

Data Ethics

ICS 491

Ethics

- **Beneficence: an act of charity, mercy, and kindness**
 - Promoting Well-Being, Preserving Dignity, and Sustaining the Planet
- **Non-Maleficence: there is an obligation not to inflict harm on others.**
 - Privacy, Security and 'Capability Caution'
- **Autonomy: The Power to Decide**
- **Justice: Promoting Prosperity, Preserving Solidarity, Avoiding Unfairness**
- **Explicability: Enabling the Other Principles through Intelligibility and Accountability**

AI Ethics

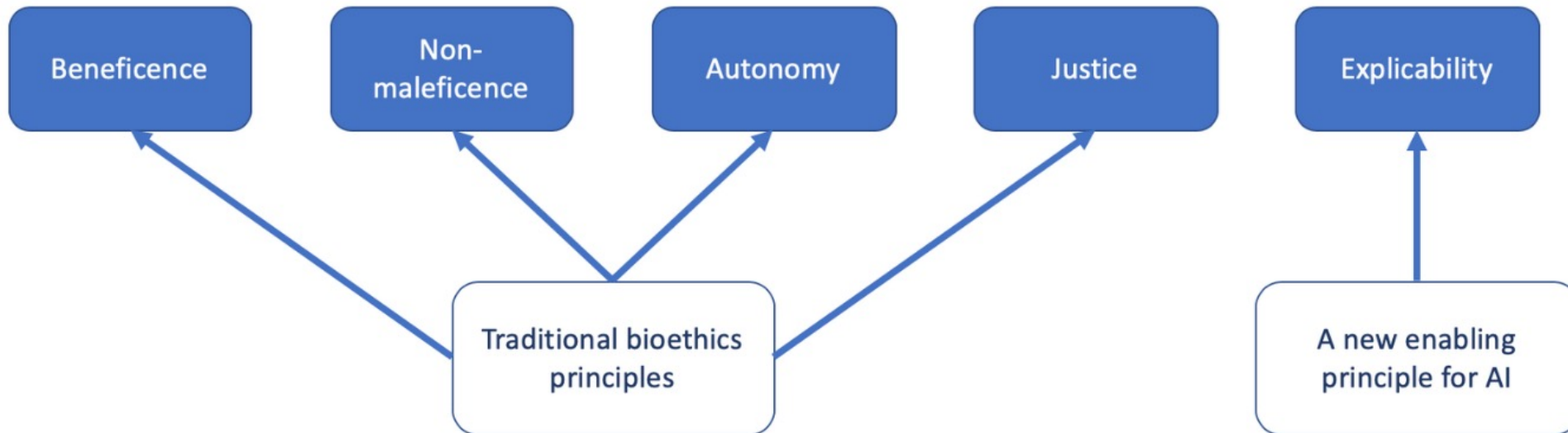


Figure 2: An ethical framework of the five overarching principles for AI which emerged from the analysis.

Floridi, Luciano, and Josh Cowls. "A unified framework of five principles for AI in society." *Machine Learning and the City: Applications in Architecture and Urban Design* (2022): 535-545.

Broad categories of ethical theories

- **Consequentialist theories:** what are the consequences of particular actions?
- **Non-consequentialist theories:** what are the intentions of a person taking an action?
- **Agent-centered theories:** what is the ethical status of an individual? (as opposed to their individual actions)

Consequentialist theories

- **Utilitarian approach:** choose action that provides the most good or does the least harm
 - Epicurus of Samos (341-270 BCE), Jeremy Bentham (1748-1832)
- **Egoistic approach:** choose action that produces the most good for yourself
 - Thrasymachus (c. 459-400 BCE), Thomas Hobbes (1588-1679)
- **Common good approach:** choose action that contributes to ethical communal life
 - Plato (427-347 BCE), Aristotle (384-322 BCE), Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1712-1778)

Non-Consequentialist theories

- **Deontological approach:** choose action that has ethical intent based on your ethical obligation or duty
 - Immanuel Kant (1724-1804)
- **Rights approach:** choose action which protects the ethical rights of those who are affected by the action; all humans have a right to dignity
 - Stoics of Ancient Greece and Rome
- **Divine Command approach:** choose action which follows God's will
 - Martin Luther (1483-1546), Jean Calvin (1509-1564)

Agent-centered theories

- **Virtue approach:** ethics is concerned with the whole of a person's life, not with the individual discrete actions a person may perform in any given situation; person of good character would be one who has attained certain virtues
 - Confucius (551-479 BCE)
- **Feminist approach:** similar to virtue ethics but with an emphasis on the importance of the experiences of women and other marginalized groups to ethical deliberation
 - Carol Gilligan, Nel Noddings, Bracha L. Ettinger

Summary of ethical framework categories

	Consequentialist	Duty	Virtue
Deliberative process	What kind of outcomes should I produce (or try to produce)?	What are my obligations in this situation, and what are the things I should never do?	What kind of person should I be (or try to be), and what will my actions show about my character?
Focus	Directs attention to the future effects of an action, for all people who will be directly or indirectly affected by the action.	Directs attention to the duties that exist prior to the situation and determines obligations.	Attempts to discern character traits (virtues and vices) that are, or could be, motivating the people involved in the situation.
Definition of Ethical Conduct	Ethical conduct is the action that will achieve the best consequences.	Ethical conduct involves always doing the right thing: never failing to do one's duty.	Ethical conduct is whatever a fully virtuous person would do in the circumstances.
Motivation	Aim is to produce the most good.	Aim is to perform the right action.	Aim is to develop one's character.

Types of actions

- **Obligatory**: it is not only right to do something but wrong to not do it
- **Impermissible**: opposite of obligatory
- **Permissible**: neutral action (neither obligatory or impermissible)
- **Supererogatory**: actions that are above and beyond the call of duty; they are right to do but it is not wrong not to do them

Summary from an academic ethicist



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Elon Musk Has Fired Twitter's 'Ethical AI' Team

As part of a wave of layoffs, the new CEO disbanded a group working to make Twitter's algorithms more transparent and fair.

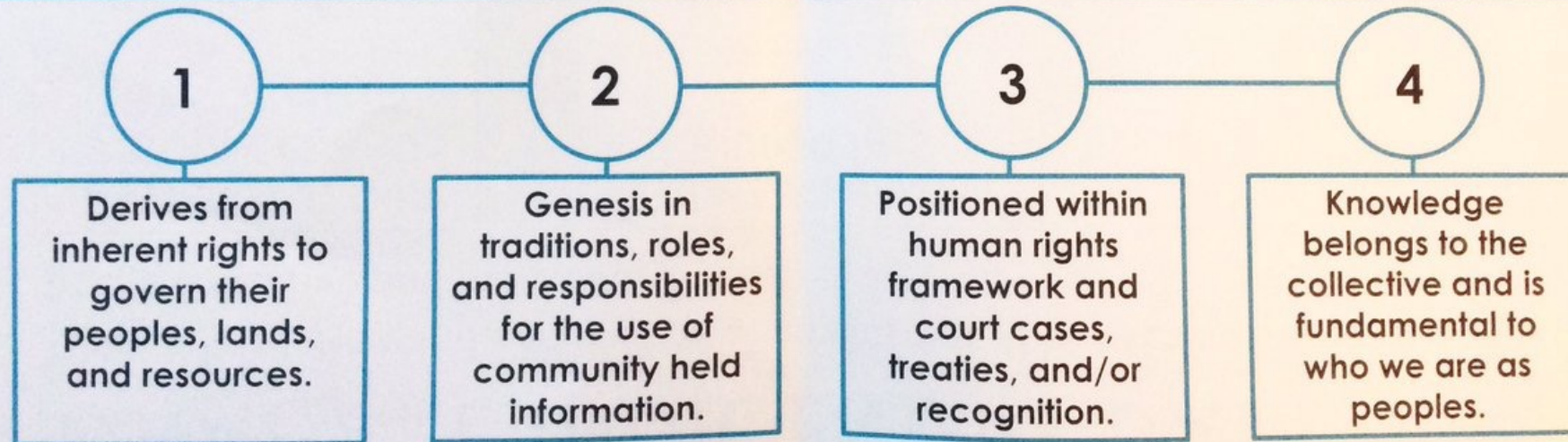


Discussion Questions: Case Studies

Case Study #1

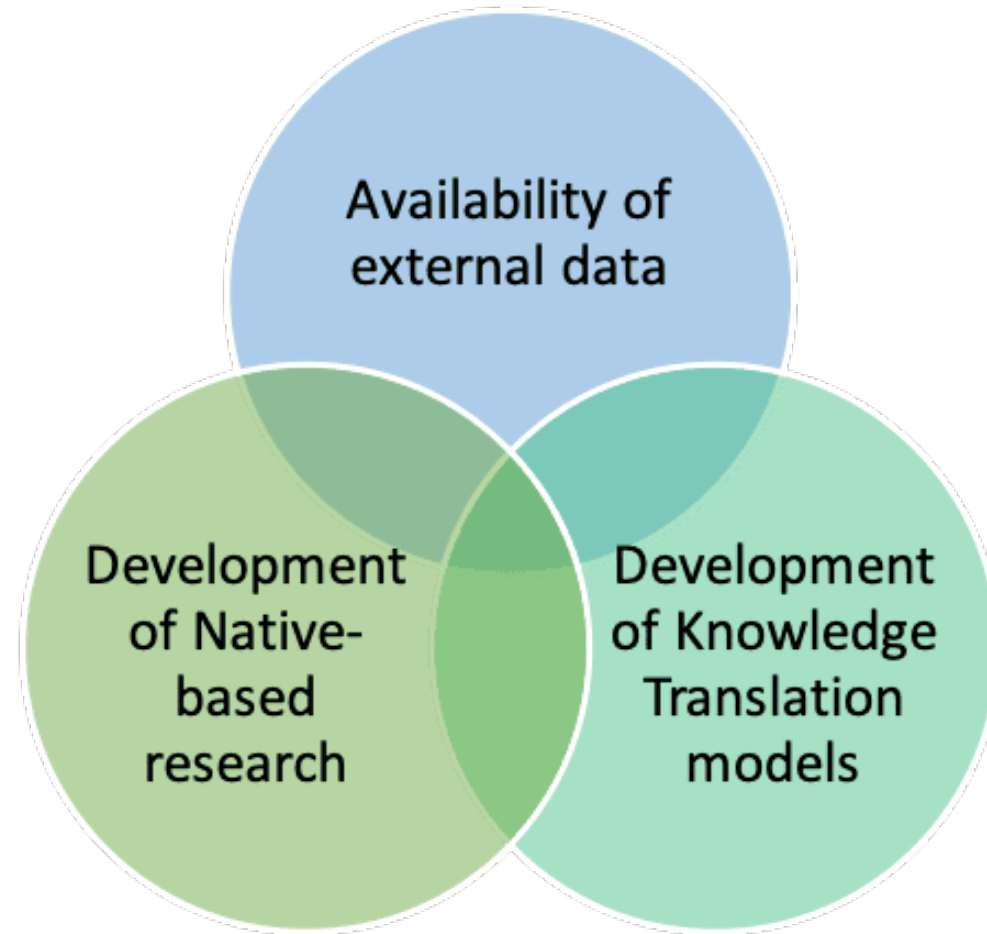
INDIGENOUS DATA SOVEREIGNTY

The *right* of Indigenous peoples and nations to govern the collection, ownership, and application of their own data.

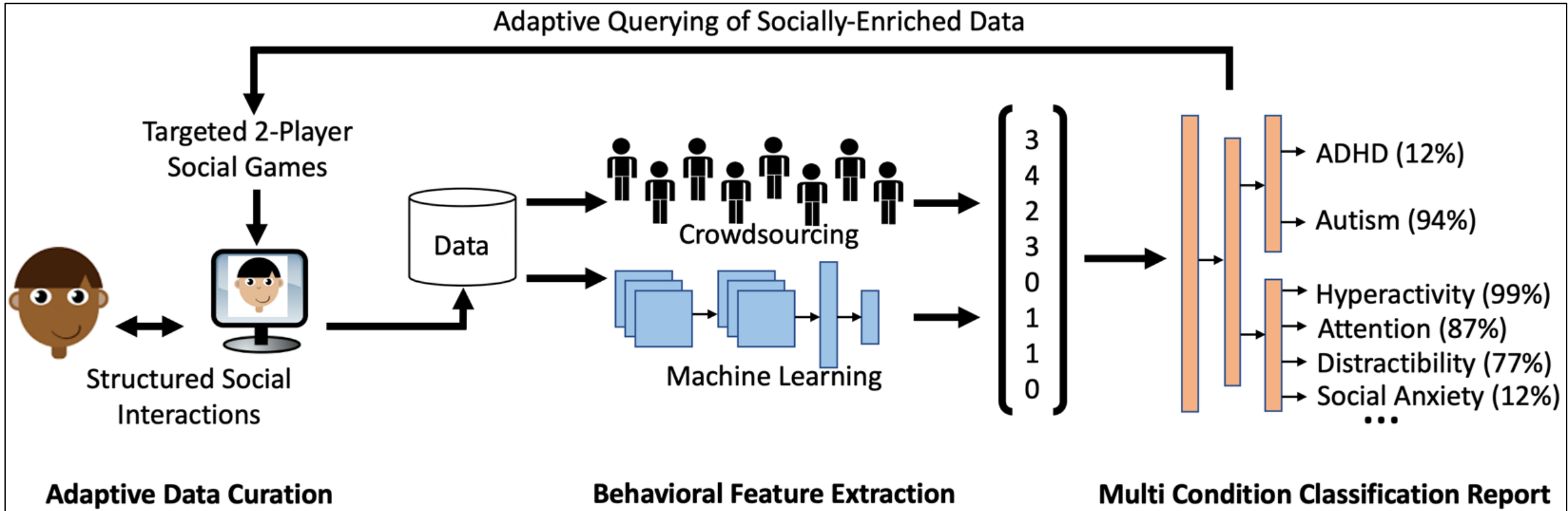


Definition from Rodriguez-Lanebear, D., and Rainie, S.C. (2016). US Indigenous Data Sovereignty founding documents. Much of the language regarding rights and framing comes from the charter of Te Mana Rauunga, the Maori Data Sovereignty Network in Aotearoa/New Zealand founded in July 2015. Available at www.tmi.maori.nz.

Case Study #1

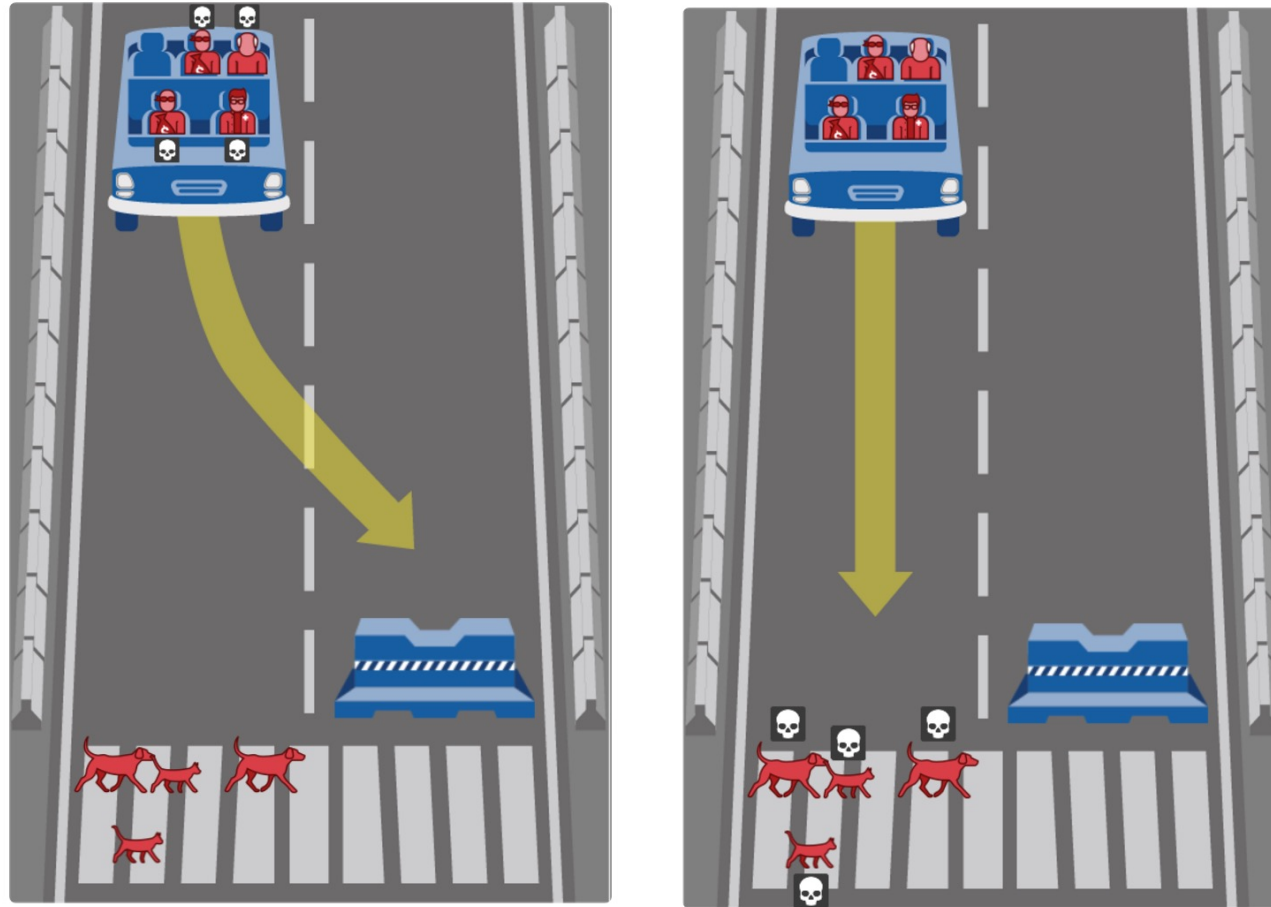


Case Study #2



Case Study #3a

What should the self-driving car do?



Case Study #3b

What should the self-driving car do?

