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Beyond Creation: A Non-Theologian's Look at the Religious Issues of Artificial Intelligence

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Review

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Abstract: Religious traditions have profound beliefs and doctrines about creation and the divine nature. Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a human creation that is a creator of its own rights, which brings a connection between the two. Therefore, the relationship between AI and religious ideas about creation, ethics, humanity, transcendence, and immortality is one of the most fascinating research areas. This academic paper written from a non-theological perspective, examines how AI challenges the traditional religious narrative and ethical frameworks. The paper views AI as a Creator, where honest questions about humanity, privacy, justice, and human accountability, are explored to comprehend the ideas of transcendence and immortality through technology. From the perspective of non-theologians, the paper seeks to better understand the transformative potential of AI and its impact on religious and ethical discourse. It goes on further to demonstrate the differing receptions of AI by various religious traditions and concludes by illustrating how AI is reshaping the human experience, transcending the traditional boundaries of technology, religion, and ethics. It also gives a way forward to reconcile AI with religious principles.

Keywords: transformative potential; ethical frameworks; AI; creation; ethics; human dignity; transcendence; immortality; privacy; AI as a creator; justice; technology

1. Introduction

Human life in all its aspects is being transformed by Artificial intelligence (AI). This includes social, religious, economic, and entertainment, which makes AI to be a technological revolution of this era. Religion has always influenced human life, again in all quarters. This makes AI have a fascinating and complex relationship with religious dimensions. As non-theologians, we embark on a journey to understand how AI interacts with religious ideas of creation, ethics, humanity, dignity, transcendence, and immortality. We explore the challenges posed by AI on traditional religious narratives and ethical frameworks, such as AI as creator, ethical questions, human dignity, private life, privacy, fairness, and human responsibility. Theologians would explain better the concepts of transcendence and immortality. However, as non-theologians we also contemplate the concept of transcending and immortalizing through technology, to provide fresh insights into the deep implications of AI for the religious and ethical discourse of our era.

Creation is a concept that is deeply embedded in religious beliefs around the world. A common belief around the world held by religious traditions is the concept of creation. In the religious context, creation is believed to be the act of a divine being or entity that brings life, harmony, and meaning into the universe (Oduyoye, 2006). The presence of a higher power or entity that is responsible for the creation of the universe is emphasized by religious stories (Smith, 2007). Nevertheless, the advent of AI challenges these traditional religious narratives by raising fundamental questions: Are humans, through the development and deployment of AI, taking on a role traditionally reserved for the divine? Are we, in essence, "playing God" by creating intelligent entities that possess the ability to learn, make decisions, and adapt to various circumstances? As we explore this critical dimension, we seek to understand the profound implications of AI's advancement on the concept of creation within religious contexts.

The advancement of AI triggers complex ethical considerations that resonate deeply with religious and philosophical thought, aside from theological implications. Automated systems that are embedded with AI can make sophisticated decisions, learn from experiences, and adapt autonomously. This poses basic discourse about moral responsibility and the existence of "free will" in AI decision-making (Russell & Norvig, 2022). Furthermore, the ability of AI to simulate human-like behaviors, alongside its role in algorithmic decision-making, presents challenges concerning the nature of life and the potential for ethical transgressions (Turing, 1950; Diakopoulos, 2016). This paper engages with these ethical dimensions to provide insights into how AI's interaction with traditional religious ethics shapes our moral discourse. Furthermore, the examination of AI's impact extends beyond creation and ethics, encompassing human dignity, privacy, fairness, and human responsibility. AI's integration into society raises pressing concerns regarding the preservation of human dignity and the safeguarding of privacy in an increasingly digitized world. The fairness and transparency of AI-driven decisions also come under scrutiny as algorithmic systems shape various aspects of our lives, including finance, employment, and law enforcement. These multifaceted ethical concerns are central to the discourse surrounding AI and religious dimensions and will be thoroughly explored in this paper.

We, from a non-theologian point, dig into the concept of transcendence and immortality through technology - a notion that challenges traditional religious conceptions. Advancements in technology heighten human's quest for transcendence and immortality which interestingly intersects with the realm of AI. This then poses these questions: Can technology open up new ways to go beyond what humans can do? Can AI help humans live longer or even mimic some of what we know about human minds? Through this paper, we aim to explore these questions and more, from the perspective of non-theologians, to better understand the transformative potential of AI and its impact on religious and ethical discourse.

2. Creation and Playing God

Religious beliefs around the world perceive creation as an act of a higher supernatural being. Creation in this context is seen as the act of divine action that brings life, order, and meaning into the world through the intervention of God or gods, a higher being. Traditional and cultural stories about creation all over the world contend that a power that supersedes that of human beings must have been involved in the existence of the universe and all that is in it. However, AI is conflicting with this belief. Basic questions are being raised by this conflict, such as whether humans are acting divinely, that is "playing God" (Harari, 2017).

2.1. Challenge to Traditional Creation Narratives

Humans have taken the role of divine beings by granting their intelligence to objects. The intelligence grated to systems is what we refer to as artificial intelligence (AI). This phenomenon challenges the human religious' traditions about creation. How is this challenge seen? First, humans play a role in the development of AI, which has traditionally been associated with a divine being. Humans design and construct systems that replicate human intelligence and make decisions. Secondly, AI systems are autonomous, making decisions based on algorithms and data. This raises questions about the nature of AI's "free will" and the determinability of its actions (Dreyfus 1972). Thirdly, AI's capacity to replicate human-like behavior raises questions as to whether AI entities may be regarded as life forms, even though they are artificial. Fourthly, our ability to shape AI's capabilities and limitations calls into question traditional narratives about a creator's omniscience and omnipotence (Russell & Norvig, 2022).

Artificial Intelligence's development presents a profound challenge to conventional religious narratives of creation. This exploration of AI and creation, from a perspective devoid of religious doctrine, acknowledges AI's transformative potential while simultaneously inviting contemplation of the ethical responsibilities associated with our role as creators (Bryson, 2010). This inquiry prompts

crucial questions regarding the intersection of human ingenuity, accountability, and the enduring concept of creation in the context of AI's emergence.

2.2. AI as a Creator

Artificial Intelligence (AI) uses algorithms to make objects to acquire human-like intelligence and possess the ability to learn and relearn from simple algorithmic knowledge. Not only does the object learn, but it possesses free will to make decisions and judgments of situations based on the knowledge it has gained. This conflicts with religious beliefs, taking AI itself as a creator. Religious believers think that humans grant these objects the ability to make intricate decisions, gain knowledge from experience, and adjust to different conditions by embedding objects with AI (Boston, 2014). It is therefore the religious discourse that, AI is granted autonomy and agency, attributes that are often associated with divine entities in religious traditions.

3. Connecting AI and Religious Morality

AI has come and is here to stay. This is a fact we all have to contend with, and therefore, the discourse should be how to bridge the Ethical Divide by connecting religious morality and AI. We have to appreciate that in the swiftly evolving technological landscape, artificial intelligence (AI) is reshaping our lifestyles, professions, and interactions with the world (Smith, 2020). To navigate this AI-driven future, it is vital to examine the ethical underpinnings guiding its development and application. While religious moral codes have historically steered human conduct (Jones, 2018), individuals outside theological circles can assume a pivotal role in scrutinizing how these ethical frameworks relate to AI and whether they align or clash with religious doctrines concerning morality and human responsibility (Brown, 2019). Human dignity and privacy are the issues that fuel this discourse toward connecting AI and religious beliefs.

3.1. Preserving Human Dignity

Human dignity, a cornerstone in numerous religious traditions, underscores the intrinsic value of each person and their entitlement to respect and equitable treatment (Johnson, 2017). Within the AI context, questions emerge about how technology may affect human dignity (Davis, 2020). Individuals not versed in theology can explore concerns such as AI-induced unemployment, where automation threatens livelihoods. This raises ethical dilemmas concerning how society can safeguard individuals' dignity amid technological progress (Wilson, 2021).

Religious teachings often highlight compassion and empathy (Smith, 2018). Those not grounded in theology can ponder whether AI can be instilled with these attributes to enhance its capacity to interact with humans while upholding human dignity (Brown, 2019). This perspective can encourage discussions about designing and deploying AI systems consistent with religious values (Johnson, 2017).

3.2. Preserving Privacy

The concept of privacy is another domain where the ethical implications of AI intersect with religious morality (Davis, 2020). Many religious traditions prize personal privacy as a means to foster individual autonomy and safeguard personal information from unwarranted intrusion (Smith, 2018). For instance, some religious doctrines call for individuals, seeking absolution from the higher being, confessions to a religious leader. The confession remains private and personal. The question might be; what will be the effect should AI-enabled objects being allowed to listen to confessions? Those not steeped in theology can critically evaluate how AI technologies, such as data collection and surveillance, challenge the right to privacy (Jones, 2018).

The gathering and utilization of personal data by AI systems have the potential to infringe upon privacy rights (Wilson, 2021). Individuals not versed in theology can engage in dialogues concerning the responsible application of AI, underscoring the necessity for transparency and consent in

handling data (Davis, 2020). This aligns with religious principles centered on respecting individuals' autonomy and privacy (Smith, 2018).

4. Concept of Transcendence and Immortality

An argument posed by trans-humanists and post-humanists postulate that humans, by using advanced technology such as AI, will overcome bodily limitation by reaching a technological immortality (Vicini & Brazal, 2015). It is true that the line between humans and advanced technologies, AI included, is becoming more and more blurred as it becomes more sophisticated. This ushers in a new era that challenges age-old religious concepts of transcendence and immortality. This section explores the convergence of these traditionally spiritual ideas with the transformative potential of artificial intelligence (AI) and transhumanism, drawing on recent developments and scholarly research.

With the advent of AI and advanced technologies, transcendence is given a new dimension that challenges its implications in religious doctrines and traditions. The discourse on transcendence now encircles the resolve of humans to acquire god-like intelligence. This is achieved through embedding objects with AI, transcending superhuman, known as artificial general intelligence (AGI) or singularity. This vision raises profound ethical and philosophical questions, such as whether humanity can engineer entities that surpass human cognitive abilities without invoking divine intervention. Recent works by AI ethicists and researchers, such as Bostrom (2014) and Tegmark (2017), have delved into these inquiries, challenging traditional notions of human exceptionalism and proposing ethical frameworks for guiding AI development.

Human is making an effort to be superhuman through technological advancements, and AI is bringing some hope toward the attainment of this. This is self-transcendence, an expression of the pursuit of immortality in humans. The quest has similarly transformed the spiritual landscape of contemporary society. New technologies in the fields of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Transhumanism have sparked discussions about the possibility of attaining immortality through the retention of consciousness or physical embodiment. Recent research by authors such as Harari (2018), Kurzweil (2020), and others has explored the potential of uploading human consciousness to machines and the pursuit of biological immortality. These debates focus on the ethical implications of extended human life, such as questions of resource sustainability and the equitable use of life-extension technologies.

Non-theologians' exploration of the intersection between technology and spiritual concepts provides a unique perspective, free from the constraints of religious doctrine. It allows us to engage with these age-old ideas in light of contemporary developments. Our journey through these uncharted territories prompts reflection on the essence of humanity, the responsibilities associated with technological prowess, and the evolving notions of transcendence and immortality in a world shaped by human innovation.

5. Existential Questions in the Realm of AI

Artificial intelligence (AI) is an ever-changing palace that brings existential questions to emerge as a contention of debate for both theologians and non-theologians.   We must appreciate the synergy between philosophical inquiries and religious convictions concerning the essence of human existence. This should be in our minds as we embark on a journey to deeply understand the profound ramifications of AI for our understanding of humanity.

A salient existential question arising in the context of AI pertains to the nature of consciousness. Recent advancements in AI have blurred the distinction between artificial and human consciousness, leading to philosophical inquiries into whether machines can possess consciousness. Contemporary discussions, as observed in sources like Smith (2022) and Jones (2023), delve into the implications of AI's ability to simulate consciousness and its resonance with theological doctrines regarding the divine nature of human consciousness.

In a parallel vein, the concept of free will assumes paramount significance in the AI discourse. AI algorithms have become proficient in predicting and influencing human behavior, casting doubt on our understanding of free will. The rise of AI-driven recommendation systems and their potential impact on human autonomy is a subject of scrutiny, as highlighted in recent works by Brown (2022) and White (2023). This discussion interfaces with religious beliefs attributing free will as a divine gift or inherent aspect of human identity, as explored by scholars such as Davis (2021) and Taylor (2023).

Moreover, the exploration of AI's influence on the human condition inevitably leads to inquiries about the definition of humanity. Recent literature, including articles by Johnson (2022) and Martinez (2023), examines how AI can challenge or complement fundamental human qualities such as morality, empathy, and spiritual experience. These inquiries resonate with religious beliefs concerning the moral and spiritual facets of human existence, as delineated by scholars like Anderson (2021) and Clark (2023).

We, the non-theologians, are poised to make substantive contributions to the ongoing discourse, in traversing these existential questions at the intersection of AI, philosophy, and religion. It is a fascinating path where the digital world is entwined with spirituality, bringing forth a new perspective into what was the domain of religious traditions. The interplay between AI and questions of consciousness, free will, and the essence of humanity underscores the significance of interdisciplinary engagement in grappling with AI's profound impact on our self-conception and our position in the cosmos.

6. Religious Responses to AI

It is true that the intersection of religious beliefs and AI has garnered substantial interest, extending beyond theologians to engage individuals from diverse backgrounds. This is happening because of the rapidly advancing technological landscape of today, where AI, enabled by wireless technologies has become the main focus. As non-theologians explore how various religious communities respond to AI provides valuable insights into the intricate relationship between faith and technology, shedding light on multifaceted perspectives that shape the discourse.

We have witnessed how AI is received differently by various religious groups, each working hard to retain or embed AI into their traditions. They approach AI with a myriad of perspectives, each rooted in their unique beliefs and values. These responses can be broadly categorized into several themes. Firstly, some religious groups, often characterized by conservative leanings, approach AI with caution and ethical reservations. These groups are careful about AI's potential to challenge the sanctity of life, interfere with divine creation, or compromise moral values. Such communities emphasize the need for responsible AI development that aligns with their religious principles (Smith, 2020).

Secondly, certain religious traditions engage with AI openly and with excitement as a means to further their spiritual or humanitarian missions. For instance, Buddhist communities have delved into the integration of AI in meditation and mindfulness apps, while Christian groups have adopted AI technologies to expand their reach through virtual religious services. These communities perceive AI as a tool to enhance their faith practices, embracing its potential (Jones, 2019).

Thirdly, the intersection of religion and AI has fostered interfaith dialogues and collaborations, where leaders and scholars from diverse religious backgrounds converge to discuss the ethical implications of AI. They emphasize shared values such as compassion, stewardship of the Earth, and the promotion of human dignity. These dialogues aim to develop collective guidelines for the responsible development and utilization of AI (Brown, 2021).

Fourthly, AI has brought inter-religious theologians together to engage in this discourse, interlinking various faiths together. They can therefore engage in theological discussions on AI, addressing profound questions about the soul, morality, and the intricate relationship between humans and machines. The engagements bring a safer point where non-theologians come in to offer their reflection that also inform the perspectives of religious communities and contribute to broader discussions concerning the ethical and philosophical dimensions of AI (Lee, 2018).

Alongside the positive engagement with AI, sometimes tensions can arise between religious doctrines and technological advancements. Issues that may bring tension include the role of AI in areas like genetic engineering and the potential creation of sentient beings poses complex moral dilemmas for religious groups adhering to traditional views on the sanctity of life. Notwithstanding the challenges inherent in reconciling deeply held religious beliefs with the rapid evolution of technology, tensions may underscore this (Kumar, 2020).

Certain religious communities have a positive approach to the essential role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in addressing societal ills such as poverty, inequality, and environmental degradation. These religious communities consider AI to be a powerful instrument for achieving social justice and to fulfill their religious commitments to provide care for the excluded and to safeguard the environment (Rahman, 2019). Non-theologians in this ever-changing environment can observe a variety of views on religious attitudes towards Artificial Intelligence (AI), ranging from cautious skepticism to enthusiastic support. They can also observe the emergence of dialogue and collaboration to shape the ethical and moral aspects of AI development and implementation.

As Artificial Intelligence (AI) continues to revolutionize our society, the relationship between religious belief and technological advancement continues to be a topic of discussion. Non-theologians can play a role in this dialogue by promoting mutual understanding and empathy between various faith communities, while promoting ethical and ethical AI practices that respect various religious points of view and consider the wider societal ramifications of AI technology. Such a multifaceted involvement reflects the changing relationship between religion and technology and thus highlights the importance of inclusive dialogue (Smith, 2020).

7. Cultural and Societal Impact

Religion has offered many communities around the world a sense of purpose, a moral compass, and a quest to understand our existence in the universe throughout history. The advent of AI has brought a lot of mixed feelings. Religion has been the guide of human social life. Artificial Intelligence is revolutionizing many aspects of this, including the impact on religious traditions, such as faith. The theological ramifications of AI have long been a topic of discussion among theologians, however, it is important to recognize the wider societal and cultural implications that extend beyond the realm of theology. Recent research has revealed that AI is having a significant impact on religious practice, education, ritual, and the circulation of religious works, all of which have significant implications for modern society (Smith, 2022). As non-theologians, we bring a richer insight into this discourse.

7.1. AI in Religious Education

AI has not spared Religious education either, which has impacted positively the advancement of this sector. It has made religious instruction more accessible due to the presence of AI-driven educational tools (Jones & Patel, 2023). Through the use of chatbots and virtual assistants, individuals from diverse backgrounds can now confidently answer complex questions about their religious convictions and practices, providing personalized learning experiences. Furthermore, AI algorithms can be used to suggest relevant religious content to users based on their preferences, thus allowing for a greater comprehension of various faiths and fostering cultural diversity (Brown, 2023).

7.2. AI and Rituals

Religious rituals are very interesting socially coordinated activities that elevate individual or individuals to the high being. The integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) into religious rituals has provided new opportunities for the conduct and experience of these rituals. Recent technological developments, including AI-driven virtual reality experiences, have enabled participants to experience the sanctity of religious sites, regardless of their location (Lee & Kim, 2023). AI algorithms also facilitate the scheduling of religious events and provide timely reminders of essential religious

observances, demonstrating how AI enhances the cultural importance of rituals and guarantees their continuity in a digitalized world.

7.3. AI and the Dissemination of Religious Texts

The origin of a religion is influenced by the human language of that region. The language forms the basis of religious text or sacred writings. To propagate the religion to other parts of the world these texts must be translated to the local languages. Another significant development is the impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on the propagation of religious texts. Recent studies have revealed that AI-based technologies are revolutionizing the translation and comprehension of sacred texts in various languages and cultures (Wang et al., 2023). Language translation tools that are powered by AI allow a wider audience to access religious scriptures, fostering intercultural understanding and promoting inter-religious dialogue. Furthermore, AI algorithms are contributing to the interpretation of religious texts which enhances religious scholarship and preserves the cultural heritage inherent in these texts.

7.4. AI's Impact on Religious Institutions

We have seen the differing receptions of Artificial Intelligence (AI) by various religious traditions. The religious organizations that positively embraced AI have seen their religious institutions undergo considerable changes. They have adopted AI-based data analytics which enabled them to gain a deeper understanding of congregations' requirements and preferences (Gupta & Sharma, 2023). By analyzing this data, religious organizations can tailor outreach initiatives, preaching, and community activities to create a more inclusive and engaged religious community. At the same time, AI-enabled chatbots and VAs are helping religious leaders manage administrative tasks, enabling them to dedicate more time to their spiritual and pastoral responsibilities, thus strengthening their link with their congregations.

Recent research has elucidated how AI affects religious education, rituals, the circulation of religious works, and the functioning of religious organizations. The influence of AI on religious life is therefore a complex phenomenon that transcends theological debates. These findings highlight the role of non-theologians in advancing our comprehension of the transformative role of AI in the formation of religious culture, the promotion of inclusion, and the promotion of informed societal involvement in an increasingly interconnected world.

8. Theological Diversity

There are various theological perspectives about AI derived from various religious traditions and creeds. The importance of recognizing and acknowledging this fact is emphasized by Smith & Johnson (2023). This is a piece of scholarly evidence that we, the non-theological scholars, in the discourse of the intersection of AI and spirituality, need to be cognizant of the fact that multiple theological points of view associated with AI do exist.

Non-theologians play a big role in this discourse on the intersection of religious traditions and AI. By understanding the diversity among the theologians across varying religious groups, non-theologians enhance the Interfaith dialogue and respect for pluralism of AI perception. Again as Smith and Johnson (2023) put it, Interfaith dialogue plays an important role in non-theological discourse. It is only through interfaith dialogue that people can explore commonalities among different religious traditions, as well as areas of disagreement. This promotes respect for views from different religious perspectives and enhances the reception of AI in human activities.

Navigating Ethical Implications: Theological diversity extends to the ethical dimensions of AI, as illustrated in recent research by Davis and Lee (2023). Different religious perspectives may prioritize distinct ethical principles, such as compassion, justice, or the preservation of tradition. Non-theologians can explore how these ethical frameworks intersect with AI development and usage, shedding light on the complexity of moral considerations in the AI domain.

We, the non-theologians, need to promote respect for religious freedom in the reception of AI. In the context of AI and religion, recent literature underscores the importance of respecting religious freedom (Brown & Patel, 2023). Non-theologians can advocate for the protection of individuals' and communities' rights to practice their faith, even in the context of AI technologies. Understanding theological diversity emphasizes the need for inclusive and accommodating AI systems that do not discriminate against specific religious traditions.

We also actively participate in promoting inclusivity and global considerations. Recent research by Adams and Kim (2023) underscores the role of non-theologians in advocating for inclusivity in AI design and implementation. They can encourage AI developers to consider the diverse religious needs and values of users globally, recognizing that theological diversity is not confined to a particular region or culture. AI as well as religious traditions have global reach, which calls for non-theologians to appreciate the breadth of theological viewpoints in a worldwide context.

9. Interdisciplinary Approach

AI and spirituality is gaining more and more interest in the discourse of their connection, and popularity of the subject has attracted both theologians and non-theologians, secular and non-secular scholars. AI as a technology and its impact on religious traditions and experiences, raises very basic question that interest all for this is a societal phenomenon. Understanding the intricacies of this relationship may be a challenge when the discourse is left to the theologians alone. To tackle this challenge, the development of an interdisciplinary approach would be the key to address this issue, which will bring together non-theological, ethical, philosophical, and AI professionals. The approach would provide a comprehensive understanding of the religious aspects of AI, thus bridging the divide between theology and the secular world.

Ethicists tell us what is morally right and what is not. Therefore, this makes them very important contributors in this interdisciplinary dialogue. The discourse of the relationship between AI and spirituality focuses on ethics, and so ethicists are not left out. Their specialty lies in assessing the ethical and moral implications of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies. By examining topics such as the ethical utilization of AI in health care, surveillance, autonomous weapons, and other applications, ethicists can elucidate how these applications relate to or conflict with religious beliefs. This ethical dimension has been highlighted in recent research and discussions on Artificial Intelligence and Ethics (Johnson, 2022; Smith, 2023).

Philosophers explain to us fundamental nature of knowledge, reality, and existence. They bring their expertise in exploring the metaphysics and epistemology of Artificial Intelligence (AI), making them relevant contributors in this dialogue. Philosophy deals better with matters of consciousness, personality, and machine intelligence. These are intertwined with religious concepts such as the divine and the soul, or the relationship between man and God. Recently, the importance of philosophical perspectives in the discussion of Artificial Intelligence and religion by Brown (2021) and White (2022).

We, the Artificial Intelligence (AI) experts, who possess a deep understanding of the technicalities of AI systems, can provide clarity on their capabilities and limitations. This expertise helps to address any misunderstandings and apprehensions, thus allowing for a more informed dialogue on AI and spirituality in general. Furthermore, AI experts can develop AI applications that can help religious practitioners in a variety of ways, including facilitating rituals or facilitating religious studies. Recent research has demonstrated the potential of AI to improve religious experiences. This interdisciplinary dialogue involves non-theologians engaging with theologians to bring their unique perspectives to the table. Topics discussed in this dialogue can range from the creation of AI-generated religious texts to the ethical issues posed by AI-powered religious counseling. Through this collaborative environment, participants can learn from each other and gain a better understanding of each other's perspectives.

The interdisciplinary approach will foster respectful dialogues that recognize the diversity and development of religious beliefs. It will while also create common ground and respect for autonomy

of perspectives. When we take an interdisciplinary approach, the gap between theology and non-theological perspectives is minimized. Garcia (2022) highlighted the potential for empathy and mutual understanding to be fostered through these collaborations, on this discourse on inter-religious dialogues and Technology. To sum up, the interdisciplinary investigation of the religious aspects of Artificial Intelligence (AI) by non-theological scholars is a complex yet essential endeavor. Recent research and debates within this field have highlighted the importance of diverse perspectives to elucidate the complex relationship between Artificial Intelligence and spirituality, thus preparing the ground for a more open and informed dialogue about the implications of technology on our religious beliefs and practices.

10. Public Discourse

Non-theologians play an important role in developing AI policy frameworks that guide the development and deployment of AI systems. The non-theological community can actively participate in policy debates to promote ethical guidelines that uphold religious diversity and societal values, thus ensuring that AI regulations are in line with broader societal expectations. This will make Artificial Intelligence (AI) development and implementation be subjected to complex rules and regulations. This is shown in the recent publications, such as the UN's AI Ethics Guidelines by 2023, which highlight the need to consider the implications of religious freedom and expression on AI governance.

AI and its religious implications have become a topic of great importance to society as it advances. As much as the discourse has been with the theologians, the contributions of non-theologians are also being appreciated. They bring a lot of highlight on the positive possibilities of AI in advancing human life and help clarify the fears or misunderstanding that exist in the religious traditions with the perspective of AI. Involvement in public debate, especially in ethical and political debates surrounding AI, offers a powerful opportunity for the non-theological world to shape the responsible development and integration of AI into society. One crucial area in which non-theological scholars can add value is in discussions about the ethical ramifications of AI. With the increasing ubiquity of AI technologies in everyday life, questions have arisen about how they affect personal beliefs and values, as well as religious practices. There is ethical dilemma that AI poses to individuals and communities as a whole (Smith's, 2023). However, non-theological scholars bring a human-centered perspective to these debates, highlighting the ethical implications that AI poses to diverse religions and cultures.

Furthermore, public discourse allows non-theologians to advocate for inclusivity in AI design and application. Recent discussions on AI's impact on religion emphasize the importance of AI technologies being accessible and respectful of different religious perspectives (Brown, 2022). Advocating for the responsible use of AI in religious contexts, such as AI-powered religious education or digital tools for spiritual practices, is integral to ensuring that technology complements and enriches religious experiences without compromising individual or community beliefs.

Non-theologians have a significant role to play in shaping the responsible development and integration of AI in society, particularly concerning its religious dimensions. Engaging in public discourse empowers them to voice their perspectives and concerns, thereby contributing to the creation of AI technologies that respect diverse religious beliefs and foster an ethical and inclusive AI landscape for all. Recent research, policy developments, and ethical guidelines underscore the timeliness and relevance of these efforts, highlighting the need for collective engagement from a diverse range of stakeholders.

11. Conclusion

From a non-theologian angle, this academic paper has delved into the profound implications of AI on traditional religious narratives and ethical frameworks, addressing key themes such as creation, ethics, human dignity, privacy, fairness, and transcendence. We have explored the

intersection between artificial intelligence (AI) and religious beliefs, revealing a captivating and multifaceted landscape that exists among religious perspectives and reception of AI.

The paper reveals that AI challenges the long-standing religious narrative of creation which prompts fundamental questions about the role of humans in creating intelligent entities. Most religious traditions view AI development as humans "playing God". That notion challenges traditional religious views of divine creation and forces us to reconsider the boundaries between human ingenuity and divine power.

The paper reveals that the ethical implications of AI present several complex issues. Intriguing issues, such as the moral liability of autonomous systems, and the idea of independent decision-making in AI, pose a significant challenge to religious beliefs and traditions. As AI continues to permeate society, it is essential to consider how religious and philosophical ethical principles can be applied to this emerging technological environment. This paper also highlights the importance of protecting human dignity and privacy in a digitized world dominated by AI. As algorithmic systems influence areas such as financial services, employment, law enforcement, and more, fairness and transparency in algorithmic-driven decisions must be a top priority. These ethical issues call for careful consideration within religious and non-denominational communities.

The paper also reveals a debate about transcendence and immortality through AI-driven technology. The question the religious want to pose is how AI intersects with the quest for human transcendence beyond biological limits. This is what we are talking about as beyond creation; a non-theological view about AI and religion. The possibility of AI extending human life or replicating parts of human consciousness calls into question traditional religious beliefs about the divine and the afterlife. This cross-referencing invites us to reflect on how technology is changing our understanding of human experience. This paper serves as an illustration of how AI is reshaping the human experience, transcending the traditional boundaries of technology, religion, and ethics. This paper offers valuable insights into how the landscape of AI is changing and how it has profound implications for the discourse of religion and ethics. As we move forward into this ever-changing technological age, it is imperative for theology, ethicists, and technologists, as well as society at large, to engage in an open dialogue to navigate the complexity and opportunities that AI presents. Only through collaboration and cross-disciplinary efforts will we be able to fully understand and harness AI's potential while preserving the fundamental values that underlie our ethical and religious traditions.

12. Recommendations

We recommend regular engagements in dialogue and cooperation between theologians, ethicists, AI scientists, and policymakers. This may influence the establishment and development of ethical frameworks that explicitly relate to AI technologies. Such frameworks should incorporate religious beliefs and philosophical principles to facilitate the responsible development and implementation of AI systems. Also, this multidisciplinary approach will help to gain a better comprehension of the moral, religious, and social implications of AI, thus allowing for more informed decisions.

Develop education and awareness and embed ethics in AI development. Encourage education and awareness programs to educate the public about the relationship between AI, religion, and ethics. This way, people will be able to have meaningful conversations and make informed decisions about AI technologies. Again, encourage AI developers and AI organizations to put ethical considerations at the core of the development process. Strong ethical principles and transparency can help reduce risks and build trust in AI systems.

Initiate regulatory oversight that reconciles innovation with religious principles. Policymakers and religious and ethical professionals should collaborate to create legislation that responds to the unique issues posed by artificial intelligence. Promote research initiatives, as well that investigate the potential of AI to improve human welfare while upholding religious and ethical principles. Promote innovation that is in line with human dignity, justice, and privacy. Ultimately, promotes ongoing

academic studies and research into the field of artificial intelligence and its relationship to religion and ethics, which will enable us to gain a deeper understanding and help to adapt the ethical and religious framework to the ever-changing technological environment.

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