

# Intergenerational Justice as Driver for Responsible AI

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**Abstract.** I show that considering intergenerational justice as a core AI ethics value is an effective way to ensure responsible AI debates are hooked to the real world. I argue that an integral part of addressing concerns about the actionability of AI ethics regulation should be concern for the effectiveness of its defense of social rights on the one hand, and its engaging with core groupings to affect such a defense on the other. Current responsible AI debates lack sufficient consideration of the rights of future generations. This seems odd as AI technology is changing the world in which future generations will live, and therefore responsible AI practices should surely demonstrate interaction with issues of intergenerational justice. The paper highlights the manner in which AI ethics concerns relate in general to future social stability through three lenses – environmental justice (harm to the environment and ecosystems), structural justice (harm from identity prejudice and structural bias), and moral justice (harm from value change). The argument is not that AI technology holds only bad news for future generations, but rather that framing responses to threats to social justice and human flourishing potentially posed by AI technology in intergenerational terms can contribute significantly to establishing concrete measures to underpin AI ethics and governance discourses.

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