

Governing AI: Week 2 Section

Introductions!

Please share:



Your name



Your
hometown



Your program
and year



What you're
hoping to take
away from the
class



What would be
the title of your
autobiography?

Agenda for today

Goal: Analyze historical analogies to explain our AI moment.

- 1 Introductions

- 2 Motivation for Section

- 3 On Historical Analogies

- 4 Group Discussion

- 5 On agents! (*briefly*)

Why are we here?

Discussing a field that changes every day, if not hour, is a challenge. Teaching AI Gov requires us to rapidly respond to the current moment.

Sections will be similarly responsive. We want to create a space for you to feel **informed**, **connected**, and **motivated**.

- **Informed**: Discussing content from lecture and current events
- **Connected**: Leveraging our interest and expertise as a community to learn together
- **Motivated**: Giving you the tools to understand what's happening and make a difference – since we know learning about AI (and especially AI Governance!) can often feel disempowering or intimidating...

Why do historical analogies matter?

Beneath the surface, stories shape technological development. We build things for a *reason*.



Whether it's games, fiction, or history, Silicon Valley builds towards a goal. In a way, the story becomes the goal/benchmark/ideal. But stories are not neutral.

What previous technology do *you* think is most helpful for understanding our AI moment? The most dangerous?



Turn to a partner and, together, try to think of at least(!) 3 helpful and 3 dangerous analogies for AI. These can be based on what we covered in class, or something brand new.

What previous technology do *you* think is most helpful for understanding our AI moment? The most dangerous?

From lecture



Electricity



Trains/railroads



Telegrams/
telephones



Nuclear
weapons



The Internet

Other examples



Solar power



Social media



...any others?



Whole class discussion: How should our historical analogies guide the present?

Reviewing agents:



AGENTIC AI

Acts without
human input—
and oversight*



WHOLE-GROUP DISCUSSION

What additional challenges
does agentic behavior create for
governance?

**Whether intentional or unintentional*

Exit ticket and Q&A!



BEFORE YOU LEAVE

Please fill out the exit ticket form



NEXT LECTURE

Your answers may just appear (in aggregate) during the next lecture ;)