

Career-Changing Experience from ASEM-DUO:
A Multicultural Lens on AI Ethics
Tang Xinwen

My journey towards becoming a philosopher of science, specializing in AI ethics from a multicultural perspective, has been an exhilarating journey paved with varied experiences and valuable lessons. I first immersed myself in the world of Digital Publishing at the Communication University of Zhejiang during my undergraduate years, a time filled with academic discoveries and personal growth. However, a burgeoning interest in Science Communication led me to the University of Science and Technology of China, a decision that signalled the first significant shift in my career trajectory.

In 2019, I was awarded the DUO-Belgium/Flanders Student Fellowship, an experience that brought forth profound changes in my life. This exchange opportunity took me to Belgium and enabled me to explore 15 other countries, each offering unique insights that broadened my perspective on culture, society, and human behavior. These experiences served to shake me out of my comfort zone, encouraging me to embrace the world as a playground teeming with endless possibilities and learning opportunities.



During this period, I found myself in situations that were utterly foreign to me: sleeping in airports and basements, grappling with the unfamiliar, and confronting challenges head-on. These experiences, though daunting at first, honed my adaptability and resilience, transforming me into a braver, more confident individual.

The landscapes and cityscapes were breathtaking, but it was the warm people and their diverse cultures that truly enriched my European journey. Instances like a Spanish mother offering me candy during a children's festival, or a kind elderly Belgian lady assisting me with a table, served as heartwarming reminders of the humanity that binds societies around the world. These encounters also underscored the cultural differences and diversity that make our world a fascinating tapestry of human experiences. It left an indelible mark on me, and ignited my interest in cultural contrast and harmony, which would later become a focal point of my research.



During my exchange program, I undertook a research project that examined audience views on AI ethics through social media platforms like Facebook. This research allowed me to delve deeper into the intricate subject of AI ethics, ultimately sparking my passion for this area of study. This early exploration marked the inception of my interest in the global conversation on AI ethics, serving as the cornerstone of my future academic pursuits.



Traveling further north to Scandinavia, I found myself in societies where gender equality was a living reality and not just an ideal. As a feminist, these environments were both enlightening and empowering. I was awed by the strides made in gender equity in these societies and was inspired to advocate for similar changes in my own country. I recognized the influence wielded by scholars and authorities in effecting change and resolved to become a catalyst for change in my own right.

Today, this resolve is stronger than ever. I recently received an internship offer from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), an opportunity that will allow me to manage their media operations in China. I hope to leverage this platform to promote

the power of science and technology for societal good and to bring attention to ethical considerations in AI.



IAEA

Atoms for Peace and Development
الوكالة الدولية للطاقة الذرية
国际原子能机构
International Atomic Energy Agency
Agence internationale de l'énergie atomique
Международное агентство по атомной энергии
Organismo Internacional de Energía Atómica

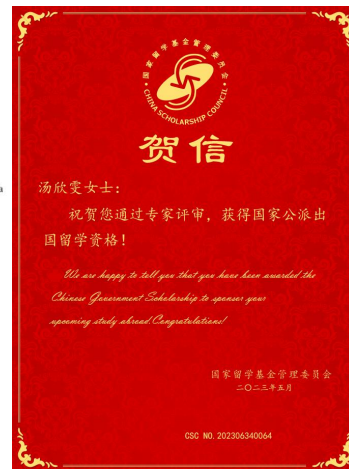
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China

Date: 20 April 2023

Dear Ms Xinwen Tang,

I am pleased to inform you that you have been awarded an internship in the



Back home in China, I stand on the precipice of a new chapter in my life as a doctoral student in Philosophy of Science. My research will delve into the fascinating contrasts between Chinese and Western philosophy, with a particular focus on the Sociology of Science. The heart of my academic pursuits lies in understanding how different cultural contexts influence the formulation of AI ethics systems.

Having had the privilege of being molded by both Eastern and Western philosophies, I am passionate about creating AI ethical guidelines that respect diverse cultural values. The cultural contrasts and harmonies I experienced during my ASEM-DUO fellowship were instrumental in shaping this conviction. With every place I visited, with every culture I encountered, I gathered a piece of the puzzle that makes up the global perspective on AI ethics.

The diversity of experiences has made it abundantly clear that a one-size-fits-all approach to AI ethics is not only impossible but also undesirable. Each society's cultural, philosophical, and societal background must play a crucial role in shaping the ethical guidelines that govern AI usage in that context. My research aims to make a meaningful contribution to this global conversation, ensuring that these multiple voices are heard and considered in the formulation of these guidelines.

The experiences from my ASEM-DUO fellowship, my studies, and upcoming roles have collectively shaped my academic interests and professional outlook. They have instilled in me the desire to contribute to the ethical advancement of AI in a manner that respects diverse cultural philosophies. The trajectory of my career was not predetermined. It was shaped by the myriad encounters and experiences that I had, each adding clarity and purpose to my journey.

As I prepare to embark on my Ph.D. journey and my internship role at IAEA, I am filled with anticipation and excitement. My research will not only contribute to the scholarly discourse on multicultural perspectives on AI ethics but also has the

potential to impact the ethical considerations in AI development and usage. At the IAEA, I look forward to using my role to propagate the use of science and technology for the greater good, in alignment with ethical considerations.

Looking back at my journey, it is evident that my exchange experience in Belgium and my travels throughout Europe were a crucial catalyst for the path that I have chosen. They opened my eyes to the cultural diversity that defines our world and highlighted the importance of considering these cultural differences in all global discourse, including AI ethics.

As I look ahead, I am committed to ensuring that my work contributes to a more ethical, more culturally sensitive AI landscape. I hope to make a difference, not just as a scholar but also as an advocate for societal change. I am eager to contribute my thoughts and ideas to the global discourse on AI ethics, aiming to ensure that every AI system respects the cultural context in which it operates.

In conclusion, my career-changing experience from ASEM-DUO has set me on a path that I could not have imagined at the onset. Yet, with every step, I find myself more convinced that this is the path that I am meant to be on. I am eager to explore the opportunities that lie ahead, excited about the potential contributions I can make, and inspired by the difference that I can make. This journey has only just begun, and I look forward to the many lessons, experiences, and contributions that lie ahead.