



Antonio A. Casilli

Telecom Paris | Institut Polytechnique de Paris

Antonio A. Casilli is a professor of sociology at the Institut Polytechnique de Paris and a visiting researcher at the Internet and Society Centre (CIS) of the CNRS, the French national center for scientific research. He has conducted fieldwork in Asia, Africa, and Latin America and has coordinated several international research projects. He is the co-founder of the DiPLab (Digital Platform Labor) research program and he facilitates INDL (International Network on Digital Labor). Among his books, the award-winning book "En attendant les robots" ("Waiting for the Robots: An Inquiry into Click Work," University of Chicago Press, forthcoming). In 2020, he served as an editorial advisor for "Invisibles - Clickworkers," a documentary series for the French public television channel France Televisions, based on his research.

Abstract

'Effective regulation' and the real risks of AI

In May 2023, AI pioneer Geoffrey Hinton left Google to pursue a career as a public speaker, aiming to shape regulatory frameworks addressing the risks posed by AI to humanity. Concurrently, Sam Altman, CEO of OpenAI and figurehead of ChatGPT, dedicated several weeks to engage with policymakers, advocating for the "effective regulation" of increasingly potent AI tools. In spite of the initial mistrust, public opinion saw these efforts as a crucial steps towards aligning technology with legal standards. Regulation holds the potential to temper the tech industry's inclination to "move fast and break things". However, what characterizes this regulation? Why is it branded as "effective"? Why does it receive endorsement from influential figures in the tech sector? By examining the regulation of data annotation for AI, we will emphasize how today's intense focus on "existential risks to humanity" often obscures more pressing concerns such as AI-enhanced privacy violations, discrimination, and the rise of authoritarianism.