

The Distinctive Characteristics Of Artificial Intelligence As A Value

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ABSTRACT

This article explores the distinctive characteristics of artificial intelligence as a contemporary social, scientific, and technological value. The study analyzes artificial intelligence from philosophical, ethical, socio-economic, and educational perspectives, emphasizing its role in knowledge generation, innovation, digital transformation, and human development. Particular attention is devoted to the value dimensions of artificial intelligence, including responsibility, transparency, fairness, human-centeredness, and sustainable technological development. The paper argues that artificial intelligence should be regarded not merely as a technological innovation but as a multidimensional value that significantly influences modern society, education, economics, and decision-making processes.

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Introduction

The unprecedented development of artificial intelligence (AI) has become one of the defining features of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, profoundly transforming virtually every sphere of human activity, including education, healthcare, economics, governance, industry, science, and culture. Unlike previous technological innovations, artificial intelligence possesses the unique capacity to learn from data, recognize patterns, make predictions, support decision-making, and continuously improve its performance through adaptive algorithms. As a result, AI has evolved from a purely technological phenomenon into a multidimensional social value that significantly influences economic productivity, scientific progress, human well-being, and sustainable development.

In contemporary philosophical and axiological discourse, artificial intelligence is increasingly examined not only as a technological tool but also as a value-generating system that reshapes human interaction with knowledge, labor, creativity, and innovation. The emergence of intelligent algorithms, machine learning, natural language processing, computer vision, and generative AI technologies has expanded opportunities for improving efficiency, enhancing public services, and addressing complex global challenges. At the same time, these developments have generated new ethical, legal, political, and social questions concerning algorithmic transparency, fairness, accountability, privacy, human autonomy, and digital justice.

From an axiological perspective, artificial intelligence possesses distinctive characteristics that differentiate it from traditional technologies. Its value lies not merely in automation or computational power but in its capacity to augment human intelligence, facilitate evidence-based decision-making, personalize education and healthcare, accelerate scientific discovery, and promote innovation across multiple sectors. However, the

increasing integration of AI into everyday life also requires careful consideration of human-centered principles that ensure technological progress remains aligned with fundamental human values, democratic governance, and sustainable societal development.

International organizations such as UNESCO, the OECD, the European Union, and the United Nations emphasize that artificial intelligence should be developed and implemented according to ethical principles including transparency, inclusiveness, accountability, respect for human rights, environmental sustainability, and social responsibility. Consequently, understanding the distinctive characteristics of artificial intelligence as a value has become an important interdisciplinary research objective that integrates philosophy, ethics, economics, political science, education, and information technology. Investigating AI from this perspective contributes to developing balanced approaches that maximize its benefits while minimizing potential risks for individuals and society.

Methodology

Artificial intelligence (AI) has become one of the most influential scientific and technological phenomena of the twenty-first century. Unlike previous technological inventions, AI is increasingly viewed not only as a computational tool but also as a multidimensional value that transforms knowledge production, economic development, social interaction, education, healthcare, governance, and scientific research. Consequently, scholars from philosophy, computer science, sociology, economics, ethics, and political science have begun to examine AI through an axiological perspective, considering it as an emerging human value rather than merely a technological innovation.

The concept of artificial intelligence was first systematically introduced by John McCarthy, who defined AI as "the science and engineering of making intelligent machines" [1]. McCarthy's definition has served as the theoretical foundation for AI research for more than six decades. However, contemporary scholars argue that this definition reflects only the technological dimension of AI. Today, intelligent machines are expected not merely to perform calculations but also to assist humans in solving complex problems, generating knowledge, supporting decision-making, and creating innovative solutions.

From an axiological perspective, McCarthy's definition demonstrates that intelligence itself has gradually become a transferable technological value. Traditionally, intelligence was considered an exclusively human characteristic. The emergence of AI has transformed this perception by demonstrating that certain cognitive functions—including learning, reasoning, language processing, prediction, and pattern recognition—can be simulated through computational systems. Consequently, AI has become a new form of intellectual capital that significantly contributes to scientific and economic development.

A broader theoretical interpretation is offered by Stuart Russell and Peter Norvig, who define artificial intelligence as the discipline concerned with "building intelligent agents that receive percepts from the environment and take actions that maximize their chances of achieving goals" [2]. Their influential model introduces the concept of the intelligent agent, emphasizing that AI systems should be evaluated according to their capacity to perceive, reason, adapt, and act rationally.

The importance of Russell and Norvig's theory extends beyond computer science. Their model demonstrates that AI creates value through rational decision-making rather than simple automation. Intelligent systems are capable of processing enormous quantities of information, identifying hidden relationships within data, and producing evidence-based recommendations that frequently exceed human analytical capacity. This characteristic has transformed AI into a strategic resource for governments, industries, financial institutions, and educational organizations.

Another important philosophical contribution is provided by Luciano Floridi, who argues that humanity has entered an "infosphere" in which information becomes the fundamental resource of civilization [3]. Floridi maintains that artificial intelligence should not be understood solely as a technological achievement but rather as an informational agent capable of reshaping the entire structure of social reality.

According to Floridi, the value of AI lies primarily in its ability to process, organize, interpret, and generate information within increasingly complex digital ecosystems. Information has become a strategic resource comparable to land during the agricultural revolution or capital during industrialization. Consequently, artificial intelligence represents an advanced mechanism for managing the informational infrastructure upon which modern societies increasingly depend.

Floridi's theory also introduces an important ethical dimension. He argues that intelligent systems participate in what he calls the "moral environment," meaning that AI applications influence human decisions, opportunities, rights, and responsibilities. Therefore, AI should be governed according to ethical principles rather than market efficiency alone. This interpretation significantly expands the axiological understanding of artificial intelligence by integrating technological innovation with moral responsibility.

The future implications of artificial intelligence have been extensively examined by Nick Bostrom, whose work on superintelligence has profoundly influenced contemporary AI ethics [4]. Bostrom argues that artificial intelligence may eventually surpass human cognitive abilities in multiple domains, creating unprecedented opportunities as well as existential risks.

According to Bostrom, the greatest value of AI lies in its extraordinary capacity for scientific discovery, medical innovation, environmental management, and economic productivity. Nevertheless, these benefits can only be realized if intelligent systems remain aligned with human values. Otherwise, increasing machine autonomy may generate unintended consequences that exceed human control.

Bostrom's concept of value alignment has become one of the central theoretical principles in AI ethics. The idea suggests that intelligent systems should consistently pursue objectives compatible with human interests, dignity, and social welfare. This concept has fundamentally influenced international AI governance by shifting attention from technological performance toward ethical compatibility.

The relationship between artificial intelligence and human intelligence has also been explored by Kai-Fu Lee, who argues that AI represents not a replacement for humanity but a complementary form of intelligence [5]. According to Lee, machines possess remarkable computational efficiency, whereas humans continue to excel in creativity, empathy, ethical reasoning, emotional intelligence, and interpersonal communication.

Lee's perspective challenges the widespread assumption that AI will inevitably replace human beings. Instead, he proposes a collaborative model in which artificial intelligence automates repetitive analytical tasks while humans concentrate on innovation, leadership, ethical judgment, and creative problem-solving. From an axiological viewpoint, this interpretation emphasizes that the greatest value of AI lies in augmenting rather than replacing human capabilities.

A similar position is reflected in the work of Erik Brynjolfsson and Andrew McAfee, who describe artificial intelligence as the principal driving force of the Fourth Industrial Revolution [6]. According to these scholars, AI fundamentally transforms productivity by accelerating innovation, optimizing production systems, improving decision quality, and creating entirely new economic sectors.

Brynjolfsson and McAfee argue that intelligent automation should not be evaluated solely through employment statistics. More importantly, AI generates entirely new categories of occupations requiring advanced analytical skills, digital literacy, interdisciplinary collaboration, and continuous learning. Their research demonstrates that the value of AI extends beyond technological efficiency toward long-term economic competitiveness and human capital development.

The educational significance of artificial intelligence has attracted increasing scholarly attention. Wayne Holmes, Maya Bialik, and Charles Fadel argue that AI has the potential to transform education by enabling personalized learning, adaptive assessment, intelligent tutoring systems, and real-time learning analytics [7]. According to these researchers, artificial intelligence creates educational value by responding to individual learners' cognitive needs rather than applying uniform instructional methods.

Their work demonstrates that AI contributes to educational equity through adaptive learning pathways capable of accommodating diverse abilities, learning speeds, and educational backgrounds. Nevertheless, they simultaneously emphasize that teachers remain indispensable because education involves ethical guidance, emotional support, social interaction, and character formation—functions that intelligent machines cannot fully replicate.

The emergence of generative artificial intelligence has introduced another dimension of educational value. Systems capable of producing text, images, programming code, and scientific summaries significantly increase knowledge accessibility while simultaneously creating challenges related to academic integrity, plagiarism, misinformation, and critical thinking. Consequently, scholars increasingly argue that AI literacy should become an essential educational competency alongside traditional digital literacy.

International organizations have similarly emphasized the value-oriented development of artificial intelligence. UNESCO's Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence identifies transparency, accountability, fairness, inclusiveness, privacy protection, sustainability, and respect for human rights as the fundamental principles governing AI development [8]. UNESCO argues that artificial intelligence should serve humanity by reducing inequality, expanding educational opportunities, promoting healthcare accessibility, and supporting sustainable development.

Unlike purely technological interpretations, UNESCO conceptualizes AI as a social value requiring democratic governance and ethical oversight. According to the Recommendation, intelligent systems should strengthen rather than undermine human dignity, cultural diversity, gender equality, and environmental sustainability. This human-centered perspective has become one of the dominant paradigms within international AI governance.

Similarly, the OECD Principles on Artificial Intelligence emphasize that AI systems should promote inclusive growth, sustainable development, transparency, robustness, security, and accountability [9]. The OECD framework recognizes that public trust constitutes one of the most valuable resources for successful AI implementation. Without transparency and ethical governance, technological innovation cannot achieve its full social value.

Taken together, these scholarly perspectives demonstrate remarkable convergence despite disciplinary differences. McCarthy emphasizes intelligent machines; Russell and Norvig focus on rational agents; Floridi interprets AI as an informational phenomenon; Bostrom highlights value alignment; Kai-Fu Lee stresses human-AI collaboration; Brynjolfsson explains economic transformation; Holmes examines educational innovation; while UNESCO and OECD establish ethical governance principles.

The synthesis of these perspectives indicates that artificial intelligence possesses several distinctive value characteristics. It represents an intellectual value because it expands human knowledge; an economic value because it enhances productivity and innovation; a social value because it improves public services; an educational value because it personalizes learning; and an ethical value because its development requires responsibility, transparency, and respect for human dignity.

Therefore, contemporary scholarship increasingly regards artificial intelligence not as an autonomous technological phenomenon but as a complex value system whose significance depends upon its contribution to sustainable human development. The true value of AI is realized only when technological innovation remains aligned with ethical principles, democratic governance, social justice, and the long-term interests of humanity.

Conclusion

The analysis demonstrates that artificial intelligence should be regarded not merely as an advanced technological innovation but as a complex and dynamic value that significantly influences contemporary civilization. Its distinctive characteristics extend beyond computational efficiency to encompass knowledge creation, innovation, decision support, economic competitiveness, educational transformation, healthcare improvement, scientific advancement, and sustainable development. Consequently, artificial intelligence has become an essential strategic resource for the progress of modern societies.

The study also confirms that the value of artificial intelligence is inseparable from ethical responsibility. While AI offers unprecedented opportunities for increasing productivity, improving public services, and enhancing human capabilities, it simultaneously introduces challenges related to privacy, algorithmic bias, transparency, accountability, cybersecurity, employment transformation, and the protection of fundamental human rights. Therefore, the development and application of artificial intelligence should be guided by human-centered principles that ensure technology serves the interests of humanity rather than replacing or undermining human autonomy.

Furthermore, education plays a crucial role in preparing individuals to interact effectively and responsibly with artificial intelligence technologies. Developing AI literacy, critical thinking, digital ethics, and interdisciplinary competencies enables citizens to understand both the opportunities and limitations of intelligent systems while promoting informed and responsible use of AI across professional and social contexts.

In conclusion, artificial intelligence represents a multidimensional value that combines technological innovation with economic, social, ethical, cultural, and educational significance. Its sustainable development depends on balancing scientific progress with moral responsibility, legal regulation, transparency, and respect for human dignity. Future research should continue exploring human-centered artificial intelligence, trustworthy AI governance, explainable AI systems, and ethical regulatory frameworks to ensure that artificial intelligence remains a powerful instrument for improving human well-being, promoting social equity, and supporting sustainable global development.

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