

Class Activity 1

Last year, Uber has been in the news because of their autonomous vehicle testing program in North America. After a 49-year old woman was struck and killed by one of its cars while crossing a Tempe, Arizona street, the company decided to halt this program. Discuss the moral responsibilities of various stakeholders involved in this incident: 1) Uber; 2) The driver behind the wheel; 3) The pedestrian; and 4) Lawmakers. Use the following two ethical theories – social contract theory and rule utilitarianism.

Class Activity 2

Is it wrong to work on an intelligent machine if it can't be guaranteed the machine will be benevolent toward humans? Who takes the ownership of unforeseen outcomes?

Class Activity 3

Should digital media, such as social media platforms continue to use highly sophisticated but opaque algorithms to adapt users' experiences on their platforms? The lecture highlighted some examples such as autocompletion or product recommendation where such algorithms can be harmless or even beneficial, but the proliferation of fake news and social bots showcase how these algorithms may steer political conversations in polarizing and misleading ways.

Present your rationale using a social contract theory perspective.