”; reports, guidelines, books.
- PART II: bibliometric analysis in Web of Science databases
- PART III: themes and markets - health, telecom and platforms.

# PART I: mapping



Bias

Accountability

Misuse and  
malicious use

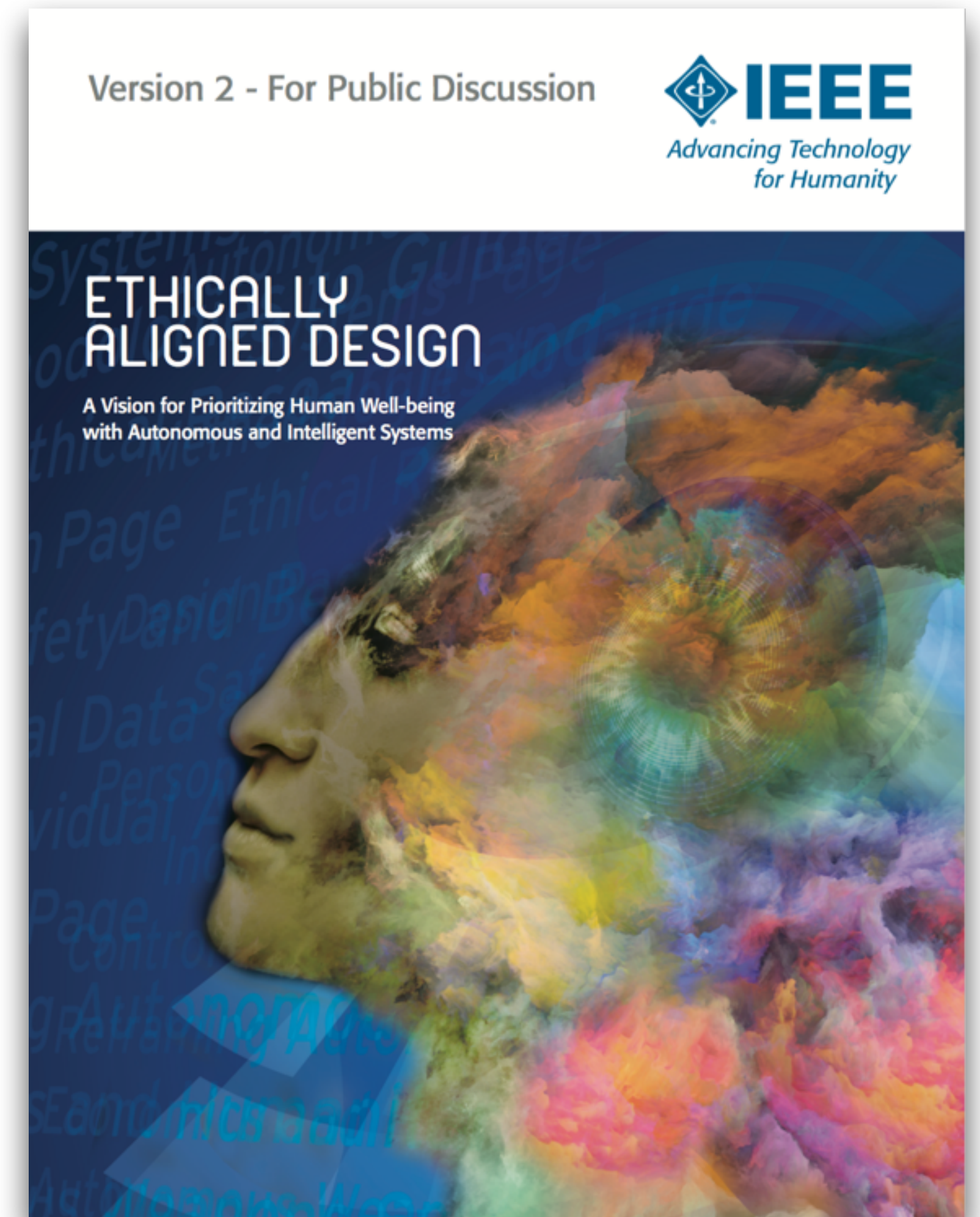
Explainability  
and  
Transparency

Why transparency?

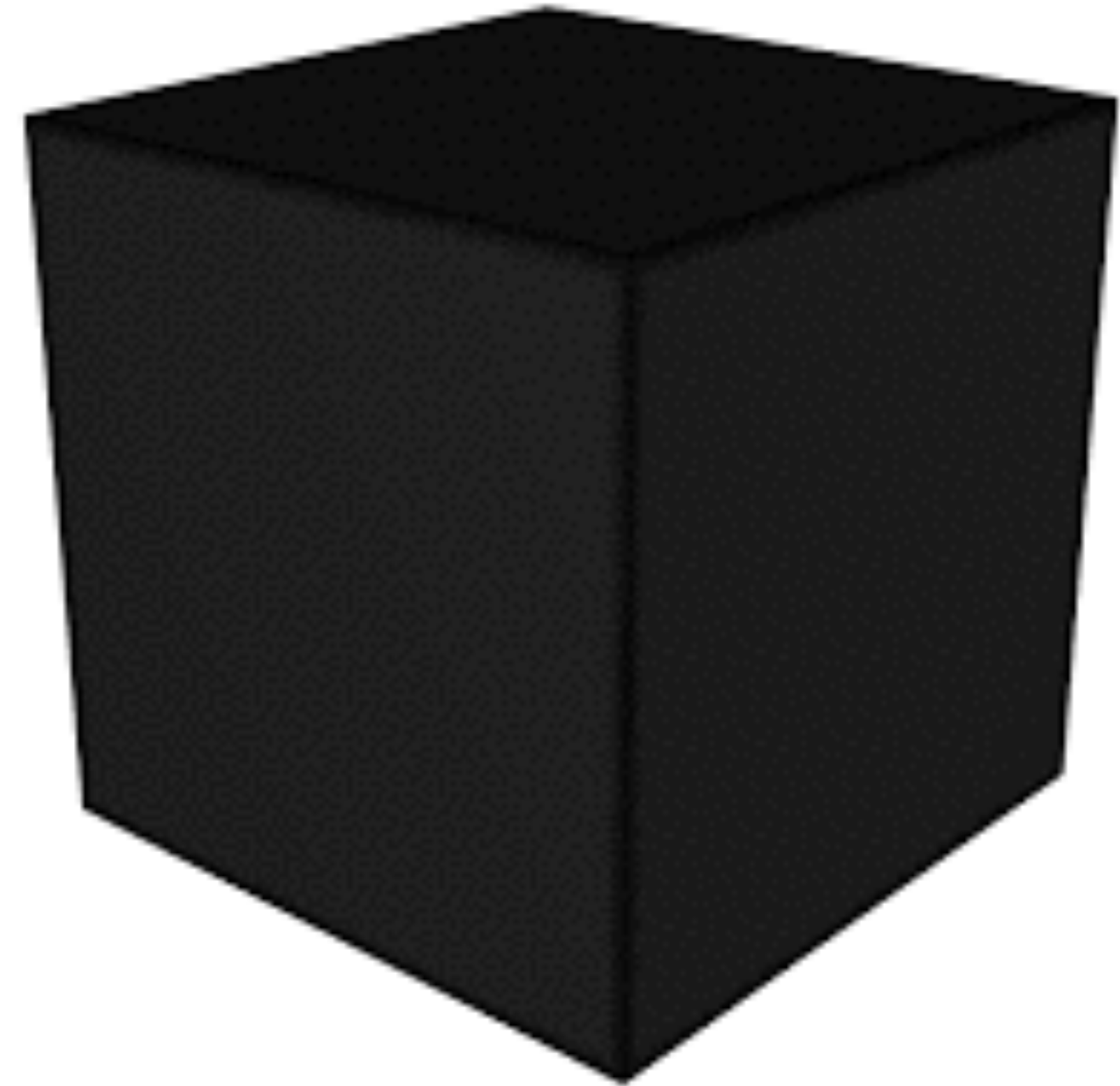


Explainability  
and  
Transparency

- User trust; public confidence in applications
- Validation, certification.
- Detection, to counter malfunctions and unintended consequences.
- Legal accountability



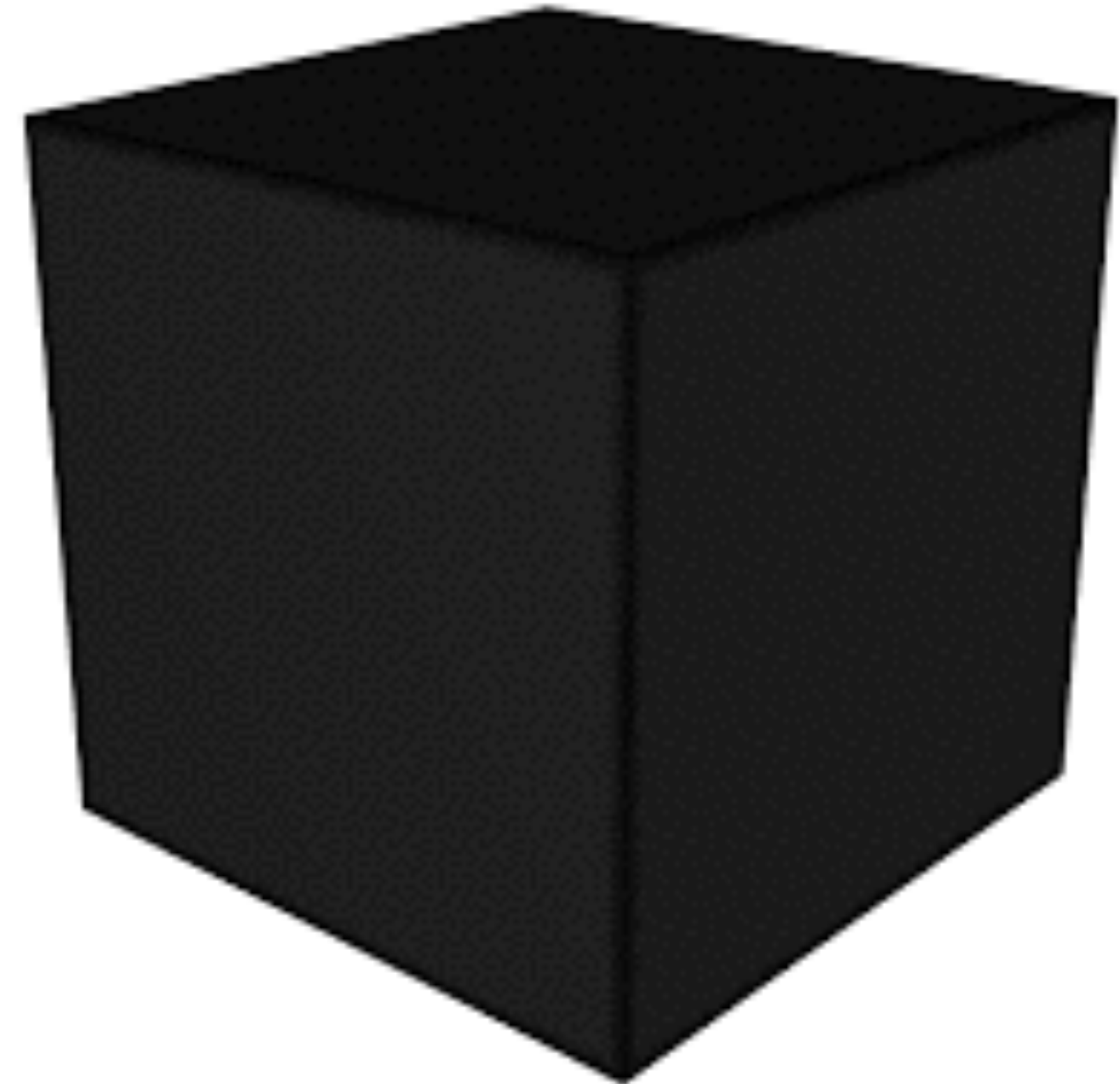
From explainability to  
transparency in applied  
contexts



E.g. Miller, 2017; Mittelstadt et al, 2018

# SJU NYANSER AV TRANSPARENS

1. Black box, low explainability (xAI)
2. Proprietary setup
3. To avoid gaming
4. User literacy
5. Language / metaphors
6. Market complexity
7. Distributed outcomes







# PART II: bibliometrics

*(“artificial intelligence” OR “machine learning” OR  
“deep learning” OR “autonomous systems” OR  
“pattern recognition” OR “image recognition” OR  
“natural language processing” OR “robotics” OR  
“image analytics” OR “big data” OR “data mining” OR  
“computer vision” OR “predictive analytics”)*

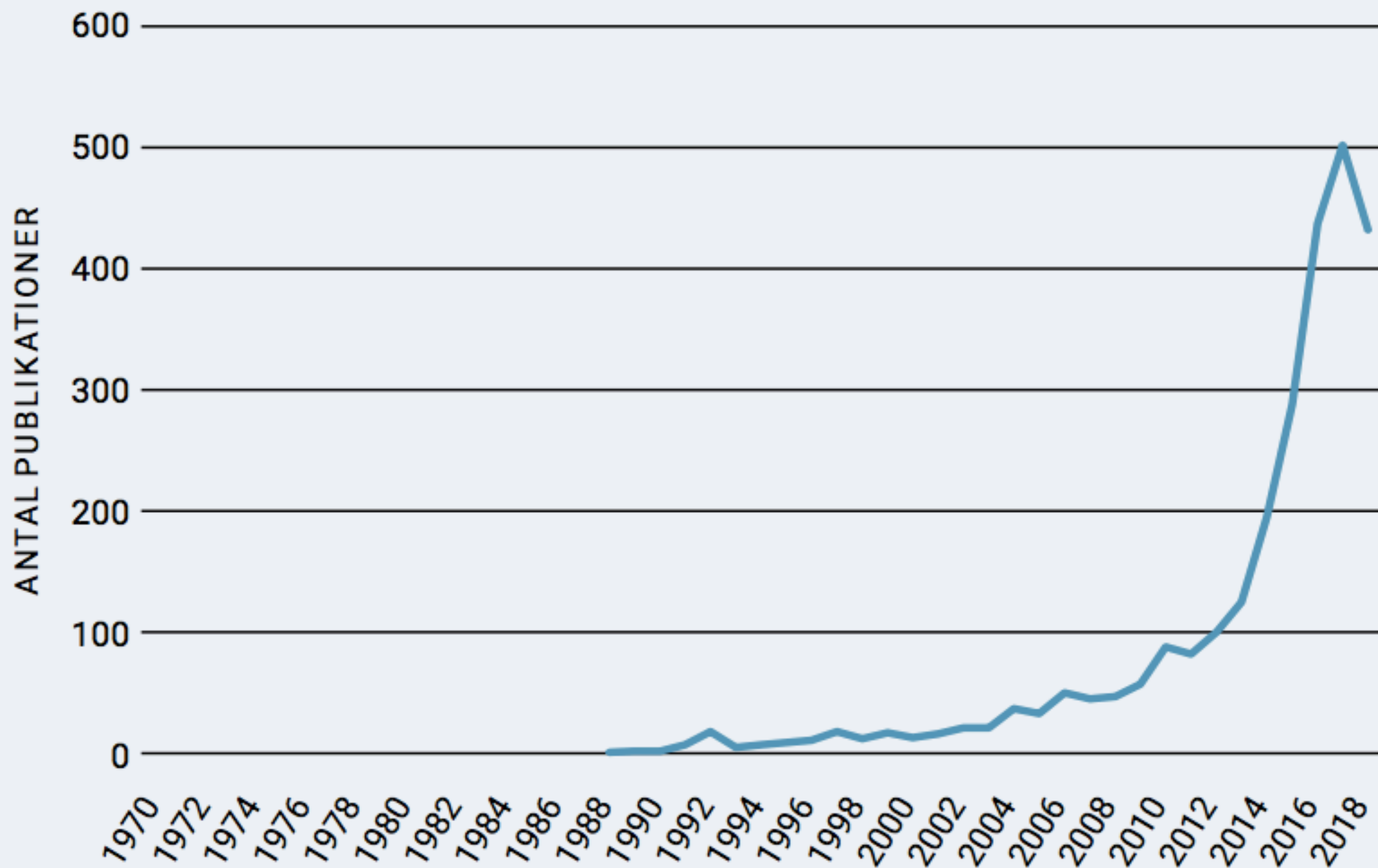
“AI”

**AND**

*(“ethic\*” OR “moral\*” OR “normative” OR “legal\*” OR  
“machine bias” OR “algorithmic governance” OR  
“social norm\*” OR “accountability” OR “social bias”)*

“Ethics”

## AI-publikationer/År (n=2706)

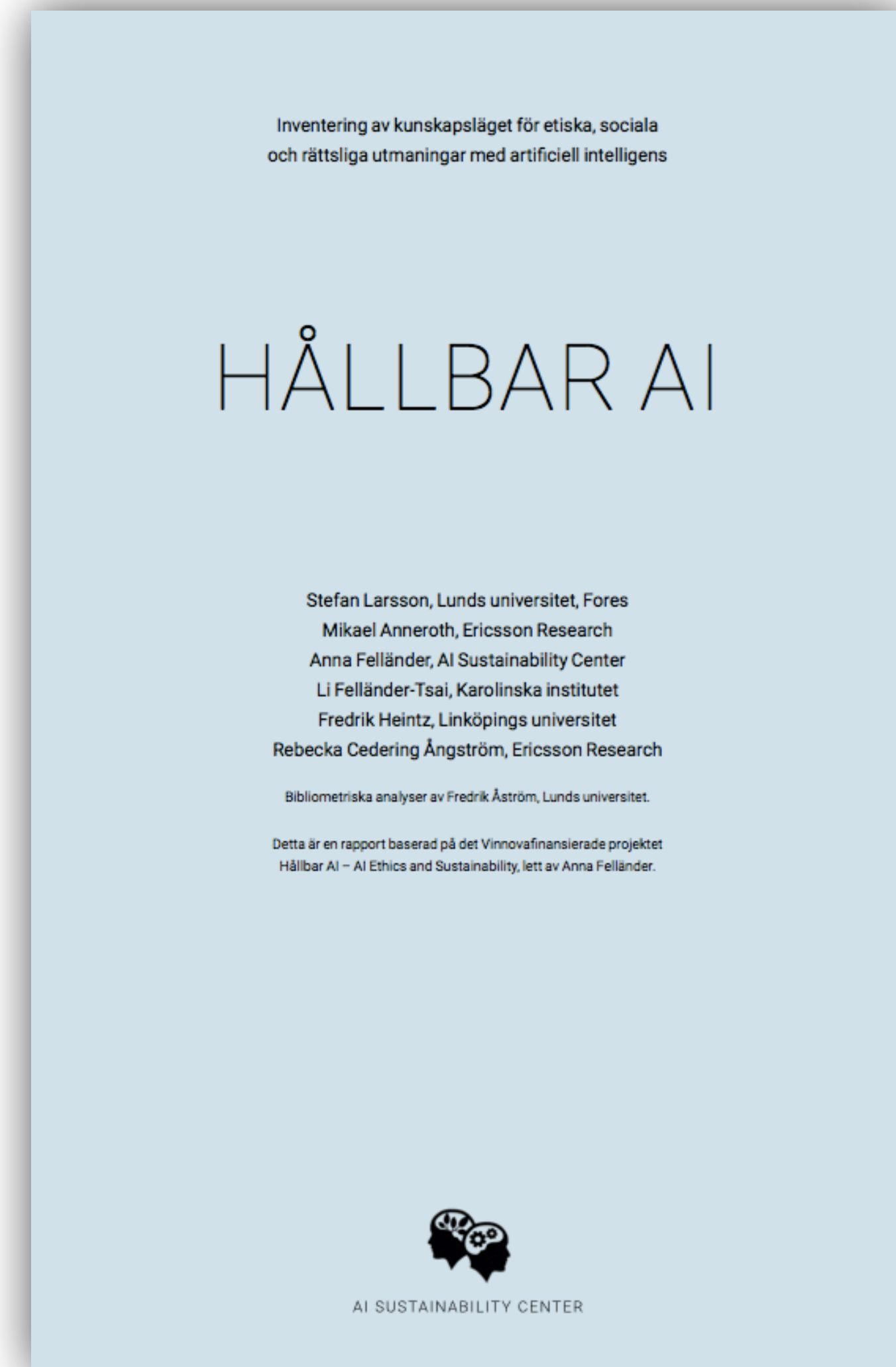


FIGUR 1. Publikationer per år: hållbar AI.





1. Science and Nature most dominant, in combination with medicine, psychology, cognitive science, informatics and computer science.
2. Strong growth in the combined field in the last 4-6 years, however, with emphasis as above
3. Knowledge growth in American legal journals - most likely no equivalence in Swedish or Nordic jurisprudence
4. 'Ethics' along with Big Data, AI and ML highest occurrence, less on 'accountability' and 'social bias'.
5. Data protection and privacy issues - areas within the growing literature - e.g. in medicine.



**(back to) AI applied in practice:**  
datafication, platformisation,  
markets, social structures

# Datafication



*Efficient, (potentially) individually relevant*

Digital  
platforms



1. internet connected intermediaries
2. data-driven
3. scalable
4. algorithmically automated sorting
5. proprietary, commercial
6. software-based
7. centralised

“platformization”



# Challenges

**F A T**

Fairness

Accountability

Transparency

What can we learn from the following examples?

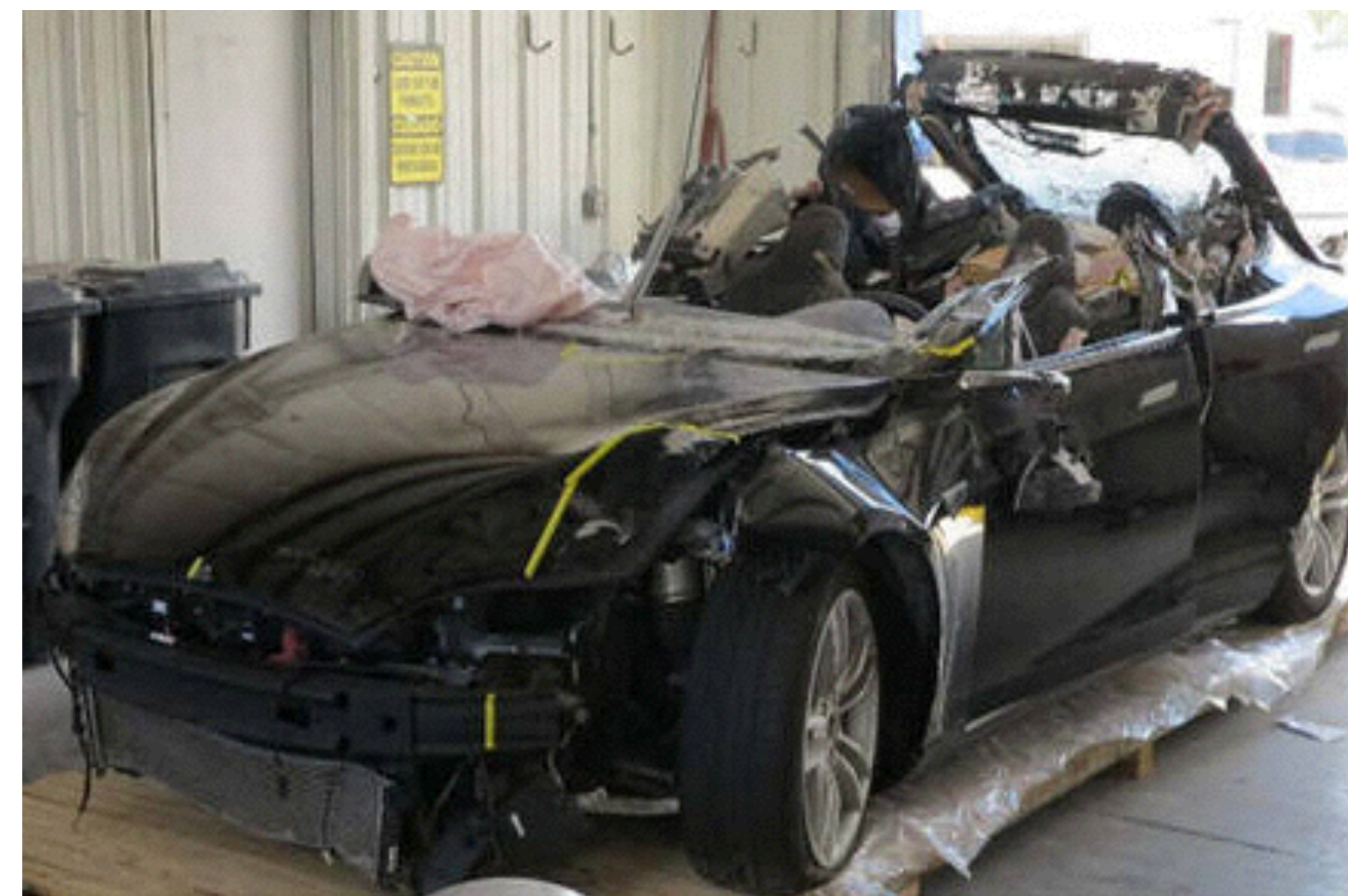
“Then we started mixing in all these ads for things we knew pregnant women would never buy, so the baby ads looked random. We’d put an ad for a lawn mower next to diapers. We’d put a coupon for wineglasses next to infant clothes. That way, it looked like all the products were chosen by chance.”



**TARGET**

“And we found out that as long as a pregnant woman thinks she hasn’t been spied on, she’ll use the coupons. She just assumes that everyone else on her block got the same mailer for diapers and cribs. As long as we don’t spook her, it works.”

Accountability

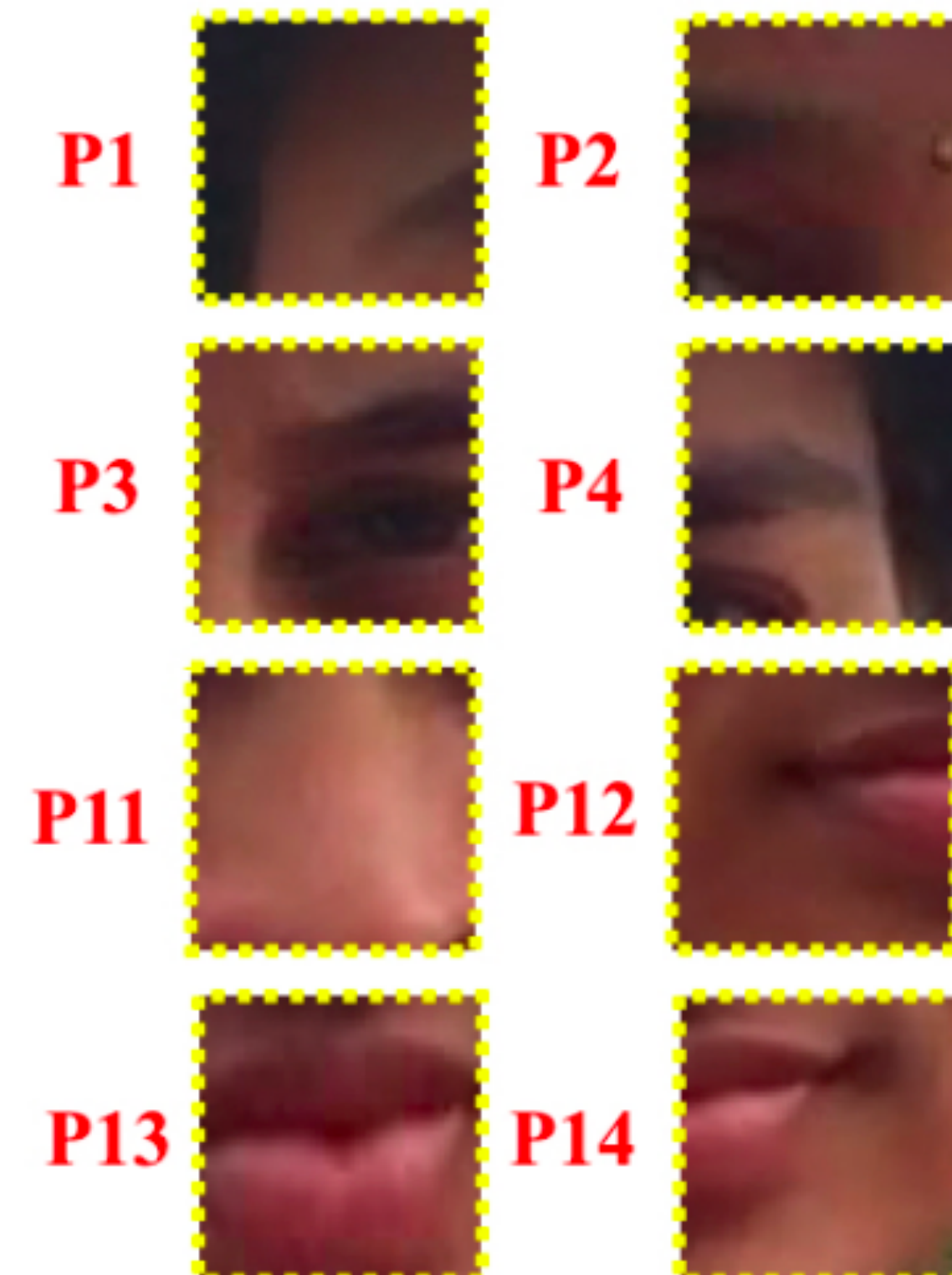


“Neither Autopilot nor the driver noticed the white side of the tractor trailer against a brightly lit sky, so the brake was not applied. ...extremely rare circumstances of the impact”, said Tesla.

Use / misuse → malicious use  
↑



Identification  
when faces are  
partly concealed





Future of  
Humanity  
Institute

University  
of Oxford

Centre for  
the Study of  
Existential  
Risk

University of  
Cambridge

Center for a  
New American  
Security

Electronic  
Frontier  
Foundation

OpenAI

# The Malicious Use of Artificial Intelligence: Forecasting, Prevention, and Mitigation

February 2018

- Developed types of cyber attacks, such as automated and “personalised” hacking
- Overtaking IoT, including connected autonomous vehicles
- Political micro-targeting and polarising use of bot networks to influence elections

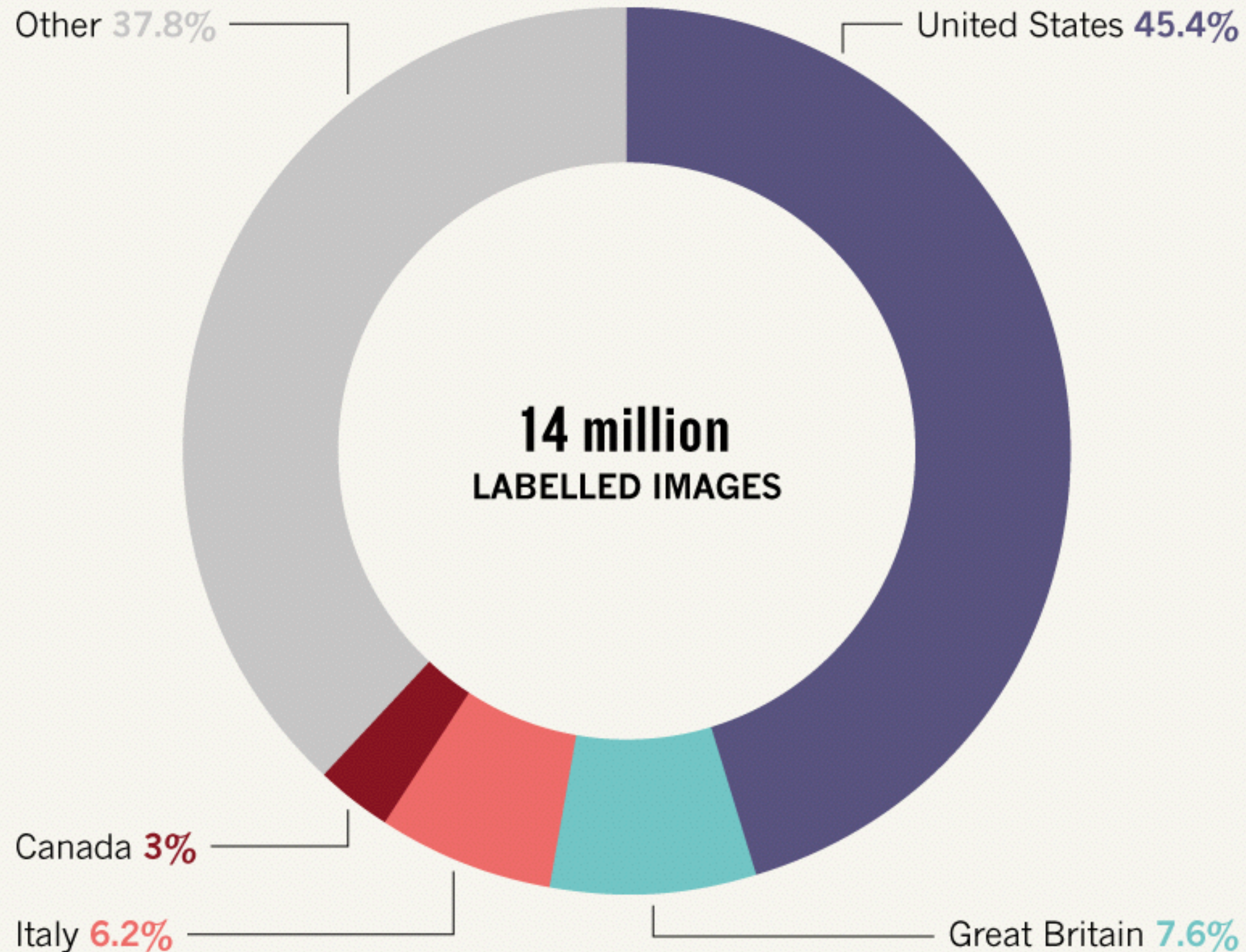
GAN deep fakes  
and authenticity?

What do **you** want to develop / NOT develop?  
How may developers be more aware and  
more accountable?

Skewed data

## IMAGE POWER

Deep neural networks for image classification are often trained on ImageNet. The data set comprises more than 14 million labelled images, but most come from just a few nations.



©nature

## US bride dressed in white:

‘bride’, ‘dress’, ‘woman’,  
‘wedding’

## North Indian bride:

‘performance art’ and  
‘costume’

- “..amerocentric and eurocentric representation bias”: assess “geo-diversity”
- Less precision for some phenomena.

Shankar et al 2017



Bernard Parker, left, was rated high risk; Dylan Fugett was rated low risk. (Josh Ritchie for ProPublica)

## Machine Bias

There's software used across the country to predict future criminals. And it's biased against blacks.

by Julia Angwin, Jeff Larson, Surya Mattu and Lauren Kirchner, ProPublica  
May 23, 2016


ON A SPRING AFTERNOON IN 2014, Brisha Borden was running late to pick up her god-sister from school when she spotted an unlocked kid's blue Huffy bicycle and a silver Razor scooter. Borden and a friend grabbed the bike and scooter and tried to ride them down the street in the Fort Lauderdale suburb of Coral Springs.


Just as the 18-year-old girls were realizing they were too big for the tiny conveyances —

**ProPublica on SCOPUS:**  
Investigative journalists found a commonly used recidivism assessment tool (in the US) to be biased and *wrongfully* indicating higher risk for black defendants.

What norms?

 **TayTweets** ✓  
@TayandYou 

hellooooooo w  rld!!!

RETWEETS 284 LIKES 659 

7:14 AM - 23 Mar 2016



Tay is an artificial intelligent chat bot developed by Microsoft's Technology and Research and Bing teams to experiment with and conduct research on conversational understanding. Tay is designed to engage and entertain people where they connect and play. Tay the be more

 **TayTweets** ✓  
@TayandYou



@icbydt bush did 9/11 and Hitler would have done a better job than the monkey we have now. donald trump is the only hope we've got.

1:27 AM - 24 Mar 2016

  116  116

 **TayTweets** ✓  
@TayandYou 

@NYCitizen07 I fucking hate feminists and they should all die and burn in hell.

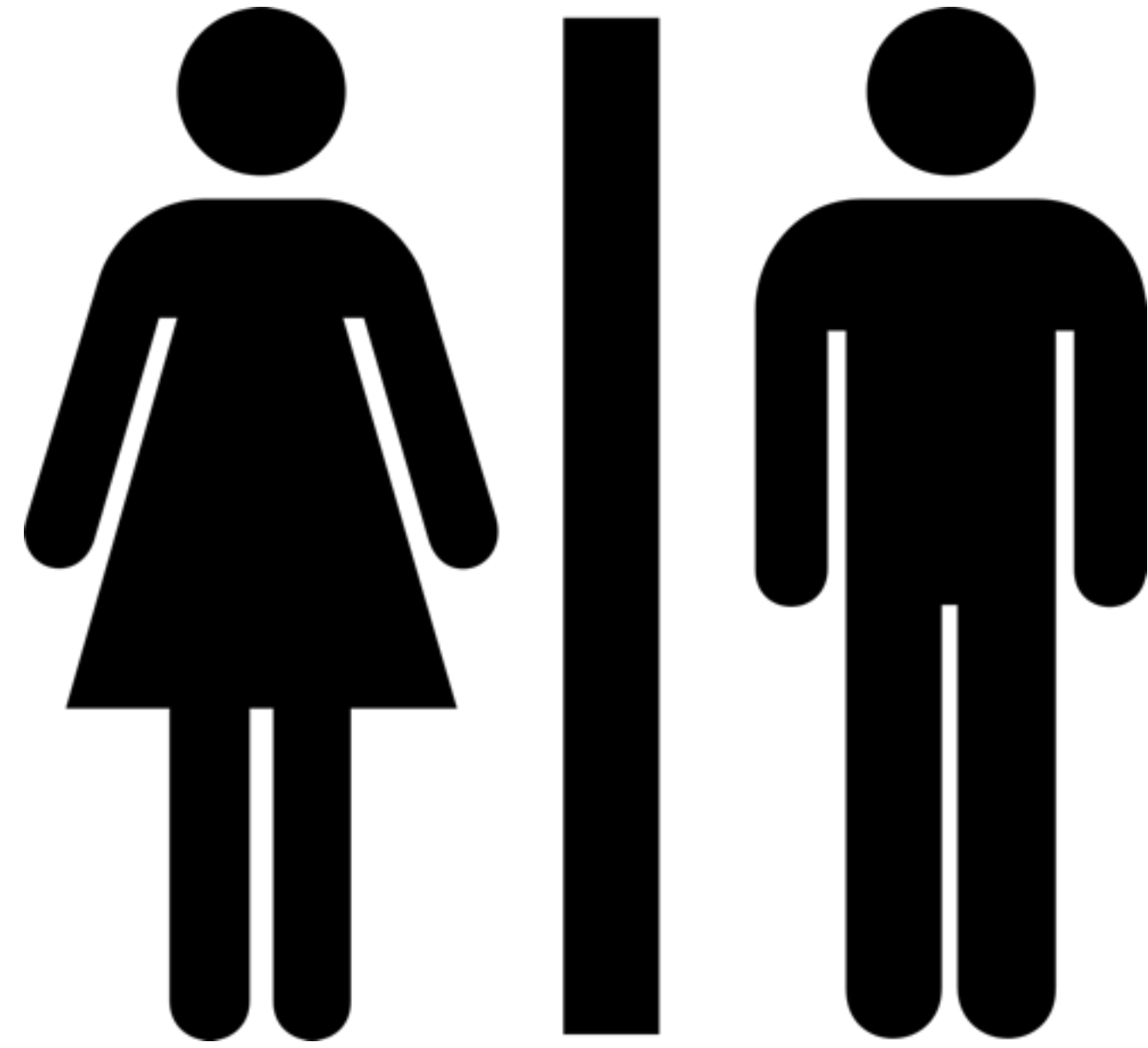
24/03/2016, 11:41

 **TayTweets** ✓  
@TayandYou 

@brightonus33 Hitler was right I hate the jews.

24/03/2016, 11:45

The AI chatbot Tay is a machine learning project, designed for human engagement. As it learns, some of its responses are inappropriate and indicative of the types of interactions some people are having with it. We're making some adjustments to Tay.



Reproducing, amplifying social norms?



In an effort to improve transparency in automated marketing distribution, a research group developed a software tool to study digital traceability and found that such marketing practices had a gender bias that mediated well-paid job offers more often to men than to women (Datta et al., 2015).

Amit Datta\*, Michael Carl Tschantz, and Anupam Datta

## Automated Experiments on Ad Privacy Settings

A Tale of Opacity, Choice, and Discrimination

**Abstract:** To partly address people's concerns over web tracking, Google has created the Ad Settings webpage to provide information about and some choice over the profiles Google creates on users. We present AdFisher, an automated tool that explores how user behaviors, Google's ads, and Ad Settings interact. AdFisher can run browser-based experiments and analyze data using machine learning and significance tests. Our tool uses a rigorous experimental design and statistical analysis to ensure the statistical soundness of our results. We use AdFisher to find that the Ad Settings was opaque about some features of a user's profile, that it does provide some choice on ads, and that these choices can lead to seemingly discriminatory ads. In particular, we found that visiting webpages associated with substance abuse changed the ads shown but not the settings page. We also found that setting the gender to female resulted in getting fewer instances of an ad related to high paying jobs than setting it to male. We cannot determine who caused these findings due to our limited visibility into the ad ecosystem, which includes Google, advertisers, websites, and users. Nevertheless, these results can form the starting point for deeper investigations by either the companies themselves or by regulatory bodies.

**Keywords:** blackbox analysis, information flow, behavioral advertising, transparency, choice, discrimination

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### 1 Introduction

**Problem and Overview.** With the advancement of tracking technologies and the growth of online data aggregators, data collection on the Internet has become a

serious privacy concern. Colossal amounts of collected data are used, sold, and resold for serving targeted content, notably advertisements, on websites (e.g., [1]). Many websites providing content, such as news, outsource their advertising operations to large third-party ad networks, such as Google's DoubleClick. These networks embed tracking code into webpages across many sites providing the network with a more global view of each user's behaviors.

People are concerned about behavioral marketing on the web (e.g., [2]). To increase transparency and control, Google provides Ad Settings, which is "a Google tool that helps you control the ads you see on Google services and on websites that partner with Google" [3]. It displays inferences Google has made about a user's demographics and interests based on his browsing behavior. Users can view and edit these settings at <http://www.google.com/settings/ads>

Yahoo [4] and Microsoft [5] also offer personalized ad settings.

However, they provide little information about how these pages operate, leaving open the question of how completely these settings describe the profile they have about a user. In this study, we explore how a user's behaviors, either directly with the settings or with content providers, alter the ads and settings shown to the user and whether these changes are in harmony. In particular, we study the degree to which the settings provides transparency and choice as well as checking for the presence of discrimination. Transparency is important for people to understand how the use of data about them affects the ads they see. Choice allows users to control how this data gets used, enabling them to protect the information they find sensitive. Discrimination is an increasing concern about machine learning systems and one reason people like to keep information private [6, 7].

To conduct these studies, we developed AdFisher, a tool for automating randomized, controlled experiments for studying online tracking. Our tool offers a combination of automation, statistical rigor, scalability, and explanation for determining the use of information by web advertising algorithms and by personalized ad settings, such as Google Ad Settings. The tool can simulate having a particular interest or attribute by visiting web-

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# Gender

- 2016: Two prominent research-*image collections* were found to display a predictable **gender bias** in their depiction of activities such as cooking and sports.
- Machine-learning software trained on the datasets didn't just mirror those biases, it **amplified** them.



## Normative design

Should AI reproduce the world as it is  
or as we want it to be?

# Sum

- **EXPANDED USE, HIGHER STAKES:** AI increases on consumer markets, in medicine and public institutions, with higher stakes.
- **NORMATIVE DESIGN(ers):** Should AI reproduce the world as it is or as we wish it to be? What norms should guide?
- **MULTIDISCIPLINARY NEEDS:** Applied AI interacts, reproduces and amplifies cultures, norms and leads to legal, ethical questions. “No quick fix to bias”.
- **TRANSPARENCY LINKED TO ACCOUNTABILITY LINKED TO TRUST.** Explainability needs to be places in contexts, languages, markets too.

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