

Kay Firth-Butterfield (Associate)



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Profile

Kay is one of the foremost experts in the world on the governance of AI. She started the world's first outwards facing Ethics Advisory Panel for an AI company (2014) and participated in the Asilomar Conference (2015) where the world's first ethical principles for design, development and use of AI were created. She serves on the Lord Chief Justice's Advisory Panel on AI and have been Vice Chair of the IEEE's work on autonomous and intelligent systems "Ethically Aligned Design" since 2015. Kay has written numerous scholarly articles and book chapters on the topic and have been featured extensively in the media for her work.

Kay is a Master of the Inner Temple and has worked with the Inn and Lord Hughes on training members to think about the legal consequences of AI. She has Masters Degrees in Law and International Relations where my focus was the impact of AI in these areas. Currently, she is Head of AI at the World Economic Forum where she leads work with governments, businesses, civil society and academics to create governance mechanisms which help scale the benefits of AI whilst mitigating the negativities arising from the technology.

Although AI is her principle area of expertise; in the period 2008-2010, she created and

taught in the United States a course about human trafficking. She has been an advisor for the Texas government as to the new anti-trafficking laws implemented there and was on the Board of the Bernard Kohler Centre, a charity designed to help trafficking victims obtain the T visa which allows them to stay in the USA. Her book, Human Rights and Human Trafficking was written to accompany the course. Additionally, she wrote a book about the anti-trafficking laws of the United States.

In her spare time Kay loves to hike, read, renovate houses and stay at home with her family including cats, dogs, horses and chickens. Arabian horses which she bred have been in the UK equestrian endurance teams and won numerous awards in the sport, such as Golden Horseshoe.

Education

BA (Hons) Law and Social Science – University of Sussex

M.A. International Relations, St Mary's University San Antonio USA

LL.M. St Mary's University San Antonio USA

Related practice areas

Public International Law

Publications

Film/Radio/News

- “This is a teaching moment for Artificial Intelligence”, The National, UAE.16 October 2019 ([access here](#))
- “Facial Recognition Technology” CNN Money (TV), October 2019
- “Ethical AI: Why Governments are a worried lot”, Business Today, October 2019 ([access here](#))
- China.org – Widespread public concern over AI use, regulation needed: Poll ([access here](#))
- European Sting – These Three Charts show what people actually think about Artificial Intelligence ([access here](#))
- Eurasia News – Public Concern around Use of Artificial Intelligence is Widespread Poll Finds ([access here](#))
- MIT Technology Review – The World Economic Forum wants to develop global rules for AI ([access here](#))
- The Human Show, May 2019
- Law360 - Granting AI Legal Personhood would be Premature ([access here](#))
- Telegraph – USA faces first ban on ‘inhumane’ facial recognition technology. Should UK follow suit? ([access here](#))
- AI4Good Foundation, podcast recorded April 2019
- Venturebeat – How to protect human rights without stifling innovation (2019) ([access here](#))
- Devex – Taking the conversation on ethics and technology beyond silicon valley (2019) ([access here](#))
- Business Insider Panel on Facial Recognition, Davos19 with Brad Smith et al ([access here](#))
- AMEinfo @ Davos19 ([access here](#))
- Innovator News – Designing an AI Policy (2019) ([access here](#))
- Financial Times – How to empower leadership in the use of AI (2019) ([access here](#))
- Forbes, in article by Noel Sharkey “Gender Diversity is urgently needed say prominent women in Technology” ([access here](#))
- CNBC News – September 2018 ([access here](#))
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