CNN: VIEWS ON ETHICAL AND SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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University of Essex Online
23 December 2024

CONTENTS

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Five years ago, Wall (2019) evaluated automated facial recognition (FR) and its use by worldwide police and security forces. The assertion is that when it is right, it is useful, but when it is wrong, innocent lives are at risk. This issue arises because computer vision has, in the past, even struggled to differentiate a chihuahua from a blueberry muffin.

Bias can be introduced in training data, but also by the absence of training data. For instance, an imbalanced facial training set with majority young, white and male can return biased results for age, darker skin, female, and those non-conforming to gender stereotypes (Raji et al., 2020). A well-known example is Google's misidentification of a Black couple as 'gorillas' (BBC, 2015).

Given its lack of accuracy and potential negative impact on human life, the EU AI Act includes 'real-time and remote biometric identification systems, such as facial recognition' in its list of unacceptable risks (European Parliament, 2023).

References

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