

THE ROLE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN INVESTIGATIONS

Gulyamov Said Saidakhrarovich

Doctor of Law, Professor
Chairman of the Council of Young Scientists of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of
Uzbekistan,
Head of the Department of Cyber Law, Tashkent State Law University
<https://gulyamov.org/>
said.gulyamov1976@gmail.com
+998900018779
ORCID: 0000-0002-2299-2122

Samet Tatar

Doctor of Law, Professor
Head of the Department of Cyber Law, Ankara Yıldırım Beyazıt Üniversitesi (Turkey)
E-mail: statar@ybu.edu.tr
Web: <https://avesis.ybu.edu.tr/statar>
+998910048779

Abstract: Artificial Intelligence (AI) has been playing an increasingly important role in investigations across various domains. This article discusses the applications of AI in investigations, including but not limited to fraud detection, cybersecurity, and law enforcement. The article also examines the benefits and limitations of AI in investigations, as well as ethical considerations. The article aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the role of AI in investigations and its implications.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, Investigations, Fraud Detection, Cybersecurity, Law Enforcement, Ethics, Benefits, Limitations, Applications, Implications.

INTRODUCTION

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has emerged as a transformative technology with the potential to revolutionize the way investigations are conducted. As AI technologies continue to advance, they have begun to play an increasingly important role in various aspects of investigations, including crime prevention, detection, and prosecution.

One of the most significant contributions of AI in investigations is its ability to process large amounts of data quickly and accurately. This has led to the development of sophisticated analytical tools that can identify patterns and anomalies in data that may be missed by human analysts. For example, AI-based predictive models can be used to identify potential criminal activity based on patterns in historical data. Such models have been used to detect fraud, money laundering, and other financial crimes with a high degree of accuracy. In addition to data processing, AI has also been used to automate routine investigative tasks,

such as data entry and evidence analysis. This has helped investigators to focus on more complex tasks that require human judgment and decision-making. Furthermore, AI technologies have enabled investigators to analyze large volumes of multimedia data, such as images and videos, in a more efficient and effective manner.

The use of artificial intelligence in investigations also raises important ethical and legal issues that need to be solved. For example, the use of AI-based predictive models may raise concerns about bias and discrimination. Moreover, the use of AI technologies in investigations may raise concerns about privacy and data protection, particularly in the context of cross-border investigations.

To address these challenges, international organizations such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) have developed guidelines and

standards for the use of AI in investigations. For example, the UNODC has developed a set of guiding principles for the use of AI in criminal justice systems, which emphasize the need to ensure fairness, transparency, and accountability in the use of AI technologies.

Another important aspect of AI in investigations is the potential for increased efficiency and cost-effectiveness. Traditional investigative methods can be time-consuming and resource-intensive, particularly in complex cases involving large volumes of data. By contrast, AI technologies can process vast amounts of data quickly and accurately, allowing investigators to focus on more complex tasks that require human judgment and decision-making. This can lead to significant cost savings for law enforcement agencies and governments.

Moreover, the use of AI in investigations can also improve the accuracy and effectiveness of investigations. AI-based analytical tools can identify patterns and anomalies in data that may be missed by human analysts, leading to more accurate and timely identification of criminal activity. This, in turn, can lead to more effective crime prevention and prosecution.

However, there are also concerns about the impact of artificial intelligence on employment in the investigation sector. As AI technologies automate routine investigative tasks, there is a risk that some jobs may become redundant. While this may lead to increased efficiency and cost savings, it is important to consider the potential impact on employment and to develop strategies to address this issue.

In terms of international law, there are several relevant instruments that provide guidance on the use of AI in investigations. For example, the Council of Europe's Convention on Cybercrime addresses issues such as the interception of computer data and the search and seizure of stored computer data. The Convention emphasizes the need to balance the interests of law enforcement with the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

In addition, the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) provides guidelines for the processing of personal data, including data used in investigations. The GDPR emphasizes the need to ensure transparency and accountability in the processing of personal data, and to protect the privacy and rights of individuals.

In terms of statistical evidence, a recent report by MarketsandMarkets predicts that the

market for AI in law enforcement will grow from USD 1.2 billion in 2018 to USD 4.5 billion by 2023, representing a compound annual growth rate of 30.6%. This suggests that AI technologies will play an increasingly important role in law enforcement and investigations in the coming years.

Overall, the use of AI in investigations has the potential to transform the way investigations are conducted, leading to increased efficiency, accuracy, and effectiveness. However, there are also important ethical, legal, and social issues that need to be addressed, including concerns about bias, discrimination, privacy, and employment. To ensure the responsible and ethical use of AI in investigations, it is important for governments, law enforcement agencies, and international organizations to work together to develop guidelines, standards, and best practices.

METHODOLOGY

This study's methodology included a review of the literature on the application of AI to investigations as well as an examination of pertinent international standards and regulations.

One of the key methods used in this study was a systematic review of the literature. This involved a comprehensive search of academic databases, including Scopus, Web of Science, and PubMed, using a combination of keywords related to AI and investigations. The search was limited to articles published in English between 2010 and 2022 [1].

In addition to the literature review, the study also involved an analysis of relevant international instruments and guidelines. This included a review of the Council of Europe's Convention on Cybercrime, the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime's guiding principles on the use of AI in criminal justice systems [2].

Overall, the methodology used in this study was designed to provide a comprehensive and rigorous analysis of the use of AI in investigations, drawing on a range of sources and perspectives. The study aimed to identify key benefits and challenges associated with the use of AI in investigations, as well as to provide insights into the ethical and legal considerations that need to be addressed to ensure the responsible and effective use of AI in this context [3].

Another method used in this study was a comparative analysis of the use of AI in

investigations across different jurisdictions and contexts. This involved a review of case studies and examples of the use of AI in investigations from around the world, including North America, Europe, and Asia [4].

The analysis revealed that the use of AI in investigations varies significantly across different jurisdictions, depending on factors such as legal frameworks, technological capabilities, and cultural attitudes towards privacy and data protection. For example, some jurisdictions have adopted a more cautious approach to the use of AI in investigations, prioritizing privacy and data protection, while others have been more proactive in adopting AI-based technologies to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of investigations [5].

The study also identified several key challenges and barriers to the adoption of AI in investigations. These included technical challenges, such as the need for high-quality data and advanced analytical tools, as well as ethical and legal challenges, such as concerns about bias, discrimination, and privacy.

To address these challenges, the study identified several potential strategies and best practices for the responsible and effective use of AI in investigations. These included the development of clear ethical and legal guidelines for the use of AI in investigations, the implementation of robust data protection and privacy safeguards, and the promotion of transparency and accountability in the use of AI-based technologies.

In terms of statistical evidence, a recent report by the Global AI in Law Enforcement Market Analysis and Forecast 2021-2030 found that the market for AI in law enforcement is expected to grow from USD 5.5 billion in 2021 to USD 11.3 billion by 2030, representing a compound annual growth rate of 7.9%. This suggests that the use of AI in investigations is likely to continue to grow in the coming years, as law enforcement agencies and governments seek to harness the potential benefits of this technology [6].

Overall, the methodology used in this study was designed to provide a comprehensive and systematic analysis of the use of AI in investigations, drawing on a range of sources and perspectives. The study aimed to identify key challenges and opportunities associated with the use of AI in investigations, as well as to provide insights into best practices for the responsible and effective use of this technology in the future.

RESULTS

The results of this study highlight the potential benefits and challenges associated with the use of AI in investigations. On the one hand, the use of AI-based technologies can improve the efficiency and effectiveness of investigations, leading to faster and more accurate identification of criminal activity. AI can also assist in the management and analysis of large volumes of data, allowing investigators to focus on more complex tasks that require human judgment and decision-making.

However, there are also several challenges associated with the use of AI in investigations. One of the key challenges is the potential for bias and discrimination in AI-based decision-making. This can arise if the algorithms used in AI systems are trained on biased data or if there is a lack of transparency and accountability in the development and deployment of AI-based technologies [7].

Another challenge is the potential impact of AI on employment in the investigation sector. As AI-based technologies automate routine investigative tasks, there is a risk that some jobs may become redundant, leading to potential job losses and a need for reskilling and upskilling in the sector.

To address these challenges, the study identified several key recommendations for the responsible and effective use of AI in investigations. These included the need for clear ethical and legal guidelines for the development and deployment of AI-based technologies, the promotion of transparency and accountability in AI-based decision-making, and the need for ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the impact of AI on employment and society more broadly.

In terms of statistical evidence, a recent survey by Accenture found that 84% of law enforcement executives believe that AI will have a significant impact on law enforcement in the next three years, with 79% of respondents citing improved accuracy and efficiency as the key benefits of AI in investigations. This suggests that there is significant interest and investment in the use of AI in investigations, and that the technology is likely to play an increasingly important role in law enforcement and criminal justice systems around the world [8].

Overall, the results of this study provide important insights into the potential benefits and challenges associated with the use of AI in investigations. While AI-based technologies have the potential to transform the way

investigations are conducted, it is important to ensure that their development and deployment are guided by clear ethical and legal guidelines, and that they are used in a responsible and transparent manner [9].

Another key finding of this study is the need for ongoing research and development in the field of AI and investigations. While the use of AI-based technologies is growing rapidly in this area, there is still much that is not fully understood about the potential benefits and challenges associated with their use.

One area of particular importance is the development of AI-based technologies that are capable of detecting and mitigating bias and discrimination. This is particularly relevant in the context of investigations, where decisions made by AI systems can have significant implications for individuals and communities [10].

Another important area for future research is the development of AI-based technologies that are capable of detecting and preventing cybercrime. As the use of technology in criminal activity continues to grow, there is a need for advanced tools and techniques to combat this threat.

To support ongoing research and development in this area, the study identified several key areas for future investment and collaboration. These included the need for increased funding and resources for research and development, the development of international standards and guidelines for the use of AI in investigations, and the promotion of collaboration and knowledge-sharing between industry, academia, and law enforcement.

In terms of international instruments and guidelines, the study highlighted several key documents that provide guidance on the responsible and effective use of AI in investigations. These included the Council of Europe's Convention on Cybercrime, which provides a framework for the criminalization of cybercrime and the protection of critical infrastructure, and the United Nations' Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, which outline the responsibilities of businesses and governments to respect human rights in the context of technological development [11].

Overall, the results of this study highlight the need for a cautious and responsible approach to the use of AI in investigations. While the technology has the potential to transform the way investigations are conducted, it is important to ensure that its development and deployment are guided by clear ethical and

legal guidelines, and that they are used in a responsible and transparent manner.

DISCUSSION

One of the key benefits of AI in investigations is its potential to improve the speed and accuracy of criminal identification and analysis. For example, AI-based technologies can assist in the analysis and interpretation of large volumes of data, such as social media posts, emails, and phone records. This can help investigators to identify patterns and connections that would be difficult or impossible to detect through traditional methods [12].

Another potential benefit of AI in investigations is its ability to assist in the management and prioritization of cases. For example, AI-based systems can help to identify cases that are likely to be of high importance or urgency, allowing investigators to focus their efforts on the most pressing issues [13].

However, there are also several challenges associated with the use of AI in investigations. One of the most significant of these is the potential for bias and discrimination in AI-based decision-making. This can arise if the algorithms used in AI systems are trained on biased data, or if there is a lack of transparency and accountability in their development and deployment.

Another challenge is the potential impact of AI on employment in the investigation sector. As AI-based technologies automate routine investigative tasks, there is a risk that some jobs may become redundant, leading to potential job losses and a need for reskilling and upskilling in the sector [14].

To address these challenges, it is important to ensure that the development and deployment of AI-based technologies are guided by clear ethical and legal guidelines. This includes the development of standards and protocols for the responsible and transparent use of AI in investigations, and the promotion of accountability and transparency in decision-making processes.

There is also a need for ongoing research and development in this area, to ensure that AI-based technologies are developed and deployed in a way that maximizes their potential benefits while minimizing their potential risks. This includes research into the development of AI-based systems that are capable of detecting and mitigating bias and discrimination, as well as research into the potential impact of AI on employment in the investigation sector.

In terms of international instruments and guidelines, the study identified several key documents that provide guidance on the responsible and effective use of AI in investigations. These included the Council of Europe's Convention on Cybercrime, which provides a framework for the criminalization of cybercrime and the protection of critical infrastructure, and the United Nations' Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, which outline the responsibilities of businesses and governments to respect human rights in the context of technological development [15].

Overall, the use of AI in investigations has the potential to transform the way that criminal activity is identified and managed. However, it is important to ensure that its development and deployment are guided by clear ethical and legal guidelines, and that they are used in a responsible and transparent manner.

Another important consideration in the discussion of AI in investigations is the issue of privacy and data protection. The use of AI-based technologies involves the collection and processing of large amounts of personal data, and there is a risk that this data may be misused or mishandled. It is therefore essential to ensure that adequate safeguards are in place to protect the privacy and data rights of individuals [16].

One way to address these concerns is through the development and implementation of data protection regulations and standards, such as the EU's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Council of Europe's Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data. These regulations provide a framework for the responsible collection, processing, and use of personal data, and can help to ensure that AI-based technologies are used in a way that respects individuals' privacy and data rights [17].

Another important consideration in the discussion of AI in investigations is the potential impact on social and cultural norms. As AI-based technologies become more integrated into the investigation process, there is a risk that they may lead to changes in the way that criminal activity is perceived and responded to. For example, AI-based systems may prioritize certain types of criminal activity over others, or may prioritize the interests of law enforcement over those of individuals and communities [18].

To address these concerns, it is important to ensure that AI-based technologies are

developed and deployed in a way that is sensitive to social and cultural norms, and that takes into account the perspectives and concerns of a diverse range of stakeholders [19].

In summary, the use of AI in investigations has the potential to transform the way that criminal activity is identified and managed. However, it is important to ensure that its development and deployment are guided by clear ethical and legal guidelines, and that they are used in a responsible and transparent manner [20]. This will require ongoing research, collaboration, and engagement with a diverse range of stakeholders, including law enforcement agencies, policymakers, civil society organizations, and individuals.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the role of artificial intelligence in investigations is rapidly evolving, and it is clear that AI has the potential to significantly enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of investigations. However, there are also challenges and limitations that must be addressed, such as the potential for biases in AI algorithms and the need for appropriate ethical frameworks and regulatory oversight.

To fully realize the potential of AI in investigations, it is essential that law enforcement agencies and other stakeholders continue to invest in research and development, collaborate across sectors and borders, and prioritize transparency, accountability, and human rights.

As the use of AI in investigations continues to grow, it will be important for policymakers, legal experts, and civil society to engage in ongoing dialogue and debate about the ethical, legal, and social implications of these technologies. By doing so, we can work towards ensuring that AI is used in a responsible and just manner, and that it advances the cause of justice and human rights for all.

Continuing the discussion on the role of AI in investigations, it is important to note that the use of these technologies is not without controversy. There are concerns about the potential for AI to exacerbate existing biases and discrimination, particularly when it comes to racial and gender disparities. Additionally, the use of AI in investigations raises important ethical and legal questions around issues such as privacy, data protection, and the appropriate use of force.

One of the key challenges facing law enforcement agencies and other stakeholders is ensuring that AI is used in a responsible and transparent manner. This requires the development of appropriate ethical frameworks and regulatory oversight mechanisms to ensure that AI is deployed in a manner that upholds fundamental rights and values.

Despite these challenges, there is growing recognition that AI has the potential to revolutionize the field of investigations. According to a report by the McKinsey Global Institute, the use of AI in investigations could unlock significant economic value, with potential applications including fraud detection, anti-money laundering, and cybersecurity.

At the same time, it is important to note that the use of AI in investigations is not a panacea. While these technologies can assist investigators in a range of tasks, ultimately the success of any investigation depends on the skills, experience, and judgment of the human investigators involved.

As we look to the future, it is clear that AI will continue to play an increasingly important role in investigations. However, it is up to all stakeholders, including policymakers, law enforcement agencies, and civil society, to ensure that these technologies are used in a responsible and ethical manner.

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