

Editorial: *Innovation, Work Culture, Internet platforms, AI and the Pressing Threats to Globally and Domestically Economic Growth*

At the end of October this year we read in the Science magazine (Science/AAAS - American Association for the Advancement of Science; the world's leading journal of original scientific research, global news, and commentary) an article entitled "Top employers embrace change based on a stable foundation" (with regard to the annual Science Careers Top Employers Survey, where most respondents were industry employees from North America, Europe, and the Asia/Pacific Rim and working in a biotech, biopharma, or pharmaceutical company), in which the author underlined among other aspects that: beyond the usual highly valued features (such as: innovation, work culture aligned with employee values, respect for employees, social responsibility valued and expected by employees at their workplace), this year's survey revealed an unusual feature – employer who "makes changes needed"; different comments from respondents covered also diverse aspects including prominent political news and market trends. (Tachibana, 2018) While this month, December 2018, the Economic Conditions Snapshot reflecting McKinsey Global Survey results highlighted (among other aspects) the same usual characteristic that the most pressing threats to globally and domestically economic growth remain risks related to policy and politics (the most commonly cited risk to global economic growth being considered the changes in trade policy, the geopolitical instability being the second, and the third being the United Kingdom's exit from the European Union). We also noticed that: the most commonly cited threat to growth from the viewpoint of the country-level risks were the domestic political conflicts (which have overtaken changes in trade policy ranked as the second, and the third remaining the transitions of political leadership), while geopolitical instability is an outside concern in Europe; changes in the trade environment were ranked as one of the top two threats to growth over the next year with regard to risks to growth at the company level. (FitzGerald et al, 2018)

It was interesting to read within this global and domestic context that in the American magazine "Rolling Stone" – which was founded in 1967, in San Francisco, being known initially for its musical coverage and for Hunter S. Thompson's political reporting (Wikipedia) – an article was recently published, entitled "The French Protests Do Not Fit a Tidy Narrative. The yellow vest protests are more nuanced than American pundits want to admit", and in which the author, Matt Taibbi, concluded that: "We don't need a new front to make centrism cool. We need to move on from centrism, to something a little less elitist. Which is different from being elite, as most of the world seems to have realized by now". (Taibbi, 2018) Let's also remember that: just two years ago, Taibbi was cited by David N. Balaam and Bradford Dillman at the page 46 of their book "Introduction to International Political Economy", Sixth Edition, published by Routledge; (Balaam and Dillman, 2016) in January 2018, Taibbi presented a public talk (which was moderated by the Associate Professor David Weiss, who teaches courses in media studies and political communication) at The University of New Mexico on the topic "The Problems of Reporting in the Internet Age (and How to Counter Them)". (Sheppard, 2018)

In the last years we have witnessed accelerated discussions about topics such as: “How the digital age is killing the old political order”; (Cardy, 2016) “Rethinking Trade and Innovation for the Digital Age”; (Kahin, 2017) “Political science in the digital age: Mapping opportunities, perils and uncertainties”; (IPSA RC10 Electronic Democracy, 2017) “How e-commerce reshapes markets and firms’ strategies”; (Petropoulos, 2018) “The Global Debate on the Future of Artificial Intelligence”; (Dickow and Jacob, 2018) “The ethics of artificial intelligence: How AI can end discrimination and make the world a smarter, better place”. (Hofheinz, 2018) As Brian Kahin argued in the above second article mentioned within this paragraph: *“Internet platforms engaging millions of users have become institutions in their own right, managing markets, implementing policies and shaping economic exchange and social interaction”*. While Paul Hofheinz underlined in the above last mentioned article within the same paragraph: *“Far from making us weaker, the advent of artificial intelligence is one of mankind’s greatest triumphs... The machines are impressive, to be sure. But they are not human... The tragedy of mankind is that – far too often – we invent things before we know properly how to use them... Will we harness it (AI) for mankind’s good – a more graspable goal than is commonly understood? Or will we allow its power to deepen and exacerbate the very human fissures of the world into which we have launched it? The discussion is only beginning. And we will all have a role to play”*.

It shouldn’t come as a surprise within the current global political economy that there are consistent preoccupations with regard to both opportunities and risks given impacts of AI (on jobs, trade, development, geopolitics, and stability), (Charlet, 2018) being considered that our societies are not prepared politically, legally and ethically for the deployment of AI (see the future of AI in the figure below), (Pauwels, 2018) taking into account the cycle of AI market development (the move from a hype phase into a reality phase), (Tractica) and the fact that we are just at the beginning of the Globalization 4.0 (called by Richard Baldwin the “third unbundling”) which is going to hit the service sector. (Baldwin, 2018)

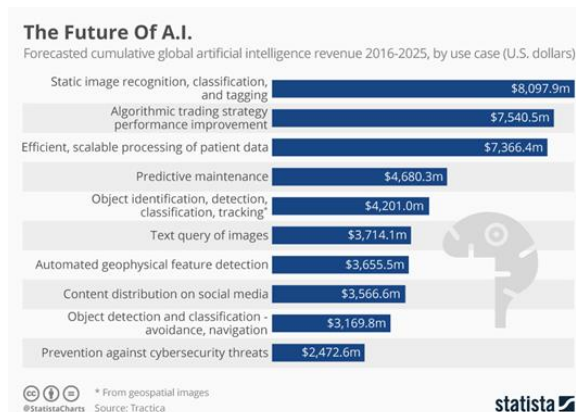


Figure 1: The future of AI (Tractica)

Source: Pauwels, E. (2018). *The new geopolitics of artificial intelligence*, The World Economic Forum, 15 Oct 2018 (work cited)

And as we identified another link with the second paragraph of our approach, allow us to highlight again the opinion recently expressed by Richard Baldwin, Professor of International Economics at Graduate Institute from Geneva: *“If the blue-collar workers disrupted by Globalization 3.0 join hands with the white-collar workers who will be disrupted by Globalization 4.0, we may have an upheaval on our hands - what I call the Globotics Upheaval. Reading recent headlines, this upheaval may be wearing a gilet jaune”*.

The true words of our Constantin Brancusi have always had the power to impress our mind: *“To see far is one thing, going there is another”*.

Theodor Valentin Purcărea

Editor-in-Chief

References

- Balaam, D.N., Dillman, B. (2016). Introduction to International Political Economy, Sixth Edition, Routledge, an imprint of Taylor and Francis Group, 2016, p. 46
- Baldwin, R. (2018). If this is Globalization 4.0, what were the other three? The World Economic Forum, 22 Dec 2018. Retrieved from <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2018/12/if-this-is-globalization-4-0-what-were-the-other-three/>
- Cardy, M. (2016). How the digital age is killing the old political order, Business Insider. Retrieved from <https://www.businessinsider.com/how-the-digital-age-is-killing-the-old-political-order-2016-1>
- Charlet, K. (2018). AI Will Affect Jobs. What About the Rest of the Global Political Economy? Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, March 23, 2018. Retrieved from <https://carnegieendowment.org/2018/03/23/ai-will-affect-jobs.-what-about-rest-of-global-political-economy-event-6839>
- Dickow, M. and Jacob, D. (2018). The Global Debate on the Future of Artificial Intelligence, Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (SWP), German Institute for International and Security Affairs, Berlin, SWP Comment, No. 23 May 2018. Retrieved from https://www.swp-berlin.org/fileadmin/contents/products/comments/2018C23_dkw_job.pdf
- FitzGerald, A., Singer, V. and Smit, S. (2018). - Economic Conditions Snapshot, December 2018: McKinsey Global Survey results. Retrieved from <https://www.mckinsey.com/business-functions/strategy-and-corporate-finance/our-insights/economic-conditions-snapshot-december-2018-mckinsey-global-survey-results?>
- Hofheinz, P. (2018). The ethics of artificial intelligence: How AI can end discrimination and make the world a smarter, better place, Lisbon Council (a Brussels-based think tank), May 2018. Retrieved from [LISBON_COUNCIL_The_Ethics_of_Artificial_Intelligence.pdf](https://www.lisboncouncil.org/en/publications/ethics-of-artificial-intelligence)
- Kahin, B. (2017). Rethinking Trade and Innovation for the Digital Age, Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI), April 11, 2017. Retrieved from <https://www.cigionline.org/articles/rethinking-trade-and-innovation-digital-age>
- Pauwels, E. (2018). The new geopolitics of artificial intelligence, The World Economic Forum, 15 Oct 2018. Retrieved from <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2018/10/artificial-intelligence-ai-new-geopolitics-un/>
- Petropoulos, G. (2018). How e-commerce reshapes markets and firms' strategies, Bruegel (a European think tank specializing in economics), May 7, 2018. Retrieved from <http://bruegel.org/2018/05/how-e-commerce-reshapes-markets-and-firms-strategies/>
- Tachibana, C. (2018). Top employers embrace change based on a stable foundation, Science/AAAS, Oct. 25, 2018. Retrieved from <https://www.sciencemag.org/features/2018/10/top-employers-embrace-change-based-stable-foundation>
- Taibbi, M. (2018). The French Protests Do Not Fit a Tidy Narrative. The yellow vest protests are more nuanced than American pundits want to admit, Rolling Stone, December 13, 2018. Retrieved from <https://www.rollingstone.com/politics/politics-features/france-protests-yellow-vests-768810/>
- Sheppard, S. (2018). Rolling Stone writer to discuss problems reporting in the internet age, UNM News, January 18, 2018. Retrieved from <https://news.unm.edu/news/rolling-stone-writer-to-discuss-problems-reporting-in-the-internet-age>
- *** https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rolling_Stone
- *** Political science in the digital age: Mapping opportunities, perils and uncertainties, 4-6 December 2017, Hannover, Germany. Retrieved from http://rc10.ipsa.org/public/A5_hannover-JOINT-Recto-Verso.pdf
- *** Artificial Intelligence Market Forecasts. Retrieved from <https://www.tractica.com/research/artificial-intelligence-market-forecasts/>