

# Right to AI

# What is Right to AI?

## Why it matters:

- AI increasingly shapes healthcare, finance, education, urban life.

## Catastrophic risks include:

- Loss of human control
  - Cyberattacks
  - Disinformation
  - Unintended deployment effects
- 
- Laws help, but AI often brings unforeseen challenges and harms.

# What is Right to AI?

## Why it matters:

- These systems are often designed and governed by a few experts.
- Excessive concentration of power.

## Key idea:

*"Every individual and community affected by AI has a right to AI: the ability and entitlement to shape, critique, and govern AI systems that influence their lives."*

**Inspiration:** Lefebvre's "*Right to the City*" → reimagined for AI.

# AI as Societal Infrastructure

## Core premise:

- AI is increasingly as fundamental as electricity, education, or public transportation.

## What are the key properties of an infrastructure?

- **Broad societal impact** – pervasive across critical domains.
- **Essential everyday role** – mediates daily decisions (education, energy healthcare, etc.).
- Collective management – requires shared oversight.

# Key Arguments

## **DEMOCRATIC LEGITIMACY**

**AI AFFECTS PUBLIC LIFE;  
HENCE THE PUBLIC  
SHOULD INFLUENCE AI  
DESIGN.**

**AVOID  
UNACCOUNTABLE,  
ELITE-DRIVEN  
GOVERNANCE.**

## **SOCIAL JUSTICE & PLURALISM**

**AI CAN BIAS OR  
EXCLUDE WITHOUT  
INCLUSIVITY.**

**PLURALISTIC INPUTS  
ENSURE MORE  
EQUITABLE OUTCOMES.**

## **EPISTEMIC AUTONOMY**

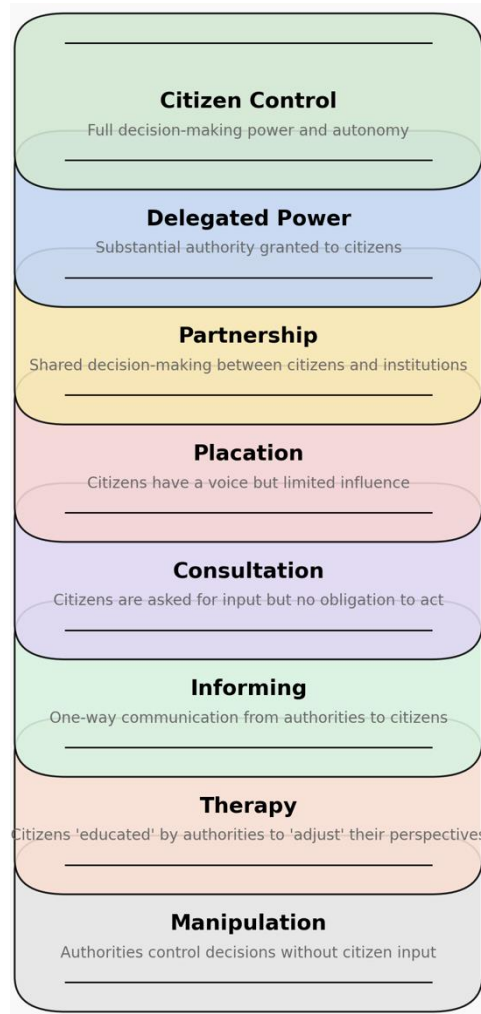
**AI SHAPES KNOWLEDGE  
ECOSYSTEMS AND  
NORMS.**

**AI MUST REFLECT  
DIVERSE, NOT  
CORPORATE OR  
HOMOGENEOUS,  
VISIONS.**

## **DATA PRODUCTION**

**DATA EMERGES FROM  
SOCIAL CONTEXTS; IT IS  
A COMMON RESOURCE.**

**DATA TRUSTS AND  
TRANSPARENCY  
PREVENT  
EXPLOITATION.**



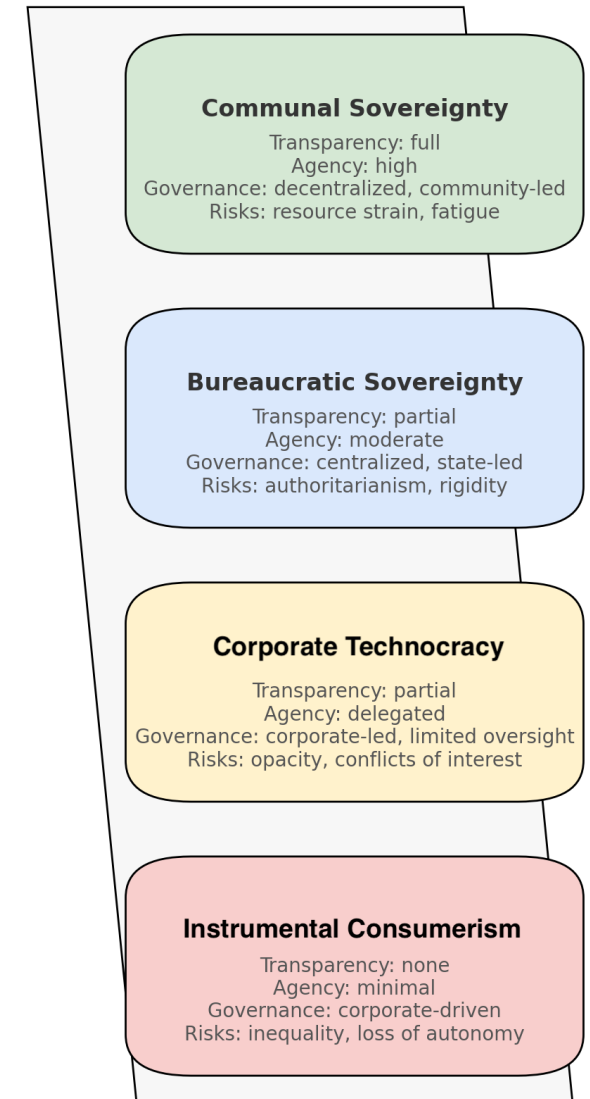
# The States of Right to AI

## Adapted framework:

- Based on Arnstein's Ladder of Citizen Participation.

## Why It's important:

- Situate the current state and the desired future state of AI.



# Lessons from Participatory Practices

- Balancing knowledge
- Resource commitment
- Conflict resolution
- Conflation – cooptation
- **Early engagement**
- **Building trust**

Table 1. Nine Examples of Participatory AI

Project	Why It Was Done	How It Was Implemented	Stakeholder Involvement	Domain / Application	Key Outcomes & Impact
<b>Anthropic’s Collective Constitutional AI (Huang et al., 2024b)</b>	Align AI with shared values	Ethical constitution, iterative feedback	AI researchers, end-users, ethicists	AI alignment	Exposed tensions in ethical frameworks
<b>PRISM Alignment Dataset (Kirk et al., 2024)</b>	Investigate cross-cultural alignment	Surveys of 1,500 participants	International participants, researchers	AI ethics	Revealed cultural disagreements
<b>MID-Space (Nayak et al., 2024)</b>	Democratize design visualization	Community-based annotation	Marginalized groups, planners	Urban planning	Incorporated localized perspectives
<b>Participatory Modelling for Agro-Pastoral Restoration (Eitzel et al., 2021)</b>	Include Indigenous knowledge	Co-created computational models	Farmers, modelers	Environmental sustainability	Context-driven land management solutions
<b>Co-Design of Trustworthy AI in Healthcare (Zicari et al., 2021)</b>	Address bias in medical AI	Iterative design with patients, clinicians	Patients, ethicists	Healthcare	Reduced diagnostic bias, enhanced trust
<b>Project Dorian (Berditchevskaia et al., 2021)</b>	Adapt AI for humanitarian settings	Human-in-the-loop feedback	NGO staff, data scientists	Crisis logistics	Facilitated faster resource allocation
<b>WeBuildAI: Participatory Algorithmic Governance (Lee et al., 2019)</b>	Develop collaborative governance	Workshops with civic groups	Civic groups, public officials	Computer science	Prototype participatory algorithms
<b>Participatory Research for Low-resourced Machine Translation (Nekoto et al., 2020)</b>	Scale NLP for low-resource African languages	Community-driven data collection, annotation, and workshops	African language speakers, researchers, linguists	Machine Translation, NLP	Novel datasets and benchmarks for over 30 languages; enabled community contributions
<b>Māori Data Sovereignty Initiative (Kukutai &amp; Taylor, 2016)</b>	Protect Māori language data and ensure community benefits	Establish Māori Data Sovereignty Protocols, community-led annotation	Māori community, linguists, indigenous organizations	Language technology, data sovereignty	Controlled data sharing, preservation of autonomy, community-led tech development

# Recommendations

## **Empower through education:**

- Workshops, open educational tools, interactive simulators.

## **Facilitate participation:**

- User-friendly interfaces, real-time feedback systems.

## **Formalize community assemblies:**

- Local AI councils with genuine advisory roles.

## **Establish data trusts & audits:**

- Transparent, community-managed data practices.

## **Local adaptation & mediation:**

- Context-specific models and conflict resolution panels.



# Conclusion

## Summing up:

- The Right to AI is about claiming **decision-making power**.
- It promotes ethical, inclusive, and accountable AI governance.

## Looking ahead:

- **Further studies** on Right to AI from other disciplines.
- Interdisciplinary collaboration and raising awareness is key.
- **Each of us can shape the right to AI through awareness.**

# Thank You!

<https://therighttoai.org/>



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