

Immediate International Policy Reforms Needed to Counter Technology Risks

OXFORD, OXFORDSHIRE, UNITED KINGDOM, June 10, 2025 /EINPresswire.com/ -- International regulation of tech giants, intellectual property reform, and preparation for workforce disruption must be prioritized by policymakers as artificial intelligence transforms society.

These are the arguments of AI expert Professor Shalom Lappin, which he backs with comprehensive research in his new book [Understanding the Artificial Intelligence Revolution](#).

"The public domain and its citizens need to play a major role in determining the framework within which AI technology continues to develop," argues Lappin, who holds positions at Queen Mary University of London, King's College London, and the University of Gothenburg.

He sets aside speculative fears about superintelligent machines as not rooted in the actual engineering realities of current AI systems. Instead he focuses on the immediate challenges requiring policy intervention.

Lappin identifies tech monopolization as a critical concern. Large companies now dominate AI development, with tech companies creating 32 major machine learning models in 2022 while universities produced only three. This concentration of power, he argues, allows corporations to shape research priorities according to commercial interests rather than public benefit.

Environmental damage presents another urgent challenge. Training ChatGPT-4 reportedly consumed approximately 50 gigawatt hours of electricity, equivalent to the annual usage of thousands of American households. The manufacturing of microchips for AI systems involves toxic chemicals, vast amounts of water, and enormous quantities of electricity, with chip factories consuming up to 100 megawatts per hour.

To address these challenges, Professor Lappin outlines several key policy priorities. First, comprehensive international regulation of tech companies is essential, as individual countries lack sufficient resources and enforcement powers to address these global issues. International trade agreements could provide mechanisms for imposing effective regulations.

Second, intellectual property rights must be reformed to ensure rights holders are compensated when their work is used to train AI systems. "At a minimum, these companies should be required to receive the consent of the copyright holders for the protected data that they use. In the

interests of transparency, they should also be obliged to list the materials on which their systems are trained,” notes Lappin.

Lappin also addresses widespread bias in AI decision-making systems across healthcare, hiring, and financial services. He suggests that effective measures must be policy-led and implemented to combat disinformation and hate speech online, balancing free expression with protection from harmful content, as current self-regulation by tech companies has proven ineffective.

He argues that disinformation and deep fakes represent a tangible threat; as generative AI becomes increasingly sophisticated, distinguishing fact from fiction grows more difficult.

“We could soon find ourselves living in an environment where separating fact from malicious fiction becomes increasingly difficult. At that point, the shared beliefs needed to sustain cohesion within the public domain begin to give way to doubt, recrimination, and chaos,” Lappin warns.

Finally, governments must prepare for potential widespread job displacement as AI automation extends across various sectors. Significant public investment in services and alternative forms of employment will be necessary to prevent major social disruption.

“These are not matters that we can afford to leave solely to the vicissitudes of the market, and to the tech companies that play such a dominant role in shaping that market,” Lappin concludes.

Understanding the Artificial Intelligence Revolution also provides an accessible introduction to the history of AI, as well as a clear scientific overview of its current systems.

Further information:

Understanding the Artificial Intelligence Revolution: Between Catastrophe and Utopia, by Shalom Lappin (CRC Press, 2025)

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About the author:

Shalom Lappin is Professor of Natural Language Processing in the School of Electronic Engineering and Computer Science at Queen Mary, University of London, Emeritus Professor of Computational Linguistics in Informatics at King's College London, and Scientific Researcher in CLASP at the University of Gothenburg. He is also a Fellow of the British Academy, and a Member of the Academia Europaea.

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Rebecca Parker-Ellis

Taylor & Francis

+44 7818 911310

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