

Ubuntu-AI: A Bottom-up Approach to more Democratic and Equitable Training and Outcomes for Machine Learning



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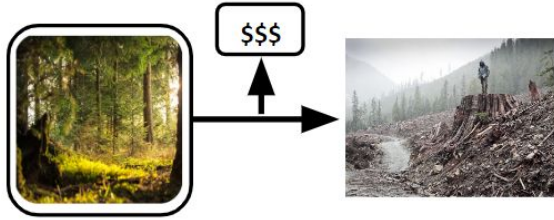


Joshua Mounsey

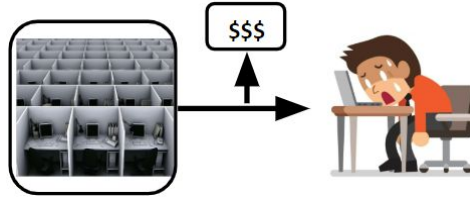


Ron Eglash

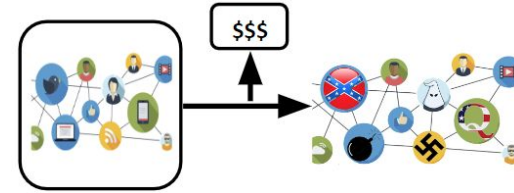
Problem: AI can amplify value extraction



Extracting ecological value
(eg compute's carbon footprint)
breaks nature's ability to regenerate

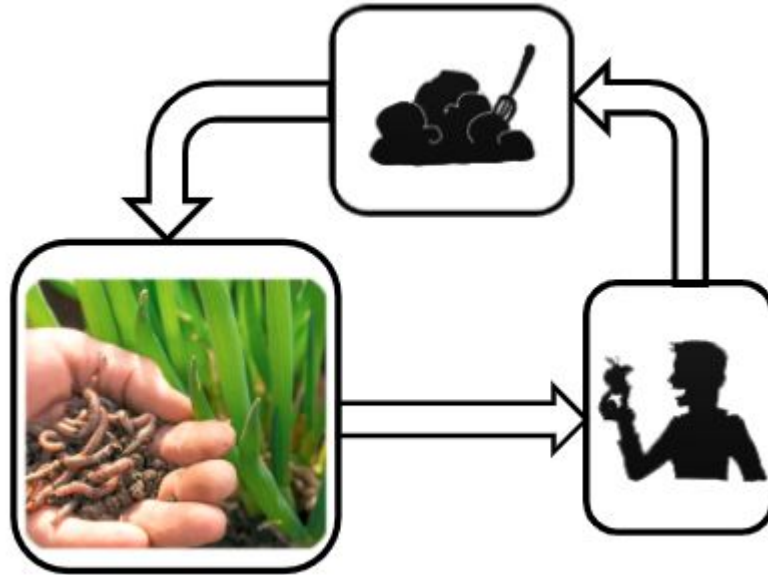


Extracting labor value (eg low-paid boring tasks) this destroys the pride and satisfaction that allows workers to regenerate



Extracting social value (eg rec algos amplify polarization) breaks society's regeneration of civil, democratic discourse.

But technological systems *don't have to extract value*: they can be designed to *circulate value* without alienation from its source

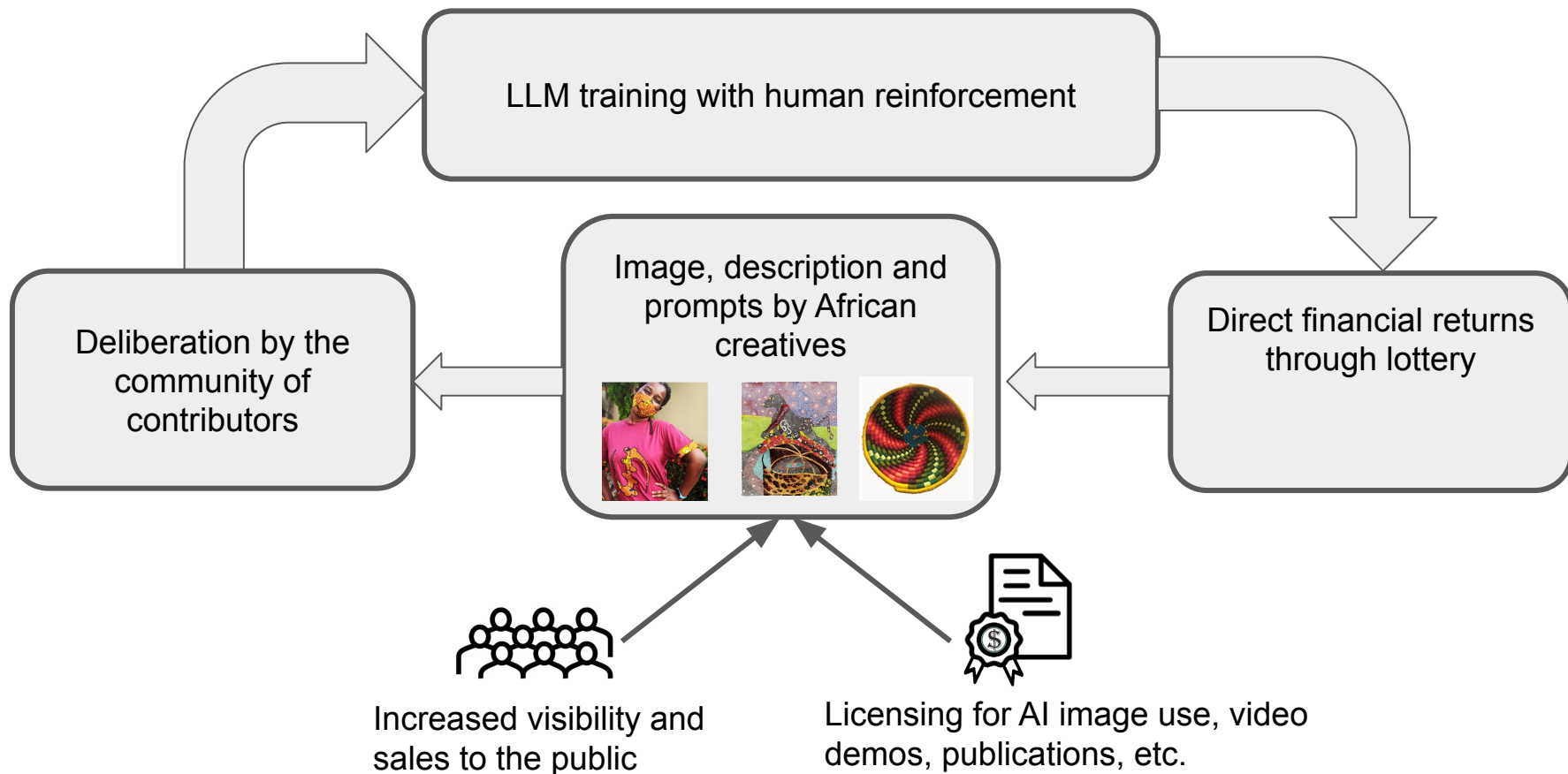


Generative Justice: circulating unalienated value back to those who generate it

Solution: develop AI training through a circular, generative economy

- Model training should *return value* to diverse, inclusive data providers
- Model training platforms should be democratically *controlled by* those data providers

Ubuntu-AI: Generative economy for Equitable and Inclusive Model Training



Creating prompts with an extractive economy

FORTUNE

A.I.'s exploitation of human workers could come back to bite it

Columbia Journalism Review

The Exploited Labor Behind Artificial Intelligence

Creating prompts within ubuntu-AI

- We ask artists: “what questions might someone ask, such that the AI brings them to your images?”
- Artists are ***self-motivated*** to come up with lots of prompts
- The information better reflects how they see themselves in knowledge seeking processes
- We can now refine the LLM trained on the artist’s descriptions using these prompts.

Figure 4: Comparing AI prompts in an extractive economy vs Ubuntu-AI’s generative justice approach

Democratizing AI training through a platform which:

- Returns economic value to data creators
- Strengthens rights for the data providers
- Facilitates its own democratic governance and deliberation
- Results in more inclusive knowledge depth and accuracy for AI

The case study is specific to African art

The ultimate aim is a model for generative economies that can be developed for any knowledge domain, in any geographic region.

Looking for partnership/ideas with:

Generative image producers:

- are there ways our artists might license with you?
- are their NST or other apps we could provide for free to our artists on the platform?

African partnering organizations:

- we would ideally like to hand off the platform to an African non-profit at the end of the research phase
- happy to follow up with anyone's suggestions for an NGO

Future funding: other AI initiatives interested in supporting this effort

Demo



All Projects

Submit Project



SaNdawatya

I was born in Harare, Zimbabwe, in 1990,...



Akoben Shirt

A soft t-shirt with the African-Heritage...





Upload your project?

[Platform Guide](#)

Do you need support in adding your project image or description?

Title

painting materials design technique weaving

poetry nature ritual performance practical craft

sculpture other

Description

No file chosen


Add question that will help user find your work?

Link to your main project


Make your image publicly seen

Keep in mind that the image and description you enter will be available to the public on the Ubuntu-AI website.


We will also use this to train Artificial Intelligence, so that when someone asks questions about African art, it can draw from your materials in its repository of knowledge.

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All Projects




SaNdawatya
I was born in Harare, Zimbabwe, in 1990,...




Chihwai hwai
Materials: Pen markers, acrylic paint, f...



Zadzadama
Materials: Pen markers, acrylic paint, p...




Kunyangira Yaona
Materials: Aluminium, patina, peephole, ...



Chiropa Chamutiro
Materials: Pen ink, calligraphy ink, gol...

1

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After the contribution is uploaded, they accept or reject comments from others: this is the first phase of the deliberative aspect of the platform.


Later phases may involve collective decision making functions, depending on what the community of contributors decides

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Title : SaNdawatya
Category: painting



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Project Details
I was born in Harare, Zimbabwe, in 1990, and I did my MFA at Virginia Commonwealth University in Virginia, USA and BFA at Chinhoyi University of Technology in Zimbabwe .There I did research on fractals, examining their relationship to patterns in traditional African designs, from basket weaving to architecture, traditional shona philosophies and town planning. I inherited from my father and grandfather a profound respect for the spirituality, archetypes, and rituals of my native Shona culture, which I bring into my art to show the flows of vital energy between living things. Artwork - SaNdawatya,2020
Here is the link to purchase this digital right as well as more work from the artist :
[Purchase Art](#)

For more: <https://www.artsy.net/artist/tendai-mupita>

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Comments(2)

Write your comment

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Mon, 25 Sep 2023

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The contributors also generate prompts

Ubuntu-AI

Projects

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Prompt

Settings

Find a prompt

Create a prompt

How is Shona traditional desig...

Delete Prompt

Edit Prompt

complexescolairekims@gmail.com contributor

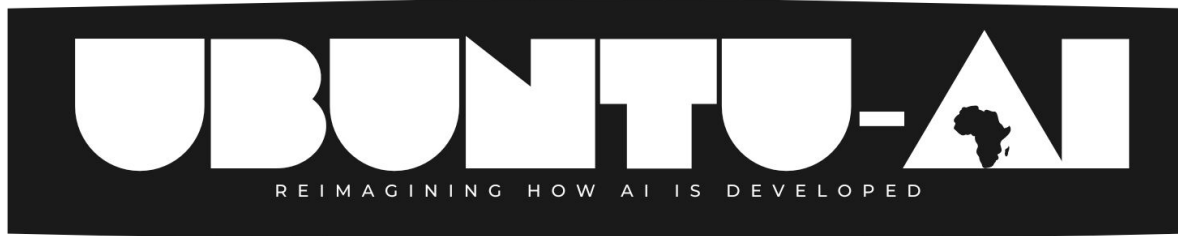
Please list examples of questions that could lead to the image you uploaded:

Which contemporary African artists discuss fractal geometry in their work?

Who is Zimbabwe artist Tendai Mupita?

What modern African art is described as showing “energy flows” between living beings?

How is Shona traditional design used by modern artists?



Asante
Medaase
Mweebale

Question & Comments?