He, Robot: A Call for Integrating Equity in AI-Driven Impact Assessments

> Tara Howse May 2, 2025 Bologna, Italy

Background: The Equity Gap

"Two inequitable industries are merging – major resource projects and artificial intelligence – and risks the reproduction of harms"



Journal call – Papers gender blind

New & growing field

Practical applications of using AI

Challenges & Limitations

- Data quality
- Oversight and expertise
- Transparency and governance



Benefits of AI in IA

- Streamline data collection & analysis
- Risk identification and mitigation
- Applications across environmental and social

To Prompt, or Not to Prompt

Logan Young, Wayne Kelly, Ashley Weeden

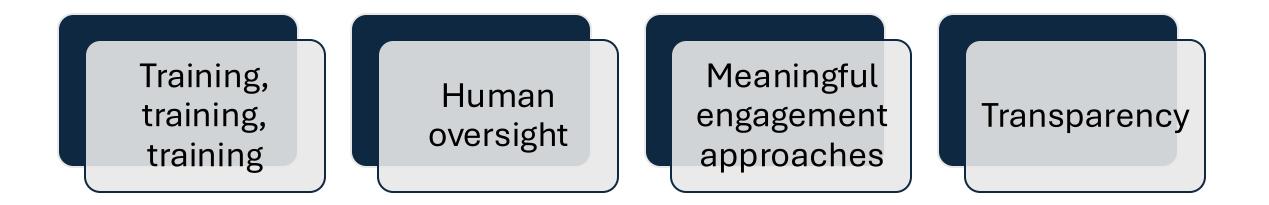
- Practical application: used ChatGPT to create community engagement plans
- Generated 21 plans
- Assumptions used: free account, IA practitioner with limited intersectionality, limited AI/LLM knowledge
- Used GRAS and IAP2

Findings of Experiment

- Not meaningful = perpetuating systemic inequities
- Indigenous but no mention of UNDRIP or FPIC
- Surface level mention of women
- No mention of 2SLGBTQIA+, disability



Recommendations





Conclusion

AI holds promise for IA but critical oversight and equity considerations are essential