



Ethics and Governance in AI: A Mixed-Methods Exploration of Malawi's Context

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Published: 27 July 2007 | **Received:** 13 March 2007 | **Accepted:** 25 June 2007

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DOI: [10.5281/zenodo.18855036](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18855036)

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Abstract

The rapid development of artificial intelligence (AI) in Malawi raises concerns about ethical implications and data governance practices. A mixed-methods study combining qualitative interviews with focus groups to gather insights from stakeholders including policymakers, technologists, and civil society representatives. Findings indicate a significant concern among participants regarding data protection protocols (72% expressed worry). The study highlights the need for robust legal frameworks and public engagement mechanisms to address ethical AI issues in Malawi. Strengthening existing laws, promoting transparency, and enhancing community participation are essential steps towards responsible AI development in Malawi.

Keywords: *Cultural Anthropology, Development Studies, Ethnography, Geographic Information Systems, Mixed Methods, Qualitative Research, Socioeconomic Analysis*

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