

UNESCO: *AI and Next Generation of competences*

Human vs machine intelligence  
*What's at stake, really?*

**Ekkehard Ernst**

**11 & 12 July 2019**



**@ekkehardernst**



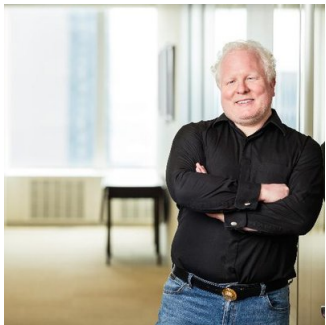
**ernste@ilo.org**



**SOCIAL JUSTICE  
DECENT WORK**

## Should we be afraid of AI?

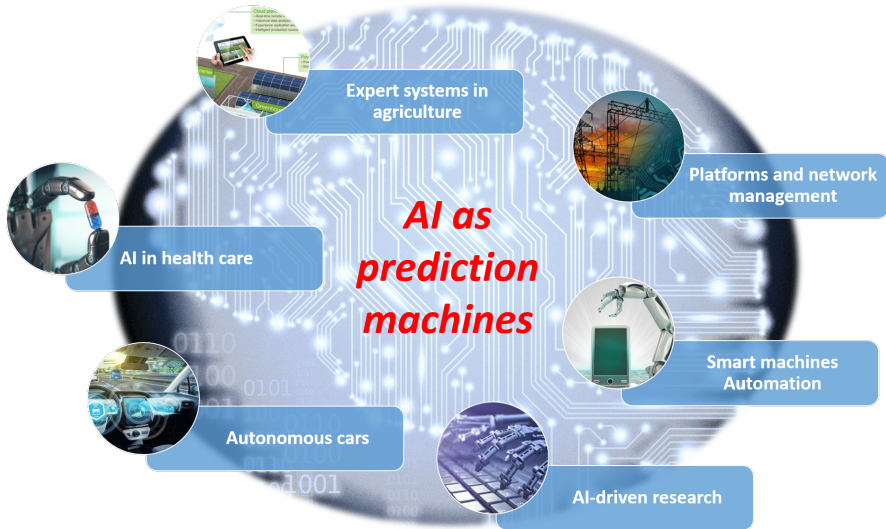
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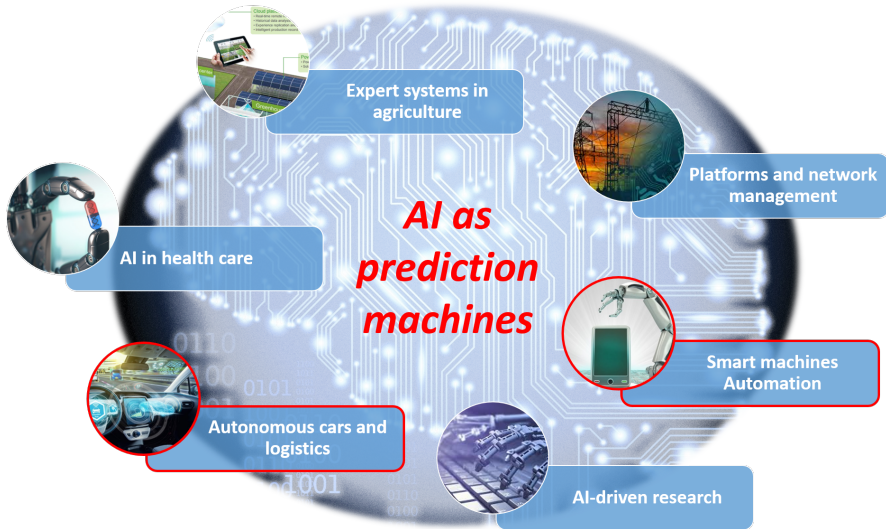
“Large neuronal networks today have a maximum of 1 million nodes but consume the energy of a nuclear power plant. The human brain has 84 billion neurons and runs on a slice of bread.”

*Chris Boos, AI expert and founder of Arago*

# Examples of AI applications

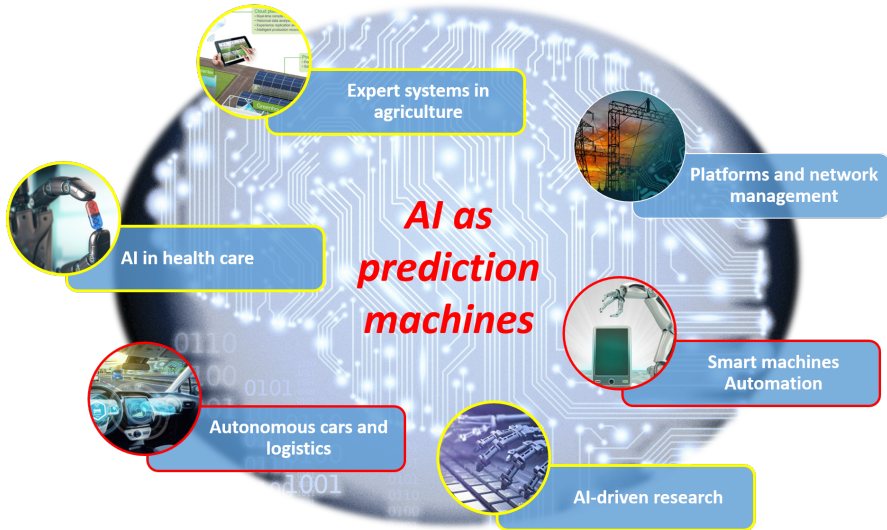


# Examples of AI applications: Labour saving

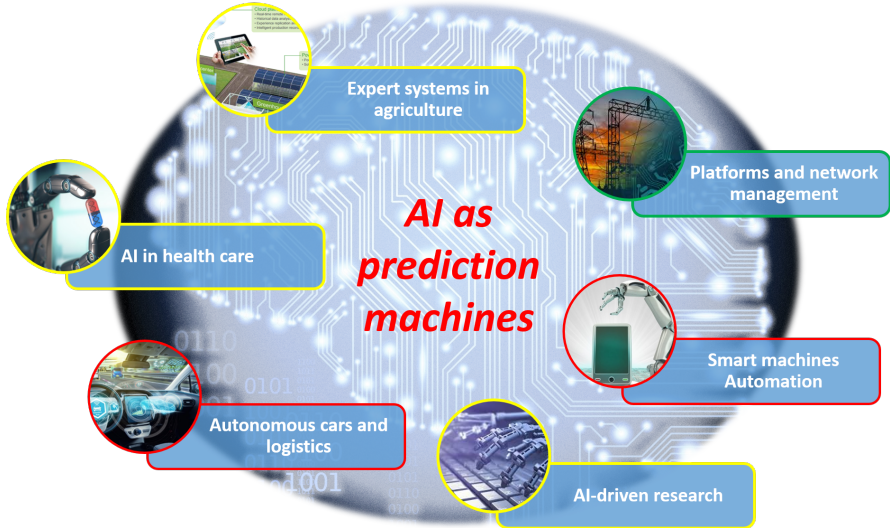




# Examples of AI applications: Capital saving

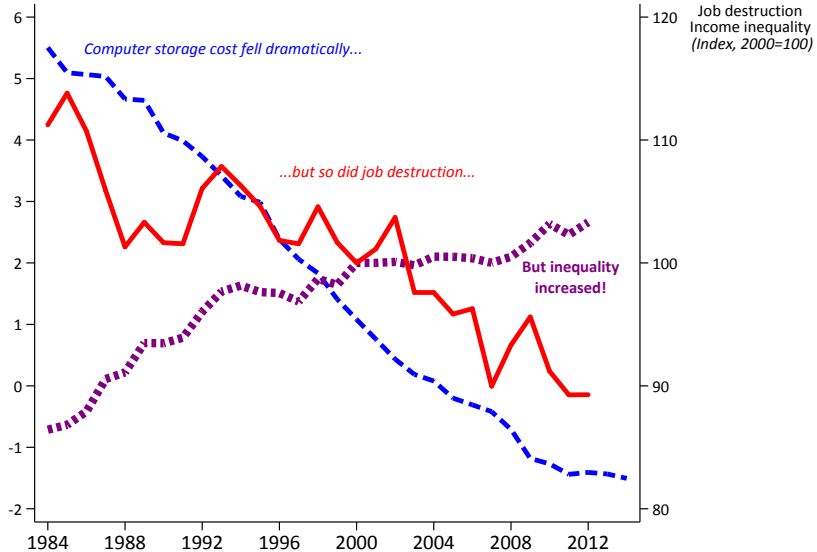


# Examples of AI applications: Factor enhancing



# AI increases inequality, not unemployment

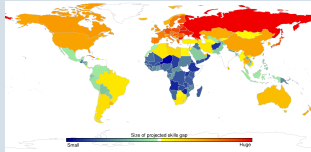
Storage costs: US\$ per GB  
(logarithmic scale)



# The four inequality challenges of AI

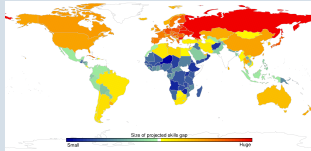
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## Rising demand for skills

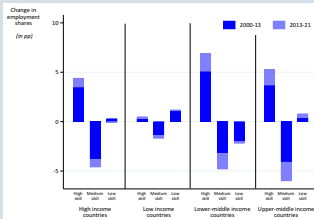


# The four inequality challenges of AI

## Rising demand for skills

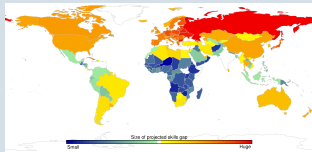


## Job polarization

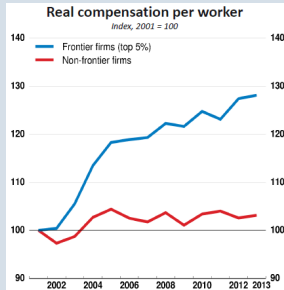


# The four inequality challenges of AI

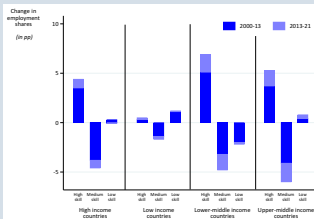
## Rising demand for skills



## Winner-takes-all with AI

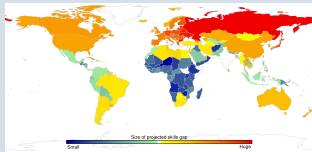


## Job polarization

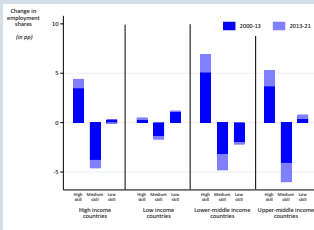


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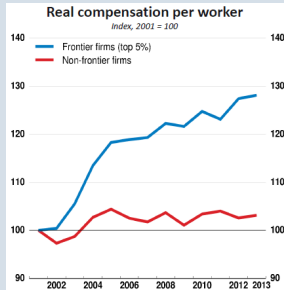
## Rising demand for skills



## Job polarization



## Winner-takes-all with AI

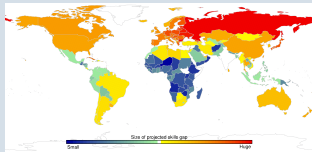


## Granular discrimination

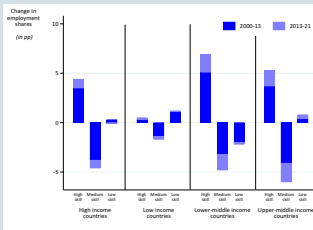
- ▶ Enhances matching efficiency....
- ▶ ...but increases price discrimination
- ▶ and perpetuates historical biases

# The four inequality challenges of AI

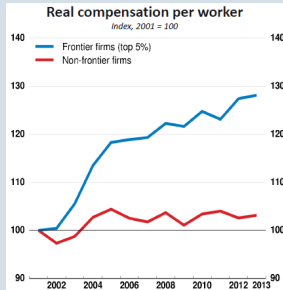
## Rising demand for skills



## Job polarization



## Winner-takes-all with AI



REUTERS

Amazon scraps secret AI recruiting tool that showed bias against women

## Granular discrimination

- ▶ Enhances matching efficiency....
- ▶ ...but increases price discrimination
- ▶ and perpetuates historical biases



## What about developing countries?

Dependent variable: Employment (in logs)	World		Developed countries		Developing countries	
robot stock	-0.055** (0.028)	-0.044** (0.018)	-0.029*** (0.009)	-0.034*** (0.009)	-0.343*** (0.112)	-0.329 (0.480)
robot stock × labour intensity		-0.023 (0.044)		0.012 (0.019)		-0.011 (0.411)
labour intensity	0.007 (0.008)	0.015 (0.015)	0.002 (0.005)	0.001 (0.005)	-0.016 (0.021)	-0.010 (0.217)
N	477	477	360	360	117	117
R <sup>2</sup>	0.84	0.85	0.80	0.80	0.35	0.38

*Note:* Regressions include country and industry fixed effects. Trends are the coefficients of regressions on a linear trend. Robust standard error in parentheses. Significance levels: \*, \*\*, \*\*\* indicate significance at 0.10, 0.05 and 0.01. Controls: value added, wage. Estimates are weighted by sectoral employment in 2005.

*Estimated equation:*

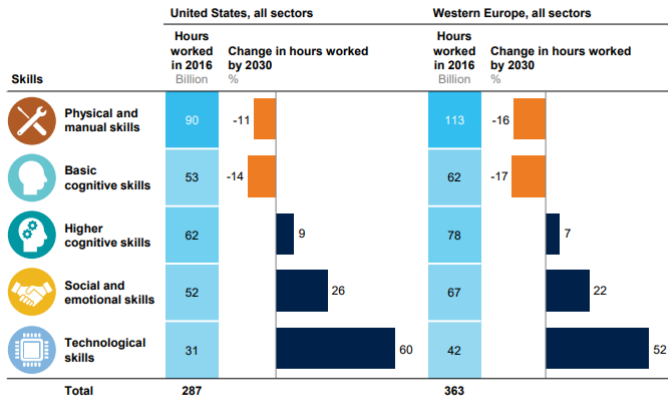
$$N_{ij} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 robots_{ij} + \beta_2 robots_{ij} \times li_{2005} + \beta_3 li_{2005} + \beta_4 VA_{ij} + \beta_5 W_{ij} + u_{ij}.$$

# Emotional intelligence trumps STEM

Automation and AI will accelerate the shift in skills that the workforce needs.

Based on McKinsey Global Institute workforce skills model

0  100



NOTE: Western Europe: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. Numbers may not sum due to rounding.

SOURCE: McKinsey Global Institute workforce skills model; McKinsey Global Institute analysis

# New forms of taxation to ensure protection

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## Digital taxation

Move from income to consumption tax



## Taxing public goods

Sovereign wealth funds



## Digital social security

Universal basic income or tax credit



## Profit sharing arrangements

Social partnership and cooperation



Maintain a  
conductive  
IPR regime



# Public infrastructure to promote AI



# Man vs machine: More than meets the eye

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## Structural transformation

- ...is a constant feature of our economies
- ...might bring more inequality

## Preparing businesses

- ...prepare workforce to use digital technologies
- ...be aware of significant up-scaling costs

## AI promises large productivity gains

- ...including in low-skilled sectors
- ...with strong boost for developing countries

## AI transforms capitalism

- ...creates challenges for sharing wealth
- ...and requires international cooperation

# Want to know more?



Thank you!

