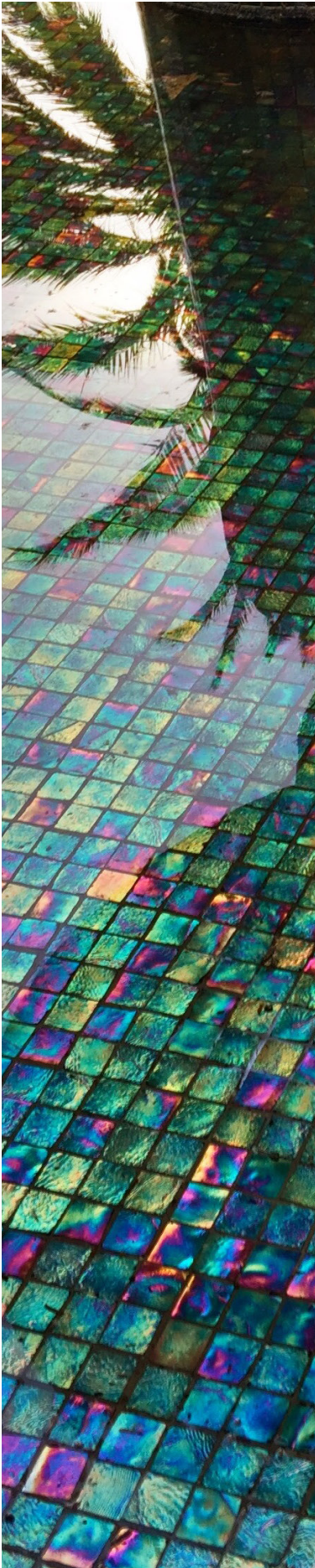Stanford

Initiative Overview
Ethics, Society, and Technology Hub

EMBEDDING ETHICS IN LEARNING AND INNOVATION

The Ethics, Society, and Technology (EST) Hub aims to embed ethics more fully in how we teach, research, and engage with the world. By placing human and societal well-being at the center of our scientific and technological advancements, we empower scholars to consider their roles and their impact in shaping society at large. The solutions we find should work for everyone—not just a select few.
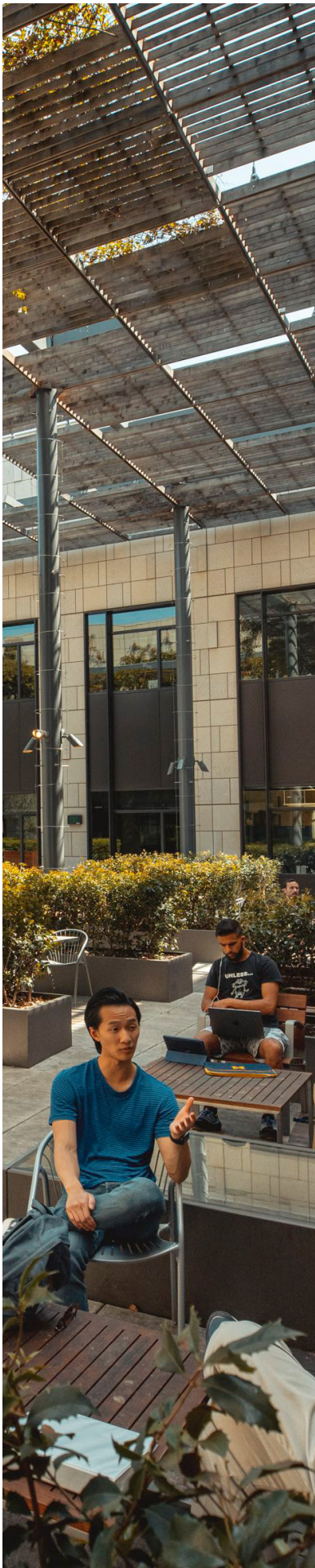
BUILDING MINDSETS FOR GOOD

About the Ethics, Society, and Technology Hub

While technological breakthroughs can help us solve the world's most complex issues, they can also have unintended consequences. The EST Hub was founded on Stanford's belief that the ethical and societal implications of innovation should be an integral part of scientific and technological advancement—not as an afterthought, but from the very beginning.

The EST Hub promotes new models of teaching, learning, and innovation across campus to foster a university-wide culture centered on human and societal well-being. By deploying centralized funding, curriculum design expertise, and other resources across all seven schools, the hub helps faculty, researchers, and students achieve their goals of having a positive impact on the world—not by imposing a particular view about what is "right" and "wrong," but by empowering innovators to ask important questions about the societal implications of their work.

And the EST Hub is about more than embedding ethics in what we do on campus. For example, programs such as the Ethics and Society Review panel set powerful examples for our partners in the technology, government, business, and nonprofit sectors—inspiring them to join us in addressing the ethical and societal impacts of technological advancement, and ensuring that progress benefits everyone, everywhere.

A New Model for Teaching, Collaborating, and Innovating

These courses, fellowships, and programs illustrate how the EST Hub encourages students, faculty, and researchers to consider ethical imperatives in their work.

TEACHING THE IMPACT OF INNOVATION

What are the societal and ethical impacts of innovation? The EST Hub funds course-work that challenges engineering and computer science students to consider this question and others like it. Building upon existing undergraduate curriculum, the bolstered coursework encourages students to engage head-on with complex ethical issues, and to deliberate the moral and philosophical dilemmas that may arise in their chosen career paths.

Programs like *Embedded Ethics* introduce these questions of ethics to the thousands of Stanford undergrads who enroll in core computer science courses each year. This program, which partners postdoctoral fellows with faculty, places ethics at the core of its lectures, assignments, and assessments. *Embedded Ethics* impresses upon students their responsibility to recognize and grapple with ethical issues—not just while studying their chosen fields, but throughout their lives and careers as well.

DEVELOPING NEW TEACHING METHODS

The **EST Faculty College** provides funding, space, time, and resources for small teams of faculty to develop new ideas that advance education about the ethical and societal implications of science and technology. Courses, methods, or programs developed within the EST Faculty College plant the seeds that may ultimately qualify for larger grants from foundations or government funding agencies.

BRINGING ETHICS INTO GRANT APPLICATIONS

The **Ethics and Society Review (ESR)** asks researchers to evaluate the short- and long-term risks posed by their research when applying for grants. Composed of an interdisciplinary team of Stanford faculty and researchers, the ESR was piloted as a requirement for artificial intelligence researchers to evaluate the potential ramifications of their work before receiving funding from the Stanford Institute for Human-Centered Artificial Intelligence (HAI). It is now being explored by other programs and schools throughout Stanford, and is being used as a model for several major tech companies. In addition, several outside companies and organizations are working with Stanford to learn more about the ESR process. These include the European Union Commission's Ethics Service, which is developing ethics review processes for its partner E.U. countries.

PUTTING THEORY INTO PRACTICE

EST Fellowships, a first-of-its-kind summer fellowship program, helps undergraduates gain real-world leadership experience and career exposure, allowing them to engage with concepts of ethics and policy in the technology sector. Fellows must complete two courses on ethics, policy, and technology before being eligible for a paid internship with a technology company, civil society organization, or public agency. Throughout the summer fellowship program, students are mentored by a team of expert Stanford faculty and affiliated fellows while gaining firsthand insight into the tech industry, civil society, and government.

IT TAKES ALL OF US, INCLUDING YOU.

We don't just measure success by what happens at Stanford—our impact is about advancing societal changes that reach far beyond our campus. To us, serving as an ethical university is not just a goal; it's a moral imperative.

Solutions felt by all require help from all—we can't do this alone. When we come together across disciplines, expertise, and life experience, we make progress. Please join us.

Learn more about the Ethics, Society, and Technology Hub here: *https://ethicsinsociety.stanford.edu/tech-ethics/ethics-society-and-technology-hub*

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