Dr Emmanuel Letouzé

Director and Co-Founder, Data-Pop Alliance , Visiting Scholar, MIT Media Lab, USA

Big Data, Open Algorithms, and Artificial Intelligence for Human Development

Abstract

The rise of "Big Data" over the past decade and the more recent development of algorithmic decision-making and Artificial Intelligence have stirred many questions and controversies about the fate of humankind in the "Fourth Industrial Revolution". Are we heading towards darker times shaped by and for elites and machines, or can there be a brighter future? As with past techno-political revolutions, the trajectories experienced by different groups will oscillate between both ends of the spectrum, and largely depend on decisions made by humans—many of the most influential or whom, sadly, do not care very much about how others may be affected. Drawing on the lessons and objectives of the Open Algorithms (OPAL) project piloted in Senegal and Colombia with their National Statistical Offices (NSOs) and leading telecom operators, this presentation will sketch a vision and suggest pathways towards a world with Big Data, Open Algorithms and AI that "works" for human development.