

Event Report: AI Ethics & Privacy Workshop

Event Title: Safeguarding Tomorrow's Data Landscape

Date: Thursday, March 13, 2025

Time: 11:30 PM – 2:15 PM PST

Venue: In-Person (Madrona Room, Bldg. 305, Rm. 332, VIU)

Links: [VIU Event](#) | [Registration](#) | [Recorded Seminar](#) | [Presentation Slide](#) | [Gallery](#)

1. Introduction

The AI Ethics & Privacy Workshop was organized as part of the Privacy-Aware Research Team's initiative to foster discussions on youth privacy, AI governance, and ethical AI development. The seminar aimed to provide students, educators, and professionals with a deeper understanding of AI ethics, privacy risks, and responsible AI use.

This event was funded by the Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada (OPC) and led by Professor Ajay Shrestha. It built upon ongoing research exploring the perspectives of youth (aged 16–19), parents, educators, and AI professionals on privacy concerns in AI-driven systems.

Organizer & Principal Investigator:

- Dr. Ajay Shrestha, Professor, Computing Science

Organizers & Research Assistants (RAs):

- Ankur Barthwal
- Austin Shouli
- Molly Campbell
- Mohamad Sheikho Al Jasem
- Sooriya Narendran
- Yulia Bobkova

Collaborator:

- Vancouver Island University (VIU) Library

2. Attendance & Overview

- Total Registrations: 45
- Total Participants: 40
- Duration: ~2.5 hours
- Format: Interactive presentations, group discussions, hands-on demonstrations, and Q&A

Core Topics Covered:

1. Foundational Concepts of AI Ethics & Privacy
2. Research Findings on Youth Perspectives in AI
3. Case Study Discussions on AI Bias & Data Practices
4. Interactive AI Demonstrations & Hands-On Activities
5. Canadian & BC Privacy Regulations (PIPEDA, PIPA, FIPPA)
6. Q&A and Closing Remarks

3. Session Summaries

3.1 Opening & Research Overview

Presenter: Molly Campbell

Molly welcomed attendees and introduced the OPC-funded research project on youth privacy in AI. She outlined key findings from the study, which included insights from over 480 participants (youth, parents, educators, AI professionals). Key takeaways included:

- **Data Ownership & Control:** Youth prioritize autonomy over their personal data.
- **Perceived Risks & Benefits:** Parents and teachers highlight security risks, while AI professionals focus on compliance and ethical AI implementation.
- **Transparency & Trust:** A common concern across all groups is the lack of transparency in AI decision-making.
- **Education & Awareness:** Strong demand for increased AI literacy to help users make informed choices.

Molly also introduced the Privacy-Ethics Alignment in AI (PEA-AI) Model, a stakeholder-centric framework designed to align perspectives among youth, parents, educators, and AI professionals, fostering collaborative and responsible AI development.

3.2 AI Foundations & Ethical Implications

Presenter: Austin Shouli

Austin provided an overview of AI ethics, covering key concepts such as bias, fairness, transparency, and accountability. He referenced a [TEDx talk](#) (not included in the recorded video) to illustrate AI's societal impact, encouraging participants to critically evaluate AI's influence on decision-making, employment, and personal privacy.

3.3 Case Study: AI-Generated Resumes

Facilitators: Yulia Bobkova & Mohamad S

Participants were divided into two groups to debate the **pros and cons of AI-generated CVs**. The discussion covered:

- **Pros:** AI resume tools help individuals struggling with formatting or writing, creating a **level playing field**.
- **Cons:** AI-generated resumes may lack **authenticity**, making it difficult for recruiters to assess **true skills and capabilities**.
- **Concerns:** Increasing reliance on AI in hiring could introduce **algorithmic bias** and **unintended discrimination**.

3.4 Lunch Break & Networking

Attendees enjoyed a **lunch break** featuring **coffee, sandwiches, salad, and cookies**, which provided a great opportunity for networking and informal discussions on the topics covered.

3.5 Interactive Activity: Experiencing AI Bias

Presenter: Molly Campbell

Participants engaged in a **machine learning simulation game** ([Survival of the Best Fit](#)) that demonstrated **how AI systems inherit bias** from training data. This exercise led to discussions on:

- **How bias is embedded in AI decision-making**
- **The ethical responsibilities of AI developers**
- **Potential strategies for ensuring fairness in AI systems**

3.6 Responsible AI & Data Privacy

Presenter: Ankur Barthwal

Ankur introduced key **data privacy principles** and led an interactive discussion on **how participants manage their own data privacy**. Key topics included:

- **Federal Privacy Laws:** PIPEDA (Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act)
- **BC Privacy Laws:** PIPA (Personal Information Protection Act) and FIPPA (Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act)

The Importance of Transparency & Consent in AI-driven platforms

3.7 Hands-On Demonstrations: AI in Action

Attendees participated in two live AI demonstrations:

1. **AI Image Generation:**
 - Participants used AI tools to generate images based on prompts such as **“athlete,” “CEO,” and “nurse”**.
 - The activity revealed **biases in AI-generated visuals**, prompting discussions on **how AI models reflect societal stereotypes**.
2. **ChatGPT Ethical Discussions:**
 - Attendees posed **controversial and ethical questions** to ChatGPT.
 - Discussions highlighted **AI’s limitations** in navigating complex moral dilemmas and the **need for transparent AI governance**.

3.8 Q&A & Closing Remarks

Facilitators: Ankur Barthwal & Molly Campbell

The session concluded with an open **Q&A**, where attendees shared their thoughts on:

- **Ongoing challenges in AI ethics & privacy**
- **Strategies for increasing transparency in AI systems**
- **The role of regulation in ensuring responsible AI use**

4. Outcomes & Key Takeaways

- **Deeper Awareness:** Attendees gained practical insights into **AI bias, ethical concerns, and privacy risks**.
- **Stakeholder Perspectives:** The **PEA-AI Model** highlighted the importance of **aligning interests** between youth, educators, parents, and AI professionals.
- **Legal & Ethical Considerations:** The seminar emphasized the **importance of compliance with privacy regulations** and the need for **more ethical AI literacy initiatives**.
- **Interactive Learning:** Hands-on activities helped attendees **recognize AI biases** and **critically evaluate AI's role in daily life**.

5. Next Steps & Follow-Up

- **Recording Available:** The seminar was recorded and is accessible on YouTube: [YouTube Seminar Recording](#).
- **Further Engagement:** The **Privacy-Aware Research Team** will continue collaborations with educators, policymakers, and AI professionals to **expand research on AI ethics & privacy**.
- **Resources & Collaboration:** Participants are encouraged to explore further reading materials and share feedback through the [Privacy-Aware Research Team webpage](#).
- **Upcoming Events:** More **workshops and webinars** will be organized, focusing on **practical solutions for ethical AI governance**.

6. Acknowledgments

We extend our **sincere gratitude** to all participants, speakers, and organizers. Special thanks to:

- **VIU Library** for supporting the event.

Your engagement and insights have contributed to a **meaningful dialogue on AI ethics, privacy, and responsible AI development**.

Report Prepared By:

Name: Dr. Ajay Shrestha

Role: Organizers & Principal Investigator

Date: March 13, 2025

This event report is submitted as part of the Privacy-Aware Research Team's research project deliverables. The information contained herein is intended to be shared publicly, offering insights into youth privacy challenges, ethical AI considerations, and the responsible development of AI systems.