A trust-based approach: investigating how the use of big data and AI can affect trust in and within governments

Bjorn Kleizen

27/11/2020

UAntwerpen, Department of Political Science, GOVTRUST Centre of Excellence



Considering trust in big data/AI from an organizational/societal perspective

Useful developments, but using 'unfamiliar' technologies in government may impact:

- citizens
- governments themselves





Lack of trust in government: lowered legitimacy, reduced voluntary compliance Lack of internal trust (within government): cooperation issues, development issues, window-dressing problems

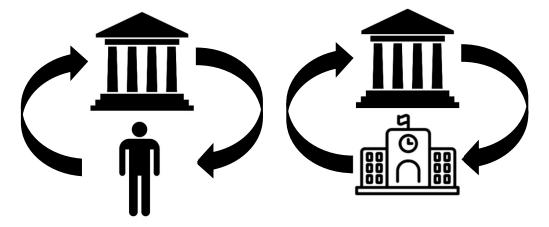


A disconnect between governmental action and citizen perceptions?

Are legal compliance, accountability, fairness and XAI sufficient conditions for citizen trust?

Algorithm aversion, reputations and audiences, perceived procedural

fairness





Maintaining trust in government/technologies

Under-researched, but some tentative hypotheses:

- Avoid trust breaches
 - Role for legal compliance/AI development likely lies here
- Work transparently (e.g. Al-registry/access for civil society organizations)
- Positive framing information seems to help, but avoid manipulating perception



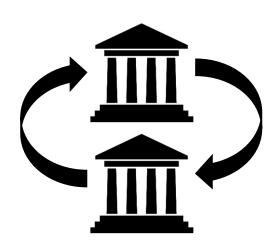
Between classic and data-driven supervision

Trust within governments

Simultaneously: changing towards such a governance model requires addressing multiple challenges beyond data-gathering, development and analysis:

- Respecting institutionalized environments
- Changing cultures, priorities, procedures, structures
- Skepticism resulting from structures (client side vs. development side)
- Acceptance of new technologies

All these factors can generate internal trust problems



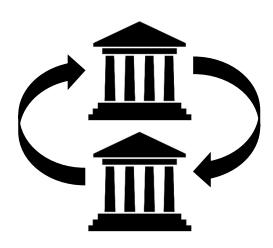


Maintaining trust within governments

Change management

- Information
- Participation

Focus on trust relationships between commissioners and developers





In conclusion

Relevance of societal/organizational trust may sound apparent

But at least some cases suggest this remains a challenge

Further research needed

