



# DATA POLICY AS TRANSLATIONAL ETHICS

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# WHAT IS ETHICS?

- **No:** “mere” compliance or legal rules
- **No:** sole province of philosophers
- **Yes:** What should our values be?  
And how should we act to advance those values?

# WHAT IS ETHICS IN DATA SCIENCE?

- Key goal of data science is to build models
  - Descriptive, Predictive, Causal, ...
  - Model evaluation & use depend on goals & needs (= “what matters”)
- Ethical & value decisions at every step of the “pipeline”
  - “What problems are worth solving?”
  - ...
  - “What errors should be addressed?”
- **Values & ethics are *always* part of Data Science!**

# TWO APPROACHES TO AI & DATA SCIENCE ETHICS

- *Top-down*: Start with normative ethical principles  
Apply to particular cases of AI & Data Science



- *Bottom-up*: Start with facts about AI + ethical understanding  
Develop principles & concepts appropriate to AI

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***Dominant Approach***
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# PRINCIPLED APPROACHES

## PRINCIPLED ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

A Map of Ethical and Rights-Based Approaches to Principles for AI

Authors: Jessica Fjeld, Nele Achten, Hannah Hilligoss, Adam Nagy, Madhulika Srikumar

### A Unified Framework of Five Principles for AI in Society

Authors

[Authors and affiliations](#)

Luciano Floridi , Josh Cowsils

### The global landscape of AI ethics guidelines

[Anna Jobin](#), [Marcello Lenca](#) & [Effy Vayena](#) 

### Artificial Intelligence at Google:

### 9 ethical AI principles for organizations to follow



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Defense

### 5 PRINCIPLES OF DATA ETHICS FOR BUSINESS

Intelligence Community Principles of Artificial Intelligence



Engineering and Research (Aether) Committee, and Responsible AI Strategy in Engineering Committee advises our leadership on the challenges and opportunities presented by AI. We set our rules and governance processes, working closely with teams across the company to ensure AI is a team that enables the implementation of Microsoft's AI principles.

### The OECD AI Principles

# SHORTCOMINGS OF PRINCIPLES

- Universal rather than context-sensitive
- No decision procedure for conflicts
- Properties of end-states not processes

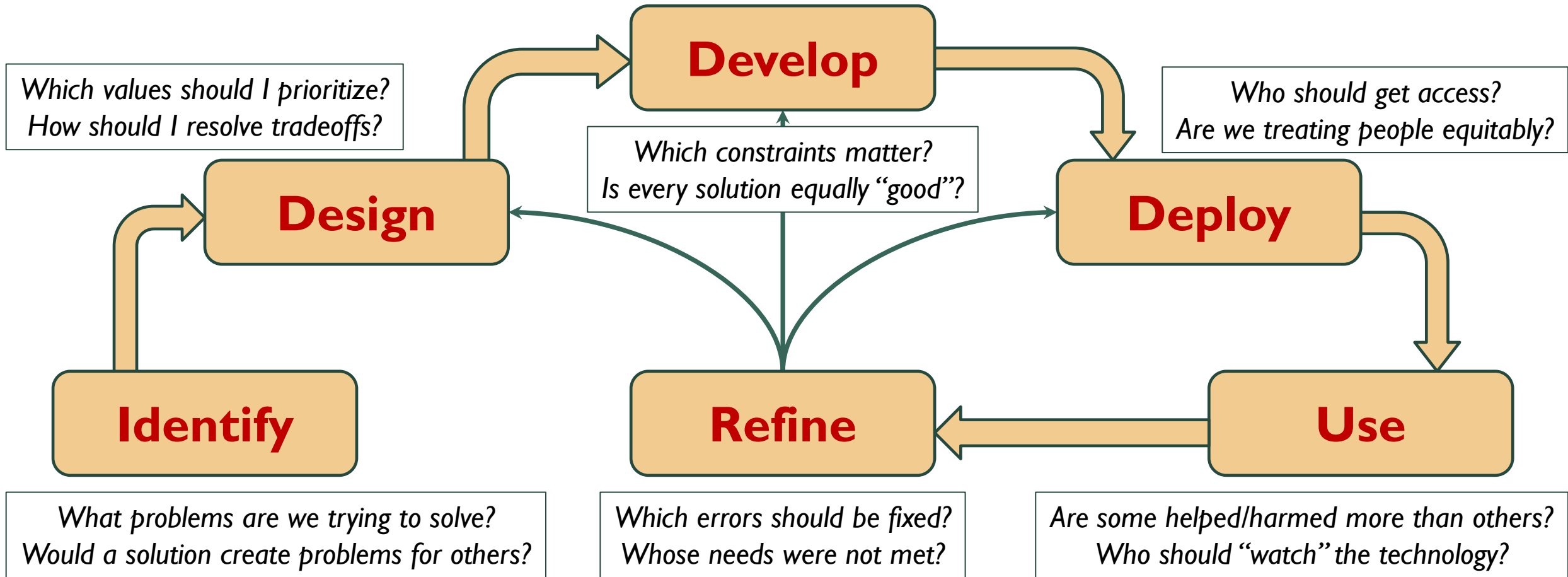
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***Translational Ethics***



# INTERVENTION POINTS



# DATA POLICY AS TRANSLATIONAL ETHICS

- Base our policies in actual practices, situations, needs
  - ⇒ Policies support principles, not translate them
- *Example policies about...:*
  - when to pursue a data science effort
  - how to document data & models
  - how to implement human-algorithm interaction

# CONCLUSIONS

- Ethical (& societal) considerations are central to data science
- Principles provide ideals, not implementations
- Data policies & practices are a form of translational ethics

# THANKS!

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- Zack Lipton
- Alex John London
- Osonde Osoba
- Alka Patel
- Kerstin Vignard  
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