Was Rahman
Interdisciplinary Researcher, Ethical AI in Business

was.rahman@gmail.com | was.rahman@uni-bonn.de

Current roles

Center for Science & Thought,
Universität Bonn   **2023 – Present**   **(Bonn, Germany)**

Visiting Researcher   *The "next generation" of AI Ethics*
- Multi-disciplinary investigation of the evolution of AI Ethics as AI becomes increasingly integrated into everyday life, including in particular how technology systems are developed, governed and regulated.

Research Fellow   *"Desirable Digitalisation"*
- Collaboration with Cambridge University's Leverhulme Centre for the Future of Intelligence. Research activities & deliverables to support the long-term goal of "Rethinking AI for Just & Sustainable Futures".

AI Expert Working Group,
UKTIN   **2023 – Present**   **(London/Cambridge, UK)**

Group Member   *AI ethics representative on UK govt advisory body for UK telecoms industry*
- Contributing AI ethics perspectives to white papers, industry consultations and workshops, with the overall goal of informing government policy and industry strategic direction.

Ethics and Information Technology,
Springer   **2023 – Present**   **(Heidelberg, Germany)**

Reviewer   *Review journal submissions for publication in peer-reviewed journal*
- Ethics and Information Technology is a peer-reviewed journal dedicated to advancing the dialogue between moral philosophy and the field of information and communication technology (ICT).

CRISP - Centre for Research into Information
Surveillance & Privacy   **2022 – Present**   **(Coventry, UK)**

Doctoral Student Researcher   *Organise, participate in & support conferences, papers & research visits*
- A collaborative research initiative between the Universities of Stirling, St Andrews, Edinburgh, Essex & Coventry. Its focus is the political, legal, economic & social dimensions of the surveillance society.

CogX Festival   **2022 – Present**   **(London, UK)**

Editorial Committee Member   *AI ethics input to "world's biggest festival of AI & transformational tech"*
- Advising on AI Ethics themes, topics, speakers & academic participants for the annual festival.

Centre for Business in Society,
Coventry University   **2020 – Present** (due to complete 2024)   **(Coventry, UK)**

PhD Researcher   *Thesis title: "The impact of varying definitions & concepts of 'fairness' when AI is used in business decision-making"*
- Interpretivist multi-disciplinary investigation of how fairness is considered & used in business. Focus on HR decisions made using AI e.g. recruitment. Currently completing primary data gathering (interviews).

Royal Statistical Society   **2019 – Present**   **(London, UK)**

Fellow   *Professional body for statisticians & data analysts*
- Member of the leading international body in this field, participating in conferences and workshops.

AI Prescience   **2018 – Present**   **(London, UK)**

CEO & Principal Consultant   *Provide ethical AI strategy, education & compliance/audit services*
- Working with senior business leaders to provide guidance on the impact of AI on their organisations. Primarily consisting of education sessions, strategy workshops & compliance/audit reviews.

Past roles

SKAI Labs   2016 – 2018   **(UK)**
Chief Client Officer   *Delivered AI development services to enterprise & SME clients*
- Developing AI systems and solutions for businesses e.g. predictive analytics for marketing.

Zayah   2015 – 2018   **(UK)**
Chief Technology Officer   *Launched digital startup creating/commercialising e-commerce & content*
- Responsible for technology stack & operations, sales analytics, content mgt. & e-commerce operations.

Wipro Technologies   2014 – 2015   **(UK/India/Australia/Singapore)**
VP, Govt & Higher Education *Led 300 person $70M digital tech business unit serving public sector clients*
- Delivered digital transformation projects to local govts., central govt. depts. & universities.

Dolphin Advisory   2007 – 2014   **(UK/India)**
Consulting Partner   *Provided technology & business strategy services to SME & enterprise clients*
- Developed business & technology strategies, also raised investment funding for startup & SME clients.

UK Trade & Investment   2008 – 2013   **(UK/India/Singapore/USA)**
Technology Sector Specialist *Advised UK govt agency helping UK digital/tech SMEs grow internationally*
- Supported UK tech SMEs & university spin-outs with conferences, trade missions & personalised advice.

Infosys Technologies   2002 – 2007   **(UK/India/Australia/Japan)**
Head – EMEA Strategy,
Innovation & Alliances   *Exec Council member of $450M business unit of global tech services firm*
- Developed & incubated new technology services in partnership with tech firms & research institutions.

Publicis Groupe   1998 – 2002   **(UK/Germany/US/Benelux)**
Client Partner   *Delivered digital & e-commerce services to enterprise, SME & startup clients*
- Developed early web and digital technology solutions during the dot-com boom.

Andersen Consulting
[now Accenture]   1993 – 1998   **(UK/Poland/Hungary/Czech Republic/Slovakia)**
Practice Head   *Set up Polish Telecoms & Change Mgt. units of global tech consultancy*
- Technology & organisational change projects in post-Soviet Central & Eastern Europe.

LBMS   1990 – 1993   **(UK/Ireland)**
Consultant & Trainer   *Software engineering tools, methodologies & education services*
- Developed methodologies & tools to improve efficiency of & semi-automate software development.

Samuel Montagu Merchant Bank
[now HSBC]   1988 – 1990   **(UK)**
Business systems analyst   *Risk/Compliance dept: Analysed bank-wide IT impact of regulatory changes*
- Reviewed upcoming major changes in banking regulations, to assess & specify all IT changes required.

Academic education

Centre for Business in Society,
Coventry University   2020 – 2024
PhD (in progress)   *Thesis title: "The impact of varying definitions & concepts of 'fairness' when AI is used in business decision-making"*

Coventry University   1986 – 1987
MSc (Distinction)   *Computer Science & Information Systems Development. Dissertation title: "Optimising manufacturing production line batch sizes with Expert Systems"*

Merton College,
University of Oxford   1983 – 1986
BA (Hons)   *Physics. Final year specialisation: Atomic & Quantum Physics*

Professional qualifications (selected)

ForHumanity.Center   **2022** (Distance learning)
Professional Certification   *Foundations of Independent Audit of AI Systems*

Stanford University   **2018** (Distance learning)
Professional Certification   *Machine Learning*

DeepLearning.AI   **2018** (Distance Learning)
Professional Certification   *Structuring Machine Learning Projects*

The Johns Hopkins University **2018** (Distance Learning)
Professional Certification   *Data Science*

University of Michigan   **2018** (Distance Learning)
Professional Certification   *Data Science Ethics*

Yonsei University   **2018** (Distance Learning)
Professional Certification   *Deep Learning for Business*

**Universitat Autònoma
de Barcelona**   **2018** (Distance Learning)
Professional Certification   *Emotions: A Philosophical Introduction*

Publications and writing (selected)

Books

[IN PROGRESS] *How Big Data Influences What We (Think We) Know*. SAGE Publications, Due 2024. Print.

AI and Machine Learning. SAGE Publications, 2020. Print.

Rahman, Was, and Priya Kurien. *Blind Men and the Elephant: Demystifying the Global IT Services Industry*. SAGE Publications, 2007. Print.

Information Systems in Development and Operation. ACCA: Hutchinson, 1987. Print.

Articles

"HR Professionals Need to Understand How AI is Affecting Jobs." *HR Future* 2021.2 (2021): 22-23. Print.

"Scaling AI: 5 Reasons Why It's Difficult." *Towards Data Science* (28 July 2020). Web.

"Estimating AI Project Costs & Timescales: 4 Rules of Thumb." *Towards Data Science* (30 April 2020). Web.

"5 AI Pitfalls for Business & How to Avoid Them." *Towards Data Science* (7 April 2020). Web.

"Starbucks Isn't a Coffee Business — It's a Data Tech Company." *Marker* (16 January 2020). Web.

"The Netflix Prize — How Even AI Leaders Can Trip Up." *Towards Data Science* (12 January 2020). Web.

"Why Coca Cola Uses AI to Create Intelligent Vending Machines." *Towards Data Science* (20 December 2019). Web.

"7 Habits of Highly Effective AI Business Projects." *Towards Data Science* (9 December 2019). Web.

"An Introduction to Artificial Intelligence for Business Leaders." *Towards Data Science* (Dec 3, 2019). Web.

Kurien, Priya, Was Rahman, and VS Purushottam. "The Case for Re-Examining IT Effectiveness." *Journal of Business Strategy* 25.2 (2004): 29-36. Print.

"Software Quality by Management." *Information & Software Technology* 29.9 (1987): 511–16. Print.

Conferences, seminars & workshops (selected)

"Ethical considerations for people analytics." *CIPD People Analytics Conference.* London, 11 October 2023 (scheduled). Speaker.

"Bias & discrimination risks in AI." *Edifai Academy seminar.* Online, 10 October 2023 (scheduled). Speaker.

"AI: Talent friend or foe?" *Handle Recruitment client event.* LinkedIn, London, 6 July 2023. Keynote Speaker.

"To Build 'Fairer AI', First Thoroughly Understand 'Fairness': A Multidisciplinary Review Through an Intercultural Lens." *Many Worlds of AI: Intercultural Approaches to the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence conference.* Jesus College, University of Cambridge, 26 April 2023. Speaker.

"AI, ethics and e-assessment – what you need to know." *e-Assessment Association International Conference.* London, 22 June 2022. Keynote Speaker.

"Open to Export Service at UKTI." *IEEE International Symposium on Broadband Multimedia Systems and Broadcasting.* Brunel University, London, 5 June 2013. Keynote Speaker.

"Preparing Your Digital Business for the Future." *Digital Business India conference.* London, 3 March 2009. Keynote Speaker.

"Grand Challenges in Services." *GCS workshop.* Saïd Business School, University of Oxford, 18-19 May 2006. Participant.

Teaching experience

Centre for Financial & Corporate Integrity, Coventry University *Module designer & Lecturer*	**2024 (scheduled)** "*AI, Blockchain, Financial Innovation & Fraud"* (Module 7027CLS)	
Judge Business School, University of Cambridge *Faculty*	**2012** "*Ignite":* Education programme for technology startups.	
IIT Madras *Faculty*	**2008** "*Proto.in":* Education programme for technology startups.	
Saïd Business School, University of Oxford *Guest Lecturer*	**2006** "*Globalisation & business expansion":* Workshop for MBA students.	
Andersen Consulting *Course Designer & Trainer*	**1993-7** *Client training courses (various):* Educating client staff in new processes & systems, as part of wider digital transformation programmes.	
Andersen Consulting *Course Designer & Trainer*	**1996** "*Customer Service in the New Era":* Training course on new "Western"-style customer service for telecoms customer service agents on (in Polish).	
Andersen Consulting *Course Designer & Faculty*	**1993-4** "*Change Management Foundations":* 6-week course for new consultants.	
LBMS *Course Designer & Trainer*	**1990-3** "*Software Engineering Methods":* Teaching IT staff new working practices.	
Coventry University *Lecturer*	**1987** "*Software Development":* 2nd year BSc Computer Science syllabus modules.	

Event & programme organising

Monett, D. "Rethinking how to deal with contemporary AI: Ethics is not a ballast but a need." *CBiS Seminar.* Centre for Business in Society, Coventry University, Coventry, UK, 16 May 2023. Seminar organiser.

Hybrid Human-Artificial Intelligence conference (HHAI2023). Munich, 26-30 June 2023. Programme Committee: Main Track & PhD Symposium.

UKTI & TATA mentoring and partnership programme to India for high-tech SMEs. Tata Management Training Centre, Pune, India, October 2013. Programme organiser.

"Renewable Energy: Going Green in the East." *Cambridge Wireless International Special Interest Group Conference.* Møller Institute, Cambridge University, September 2013. Conference organiser & speaker.

"China, India and Japan." *Enabling Innovation: Smart Cities, Smart Living.* BIS Conference Centre, London, October 2012. Conference track organiser & speaker.

"Open to Export Grant Funding Competition." *UKTI government grant for commercial partners.* London, June 2011. Grant & competition organiser, bid evaluator.

"Digital Technology Trends in Hospital Management, Operation & Administration." *CMC Medical College Management Conference.* Vellore, India, February 2011. Conference track organiser & speaker.

India visit of British Prime Minister David Cameron. Bangalore/New Delhi, July 2010. Technology programme organiser for accompanying business leaders & ministers.

"What could India mean for UK Business?" *Technology World.* Richoh Arena, Coventry, UK, November 2009. Panel discussion organiser & moderator.

India visit of British Prime Minister Gordon Brown. New Delhi, January 2008. Technology programme organiser for accompanying business leaders & ministers.

Other relevant information

Languages

German	Basic (currently upgrading to working proficiency)
Polish	Basic (previously working proficiency when based in Poland)
French	Basic
Russian	Basic
Bengali	Basic

Nationality
British citizen

References (details available on request)