

# Chapter 6


## Ethical Considerations for Generative AI in Social Science Research

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### ABSTRACT

*Social science research embodies the inquiry into people as individuals and their interpersonal interactions with each other in communities and varied societies, with due consideration for their natural, technological, and constructed environments. Due to (a) the nature and composition of qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods research designs coupled with (b) the apparent expectations of responsible behavior from researchers (human beings), room exists for research misconduct or unethical practices. The prevalence and acceptance of generative artificial intelligence (AI) technology such as ChatGPT propagate at a hyper-accelerated pace based on its potential for ease of work in many sectors, including research, particularly academic research. Journal reviewers, editors, and publishers do not possess sufficient tools to differentiate between human-written and partially or wholly AI-authored manuscripts submitted for journal publication.*

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## INTRODUCTION

Research incorporates experimentation or investigation designed explicitly for discovering and interpreting evidence, revising accepted theories or laws in the light of new facts, or applying such new or revised theories or laws into practice (Research, 2024). Research also entails creating new knowledge and using existing knowledge in different and novel ways to generate new concepts, methodologies, and understandings, including analyzing and synthesizing previous research to develop new knowledge (Australian Research Council, 2019). Faculty conduct research in natural and social sciences, encompassing their respective disciplines (Bhattacharjee, 2012). This chapter will focus on the ethical considerations for generative AI in social science research.

This chapter is a systematic literature review to synthesize the existing literature on ethical considerations for generative AI in social science research. In the chapter, we incorporate information from books, surveys, scholarly articles, peer-reviewed articles, government reports, and other sources relevant to ethical considerations for generative AI in social science research in the fourth. The purpose of this chapter is to (a) review the ethical challenges of generative AI in social science research and (b) make recommendations for guidelines for the governance of AI in social science research.

## REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE AND LITERATURE SEARCH STRATEGY

Social science research embodies the inquiry into people as individuals and their interpersonal interactions with each other in communities and varied societies, with due consideration for their natural, technological, and constructed environments (Academy of Social Sciences, 2021; Liberto, 2023). Thus, social science researchers conduct studies to (a) better understand the burgeoning complexities of evolving human behaviors and associated systems across today's increasingly intricate world and (b) manage the planet's sustainability (Liberto, 2023).

Ibn Khaldun, the 14th-century North African philosopher, is credited as a pioneer of social science with the book *Muqaddimah* (Khaldun, 1986). Khaldun (1986) cited that historiography, or the study of the history and methodology of history as a discipline, is a multifaceted subject matter possessing a multiplicity of diverse approaches. Khaldun advocated that historiography extends beyond the surface political events, dynasties, and occurrences of the remote past viewed with the *critical eye* and subsequently presented using palatable and politically correct phrases and proverbs (Khaldun, 1986). Historiography incorporates culture, norms,

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