

**My Thoughts On:  
AI Governance in the Global South**

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POLS 2100: International Relations

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22 September 2024

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I understand that GENIA would like a product before being regulated. And that they are “for” regulation. And I understand GENIA and Jean Garcia-Periche’s patriotism and wanting to help lift their country and their region up from what has, in modern history, been impoverished. However, Mr. Garcia-Periche has stated that GENIA will have a working Beta of their AI in December. Their product already exists, and so too, does its potential for harm though it is not a finished product. GENIA is operating in a volatile region where access to such an Artificial Intelligence as they want to facilitate could create an inequality that appears to have not been thought of by those close to the Public Benefit Corporation (PBC). Or, in this case I’d label it a power imbalance.

I heard Mr. Garcia-Periche speak on “AI governance in the Global South: Lessons from Latin America.” I spoke with him afterward and I’m don’t know if he was unsure of what I was getting at, or if he was trying to misdirect, or was intentionally ambiguous about it, but I do not feel comfortable with the lack of thought to safeguards to ensure their product does not prop up, to potentially exorbitant levels, Cartels, Authoritarian Regimes, and/or Dictators of the Global South. And this is made even more worrisome because of what a Public Benefit Corporation is.

*As explained by The Cornell Law School, “...private, for profit [sic] entities and corporations can also be considered public benefit corporations, also known as a PBCs, Benefit Corporations, or B Corps. Unlike traditional C Corporations whose primary interest is maximizing shareholder value, public benefit corporations balance stakeholders’ pecuniary interests, the interests of those who are involved and affected*

*by the corporation (such as employees and customers), as well as the advancement of their intended public benefit goal."*

This is important because, while it's true that they are not required to prioritize their shareholders, their shareholders do still own a portion of their company. And they will still need to make their shareholders happy. This means it is very important who their shareholders are, and who their shareholders are connected to.

Latin America is considered a volatile region economically, politically, and socially, and has been for more than a century. Mexico and Columbia have been large players in the illicit drug trade for a long time. It appears that their influence is growing, with Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Paraguay, and Costa Rica becoming expansions of the violent Cartels that operate in Latin America. Cuba, Nicaragua, and Venezuela are Authoritarian-Ruled, with Venezuela being a relative newcomer to the group. As stated by Isabela De los Rios Hernández, staff writer for the Harvard International Review: "Politics and poverty, the stabilizers of the drug trafficking world."

These things are additional evidences to me, and indicates that it's a possibility that other countries in the near vicinity, like Guyana, where there have been territorial disputes, and including its proximity to Venezuela, and its relatively small size, it seems inevitable to be pushed in that direction, even though they are closely aligned with the US and UK right now. One really bad year in Brazil, which has some history of authoritarianism and large crime syndicates, could push them toward the biggest financier, and potentially further down the authoritarian spiral. Paraguay, where Cocaine Cartels are currently setting up shop, so to speak, and Authoritarianism has already been

ruling, could easily find refuge into the arms of stronger politically aligned allies, as scarcity can and does.

It's clear that the long history of volatility in the region of Latin America is a symptom of something that has unfortunately already taken root. And because of this, as even Mr. Garcia-Periche stated, there will be greater inequality, of which it is already quite sizeable. But I strongly believe that inequality will have a higher level of corruption than the United States, and should Authoritarian Nations and Drug Cartels gain access, or even a stake in this shareholder operated for-profit company, that the southern border of the United States will be at even greater risk. The problem of volatility will be exacerbated. The hoped-for 4<sup>th</sup> Superpower of the world will be aligned with countries like Russia and China, and will have a highly intelligent means of rule, dedicated to their political position. Perhaps beyond that, a three-body-esque problem emerges of authoritarian regimes.

Yes, this is highly speculative, but this is why I think these things should be thought through. I'm perfectly willing to accept that maybe I missed something, or perhaps my ability to communicate or be communicated to was in error, maybe a language barrier. But I have a problem with not addressing those kinds of concerns even before making the AI, let alone after having a working Beta of an AI.

For more than a decade I have been a proponent of building up Latin America. I think that doing so, Mexico in particular – a Mexico that can and will defend itself against the Cartels, and one where its citizens can make enough money to provide for their families – would do more to strengthen our borders, in my opinion, than anything historically or recently proposed. LATAM 4.0 and GENIA would absolutely be something

worth supporting! And the United States needs to get its ass down there. But I was not assured that GENIA would be able to protect data privacy. I was not assured they would not be available to the highest bidder, or the strongest enemy, or perhaps worse, I was not assured that they, and the United States would have safeguards against the biggest "love-bomber" to come their way (think Moscow or China, etc.).

For reference, "love-bombing" is an excessive form of flattery generally perpetrated by an abusive partner. Where the definition of flattery is, *"insincere or excessive praise."* Love-bombing is, *"a pattern of overly affectionate behavior that typically occurs at the beginning of a relationship...in which one party "bombs" the other with over-the-top displays of adoration and attention. This behavior can include showering the other person [country] with gifts and/or compliments...and/or taking steps to remain in constant contact and spend increasing amounts of time together. Love bombing is considered a deliberate and manipulative tactic that is deployed in order to gain the upper hand over a new partner and increase...dependence on the bomber. Because of this, it is often attributed to individuals who are high in narcissism or other antisocial traits or those who engage in domestic violence; it has also been frequently used in reference to cults..."*

Ulterior motives abound! Which is fair. What government doesn't have those, and what government doesn't have its problems? But I believe the United States is mostly in the moral right. I believe we have a lot of "enemies" who are using things like BRICS to try and subvert the worlds reliance on the U.S. dollar (I don't think they are in any position to have us worried, but they exist). There are stated goals of "offering an alternative model

to "...global governance..." and these alternative models are trying to undermine "...Washington's preferences for international order."

All these, and other, potentialities, as well as GENIA's seeming obfuscation (at worst) or passivity (at best) give me great pause.

Yes, the United States should be "that" ally, which could help mitigate adversarial support. But there also needs to be some concessions made before offering such support. Beyond concessions, outright assurances, a pact, should seriously be considered and written out. To make such a massive inequality as AI can prepare, in such a region as unstable as Latin America, I believe would only exacerbate the political, economic, and social instability.

To think of a worst-case scenario, one could imagine what an authoritarian or dictator could do with a potentially massive number of environmental resources, and possibly the human capital needed, as well as an Artificial Intelligence to organize a collective of countries with money and power as a motive would do. And, according to a recent poll by the Pew Research Center, "support for authoritarianism is high in middle-income countries" such as many in Latin America, and there is a correlative "...strong negative relationship between authoritarianism and the other democratic values." These facts, with this paradigm shift that Jean wants for his region could do more than create his optimal outcome of "...more inequality with less poverty [rather] than more equality with more poverty." It could give exponential power to regimes we don't want to have more power. Then, perhaps, those new powers coalesce with old powers to form new-to-them allies but are considered enemies of freedom to us. And, according to Mark L. Schneider, Senior Adviser (Non-resident), Americas Program and Human Rights Initiative,

The Economist states, "Latin America has witnessed the sharpest regression in democracy of any region in the twenty-first century and is "heading in the wrong direction.""

With the answers we heard to questions that were related to safety from the above kinds of things happening, from several people, I'd be worried about GENIA's success.

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