

# Summit brainstorms AI ethics, governance

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The dark side of the AI revolution will come under the microscope as experts gather in Melbourne for the latest instalment of Creative Innovation summit, with the misuse of the term for marketing purposes and the need for ethics shaping up as major talking points.

According to Simon Longstaff, executive director of The Ethics Centre, AI was being routinely misapplied to what he labels 'expert systems'.

"The attributes of intelligence — at least as we understand the term in relation to human beings — is still not really found in machines," Dr Longstaff said.

"In time, it is possible that they will develop something indistinguishable from intelligence — thus passing the 'Turing test' — but we are still some distance from achieving that outcome."

Dr Longstaff, a speaker at the summit, added that implementing AI technology without considering the deep ethical implications would risk the long-term viability of the trend.

"Technical mastery divorced from ethical restraint lies at the heart of all tyranny, so all aspects of technology need to be managed with a regard to ethics."

University of NSW professor of artificial intelligence Toby Walsh, also speaking at the summit, said like all technology trends AI will also inevitably run out of steam.

"We will at some point hit peak AI and there will be some disillusionment after as we won't be able to meet some of the inflated expectations," Professor Walsh said.

Emma Martinho-Truswell, co-founder of technology consultancy Oxford Insights, said that it was important to understand where AI technology would be most applicable.

"The most urgent economic and social transitions due to AI will be due to quite narrow and



**Simon Longstaff**

specific applications. I don't think most people are thinking of that when they hear about AI," Dr Martinho-Truswell said.

The impact of AI on jobs is a major anxiety and Dr Martinho-Truswell said that governments will need to be prepared for the dislocation of labour.

"The most urgent step is preparation, it will be a very costly transition, but there should also be more revenue to work with as companies implementing AI technologies become more efficient," she said.

AI is also set to play a big role in how governments deliver services to citizens and Boston Consulting Group's senior partner Miguel Carrasco said that government agencies will need to be transparent to the public on how AI can benefit their lives.

"Transparency into where and how AI is used in government will be essential to establishing legitimacy and credibility," Mr Carrasco said.

"For governments, this is a journey. It's essential that they bring citizens along with them on that journey."

Creative Universe founder Tania De Jong said that collaborative discussions were critical to building the right ethical frameworks for the development of AI technology.

"The cold reality is that we don't have the institutional frameworks to deal with the massive ethical and governance issues associated with AI, the response is all too piecemeal at the moment and, as a society, we are trying to 'muddle' through," she said.