

## **LEGAL RESPONSIBILITY AS A FIRST-ORDER ETHICAL NORM IN THE DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT OF AUTONOMOUS SYSTEMS**

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AI and robotics are at the forefront of emerging technologies impacting on all aspects of society. Manufacturing, automotive, finance, healthcare, employment, legal, and the military are among the sectors exploiting such technologies. Fundamental legal and ethical issues arise relating to what values AI and robotics will adopt, and legal consequences for any resulting harm. Where there is potential or actual harm from the use of AI and robotics it is in the public interest to know who will be held legally responsible. A broad spectrum of agents may be attributed with legal responsibility for harms and unintended consequences (e.g. designers, programmers, engineers, manufacturers, operators and owners). In this talk I will explain why legal responsibility is a first-order ethical norm in the design and development of autonomous systems, and differentiate “responsibility” from “accountability”. I will use autonomous weapons as a case study to demonstrate legal responsibility throughout the pre-deployment and deployment stages of design, development, manufacturing, and use.