

IRTAD 2026 Conference, Athens

16 April 2026

Ethical Implications of Artificial Intelligence for Road Safety

Presented by: **Bahare Khajepour**

Research team: **Kritika Maheshwari, Neelke Doorn, Niek Prins, Jan-Pieter Paardekooper, Oscar Oviedo-Trespalacios**

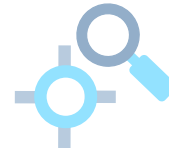


This work was supported by the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation program under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Doctoral Networks, through the project IVORY – AI for Vision Zero in Road Safety [Grant Agreement No. 101119590].



Why critical reflection on technologies developed for road safety?

Safety as the ultimate goal...



Delays critical reflection



Allows **justifications**

Safety in the road transport context...



Widely **Shared** concern



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation program under grant agreement No. 101119590.



In This Presentation

01

AI Applications
for Road Safety



02

Ethical Implications

- Responsibility
- Explainability
- Autonomy
- Justice
- Privacy



03

Implications for
Design and Policy



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation program under grant agreement No. 101119590.

In This Presentation

01

AI Applications
for Road Safety



02

Ethical Implications

- Responsibility
- Explainability
- Autonomy
- Justice
- Privacy



03

Implications for
Design and Policy



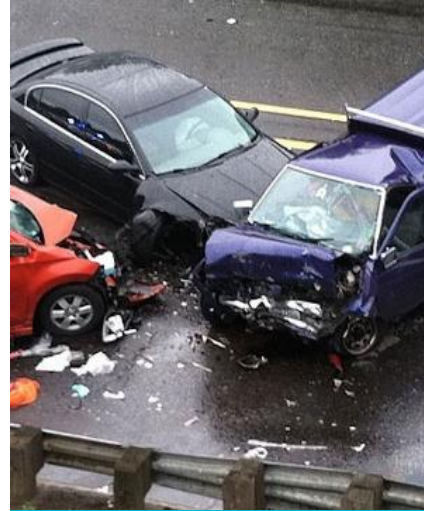
This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation program under grant agreement No. 101119590.

AI Applications for Road Safety



Infrastructure

- Risk mapping
- Road surface monitoring
- Road infrastructure design



Vehicles

- Emergency braking
- Speed adaptation
- Lane keeping assistance
- CAVs



Road users

- Driver drowsiness warning
- Driving behavior profiling
- Safety-based route planning



Road safety management

- Crash detection
- Safety investment planning
- Traffic flow prediction



Post-crash response

- Emergency responder placement
- Automated emergency call



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation program under grant agreement No. 101119590.

In This Presentation

01

AI Applications
for Road Safety



02

Ethical Implications

- Responsibility
- Explainability
- Autonomy
- Justice
- Privacy



03

Implications for
Design and Policy



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation program under grant agreement No. 101119590.

Responsibility

- Knowing respective obligations to fulfill them
- Being held culpable for undesirable outcomes

Road Transport Systems:



Sensitive context where harm and damage can occur



Demand collective action of a large group of actors

AI Systems:



Developed by a complex network of actors



Lack of user awareness and training



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation program under grant agreement No. 101119590.

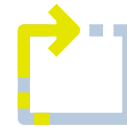
Explainability

- Causal chain of the process from input to output
- Why an input-output relationship exists

Road Transport Systems:



Safety critical context where reliability matters



Safety critical context where some decisions need epistemic reasoning

AI Systems:



Complex and opaque internal operations

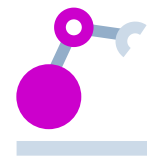


This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation program under grant agreement No. 101119590.

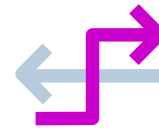
Autonomy

- Authenticity of values and norms that humans act on
- Maintaining competencies that grant humans self-rule

Road Transport Systems:

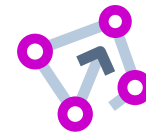


Comprised of human users and affected by their behavior and action



Require making morally sensitive decisions

AI Systems:



High predictive accuracy and detection capabilities



Surrounded by marketing hypes and hopes



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation program under grant agreement No. 101119590.

Justice

- Same worth and dignity, same considerations
- Sufficient level for all

Road Transport Systems:



Enabler of life-fulfilling activities in a shared space



Disparities in investments and outcomes



Multi-variable context with a vast variety of combinations

AI Systems:



Restricted to system limitations



Accessibility barriers



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation program under grant agreement No. 101119590.



Privacy

- Control over accessibility and visibility to others
- Control over information about oneself

Road Transport Systems:



Embrace where people's everyday movement takes place in public space

AI Systems:



Massive data collection and strong inference capabilities



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation program under grant agreement No. 101119590.

In This Presentation

01

AI Applications
for Road Safety



02

Ethical Implications

- Responsibility
- Explainability
- Autonomy
- Justice
- Privacy



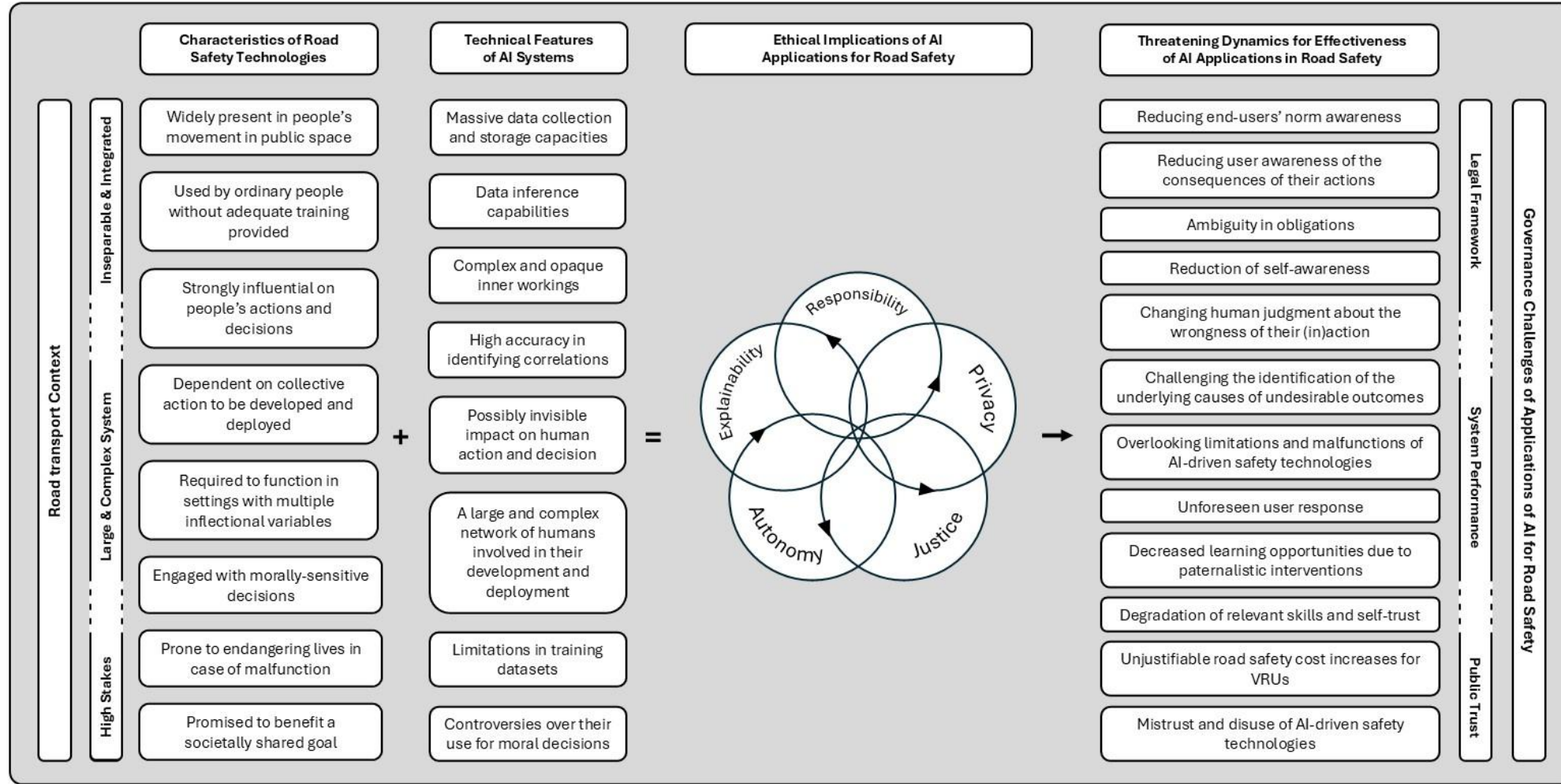
03

Implications for
Design and Policy



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation program under grant agreement No. 101119590.

Implications for Design and Policy





This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation program under grant agreement No. 101119590.

Thank you for your attention!

Do you have any questions?