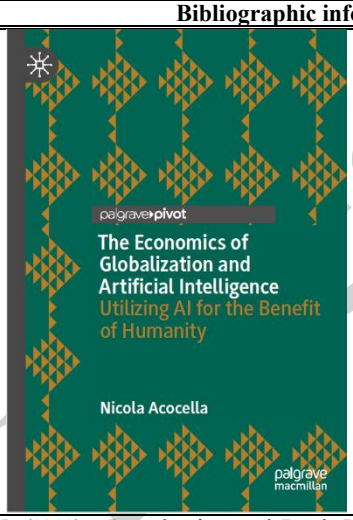
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Introduction and Book Review: *The Economics of Globalization and Artificial Intelligence: Utilizing AI for the Benefit of Humanity*

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Extended Abstract

In this book, *The Economics of Globalization and Artificial Intelligence*, Nicola Acocella, a professor at Sapienza University of Rome, seeks to establish a connection between globalization and artificial intelligence (AI). What distinguishes this work from many other scholarly studies is its interdisciplinary approach and its attempt to synthesize economic, social, political, and environmental findings regarding the reciprocal impacts of these two domains. Written with the objective of "harnessing artificial intelligence for the benefit of humanity", the book is organized into seven chapters covering topics such as the definitions of globalization and AI, the influence of AI on globalization, implications for income distribution, shifts in foreign trade, strategies for maximizing benefits, governance policies, and, ultimately, the need for a philosophical redefinition of the very concept of artificial intelligence. However, a significant criticism can be leveled at the book from the outset: despite its claim to adopt a critical and comprehensive perspective, the work largely amounts to a compilation of quotes and statistics from prominent international institutions—such as McKinsey, Goldman Sachs, the International Monetary Fund, and the World Bank—without offering any substantive critique of the theoretical or political foundations upon which these institutions operate. Throughout the text, particularly in chapters two through five, the author functions much like an encyclopedia, introducing hundreds of researchers; yet, the volume of references is at times so dense that the author's own arguments become obscured. Nevertheless, the book serves as a valuable resource for researchers, offering a centralized collection of key references and insights that can inform future inquiry. In general, this book is significant because—at a time when global policymakers are drafting regulations for artificial intelligence—it seeks to demonstrate that this technology is an economic tool capable of transforming the very concept of "being human".

Each chapter of the book addresses several key themes, all of which fall within the framework of the political economy of globalization and technology. The primary focus of the first chapter is the concept of globalization and its history. Citing Roland Robertson, the book defines globalization as "the compression of the world and the intensification of consciousness of the world as a whole" (Robertson, 1992: 8).

A notable point in the second chapter is the observation that artificial intelligence has surpassed humans in many cognitive domains. As the book illustrates, this shift did not occur in the distant future; rather, it has unfolded over the past decade, with AI now outperforming human capabilities in a wide range of cognitive tasks.

The third chapter—perhaps one of the most technical and rigorous sections of the work—examines the relationship between artificial intelligence and income distribution. Drawing on various empirical

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studies, the author demonstrates that this relationship is not simple or linear, but rather U-shaped. This implies that at lower levels of adoption, AI can help narrow the income gap; however, beyond a certain threshold, it rapidly becomes a driver of intensifying inequality.

In the fourth chapter, which focuses on the impact of artificial intelligence on foreign trade, the book explores the emerging phenomenon of "de-globalization". Contrary to the common perception that artificial intelligence (AI) fosters greater integration, the author—drawing on historical data—demonstrates that in recent years, governments (notably the United States and China) have imposed restrictive policies on technology transfers, particularly regarding semiconductor chips. In practice, this has led to a bifurcation of the world into two distinct technological blocs.

In the fifth chapter, the author explores strategies to maximize the net positive impact of AI. This section examines human-centric applications of the technology, ranging from the diagnosis of disabilities and support for individuals with impairments to climate change analysis, drug discovery, combating human trafficking, and the personalization of education in underserved regions.

From a policy perspective, the most significant section is the sixth chapter, titled "The Need for a Policy Framework to Safely Harness the Immense Potential of AI for the Benefit of Humanity". It opens with a quote from Bremmer and Suleyman (2023), who describe AI as "unlike any previous technology" and advocate for the establishment of a global regulatory body for AI. The author argues that AI governance cannot be managed through the traditional, slow-moving frameworks of national laws or international treaties; the cloud-based, open, and self-reinforcing nature of this technology means that any legal loophole can rapidly transform into a point of vulnerability.

The final chapter of the book serves as a conclusion, approached by the author from a predominantly philosophical perspective. Drawing on Stuart Russell (2022), this chapter challenges the "standard model" of artificial intelligence—a framework in which a machine is tasked with learning a policy that maximizes the sum of discounted rewards. Akosla rightly points out a fundamental flaw in this model: the definition of intelligence has been shifted from humans to machines, even though machines have no inherent "right" to pursue their own goals. Instead, the author proposes an alternative model wherein the machine remains uncertain about the human's true objectives and continuously seeks clarification. Consequently, the machine exhibits behaviors that are more "robust, controllable, and respectful" toward humans. This approach—termed an "uncertainty-based model"—represents an innovative contribution, particularly within the context of a book focused on economics.

Ultimately, it should be noted that throughout the book, artificial intelligence is primarily defined in terms of "algorithms" and

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"computational infrastructure". In reality, however, AI is contingent upon access to vast and diverse datasets. These data are controlled by a handful of corporations and governments; their role in shifting the balance of power is just as significant as that of the algorithms themselves. Therefore, in addition to addressing privacy and algorithmic bias, it would have been appropriate for the book to explore the political economy of data—examining who produces data, who has access to it, who controls it, and how data is framed as "new capital". These issues, which can be categorized as forms of "data colonialism", warrant inclusion. Specifically, in the current era, developing nations serve not only as sources of cheap labor (and, at times, energy) but also as providers of the raw data used to train artificial intelligence models, while the ultimate value-added accrues to tech giants.

Conflict of interest

The author declared no conflicts of interest.

Ethical considerations

The author has completely considered ethical issues, including informed consent, plagiarism, data fabrication, misconduct, and/or falsification, double publication and/or redundancy, submission, etc. This article was not authored by artificial intelligence. The free online version of DeepSeek AI has been used solely for the purpose of language enhancement.

Data availability

The dataset generated and analyzed during the current study is available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.

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