

Tuesday late afternoon session Track D, Tuesday, Sep 23 2025, 16:00-17:45

Location: Seminar 3

Session: RI and AI

Chair: Tom Lindemann

OR-45

Beyond Guidelines: Using the Anthology Format for Mediating AI-related Research Ethics

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Developments in the field of AI have led to a great demand for guidelines and guides for research on AI and the use of AI in research. Many institutions, journals, and funders are developing their own guidelines for what is and is not acceptable use of AI.

The national research ethics committees in Norway are advisory bodies for research ethics/research integrity. The National Committee for Research Ethics in Science and Technology (NENT) has developed and updated research ethics/integrity guidelines for its subject areas since 2007.

For an ethically demanding topic like AI, however, guidelines should do only part of the job of helping stakeholders to develop sustainable practices and make responsible choices. Guidelines work best in tandem with other efforts. An anthology is a tool that, if developed correctly, plays an important part in securing these ends by supplementing the functions served by guidelines.

In the talk, we will present the ongoing work on an anthology on AI and research ethics. “Research ethics” is here understood broadly, so that it includes good scientific practice, responsibility for individuals and groups involved in or affected by research, and responsibility for how the knowledge developed is utilised in society and in relation to nature. The talk will address the central parallels and contrasts in terms of complementing strengths and weaknesses of guidelines and anthologies. Among them are

- Complexity. While guidelines can work well to articulate basic principles, they require a great amount of experience, imagination, and judgment in order to be properly implemented in the complex reality of AI. A well-crafted anthology can alleviate such situations by addressing the complexity directly – being of real help through providing examples, analogies, and discussions of paradigmatic approaches for which there is no room in a set of guidelines.
- Room for problematizing. Guidelines normally are of limited help when it comes to seeing how to handle situations where no available solution is optimal, and all options include some unwanted consequences or risks that are typically part and parcel of dealing with new technologies. A suitable contribution to an anthology can get to the centre of such challenges.
- Accessibility. Well-designed guidelines typically score highly on accessibility, in that they convey important points with a limited amount of text. Also, they are accessible in the sense that they are usually not behind payment walls, something that is of special importance for a field like AI research carried out by agents from a wealth of institutional frameworks. For an anthology to maximise accessibility, besides being Open Access-based, there is a need for short, succinct contributions that are clearly defined in terms of their more specialized topic.