# Uncovering the Dark Side of Artificial Intelligence in Electronic Markets: A Systematic Literature Review

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### **ABSTRACT**

The dark sides of artificial intelligence (AI) have attracted immense attention in recent years. This study produces a synthesis of current research on six dark sides of AI in electronic markets through a systematic literature review. The authors searched five different databases and summarized the dark sides of AI in electronic markets from six aspects: privacy concerns, security issues, ethical challenges, criminals and terrorists enabled by AI, trust issues between humans and machines, and AI biases. The literature review presented in this study has provided a rigorous and structured overview of research on AI's dark sides in the electronic markets through a combination of quantitative and qualitative analysis of the AI literature. As AI has made rich contributions to a variety of applications in electronic markets, special care should be taken regarding the dark side of AI. Governments and policymakers are recommended to establish legislation to ensure that AI-powered innovation and implementation are beneficial to the social good while limiting the threats caused by the dark side of AI.

#### **KEYWORDS**

AI, Biases, Dark Side, Electronic Market, Privacy, Security

Artificial intelligence (AI) has attracted immense attention in recent years. The term was first coined by Prof. John McCarthy for a conference on the subject held at Dartmouth in 1956. McCarthy defines AI as the "science and engineering of making intelligent machines, especially intelligent computer programs". Nilsson (1971) referred to AI as machines performing interacting, learning, and problem-solving functions associated with human minds. AI is revolutionizing the way many industries operate, including electronic markets and smart services (Chang et al., 2022; Du et al., 2022; Dubey et al., 2022; Hossain et al., 2022; Huang et al., 2021; Lee, 2022; Paul et al., 2022; Qiu,

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2022; Shrivastav, 2022; Wu, 2021; Wu et al., 2021; Xing et al., 2022). An electronic market refers to a virtual trading environment that integrates buyers and sellers through dynamic web applications and other applications based on Internet communication technology (Tan et al., 2019). By integrating market and competition orientation, e-commerce enterprises can enhance their understanding of customer needs, identify market opportunities, promote product development, and increase innovation success by accessing a wider range of market information (Jebarajakirthy et al., 2022; Li, Du et al., 2022; Raisch & Krakowski, 2021; Sun & Li, 2022; Sun & Wang, 2022; Yu & Yu, 2022; Zhang, 2022). Numerous digital business companies and retailers, such as Amazon, leverage AI to enhance sales, attract and retain customers and improve profitability (Zheng et al., 2023) through optimized marketing strategies and streamlined business processes (Bai & Lin, 2022; Li & Feng et al., 2022; Liu & Li, 2022; Liu et al., 2022; Kozinets & Gretzel, 2020; Ma & Zhang, 2022; Rashidin et al., 2022; Shankar, 2020; Varsha et al., 2021; Wang et al., 2022). Simultaneously, utilizing AI introduces many new challenges that span ethical, legal, social, and technological dimensions (Trappey et al., 2022; Akter et al., 2021; Xu et al., 2022). As outlined by Kozinets and Gretzel (2020), a predicament arises when implementing AI technologies in the market: While AI-driven marketing campaigns can generate substantial sales and revenue, marketers face diminishing opportunities to establish meaningful customer relationships.

The rising adoption of a new generative AI technology, ChatGPT, in the electronic market is notable due to its transformative impact on customer interactions and overall business operations. While ChatGPT offers significant potential for the electronic market—such as improved customer support, streamlined sales and trading, scalability, cost-effectiveness, and competitive advantage—it is essential to recognize that it can also introduce specific adverse effects. First, ChatGPT's ability to generate text can be exploited to spread disinformation or manipulate market conditions. Malicious actors could use the technology to disseminate misleading product descriptions, manipulate stock prices, or deceive customers. Second, while ChatGPT can provide automated customer support, it may lack the empathy and nuanced understanding that human agents possess. This can lead to frustrated customers and negative experiences, potentially affecting trust and loyalty in the e-market. Moreover, implementing ChatGPT may require substantial resources, giving larger companies with greater financial capabilities an advantage over smaller competitors. This could lead to increased market consolidation and reduced competition. ChatGPT may exhibit biases in the training data if not adequately trained and monitored, leading to unfair or discriminatory outcomes in the electronic marketplace. This can perpetuate existing inequalities and hinder equal access and opportunities for all participants. It is, therefore, essential to mitigate these adverse effects by implementing robust safeguards, responsible use guidelines, and thorough testing and auditing processes. Continuous monitoring and improvement of AI systems can help address these concerns and promote the responsible and ethical use of ChatGPT in the electronic market.

Despite the rich opportunities AI offers, it is evident that AI is not a panacea that can address every problem facing individuals, organizations, and society. On April 21, 2021, the European Union (EU) published strict regulations governing the use of AI. This first-of-its-kind policy outlines how companies and governments can use a technology seen as one of today's most significant but ethically fraught scientific breakthroughs (Li, Yu, et al., 2019). According to the EU's strategic policy, AI can be used, but the application of AI technology must be limited. If AI technology is abused, it will significantly impact the financial order of the electronic market and cause an imbalance in the financial chain, thus hindering the development of the electronic market (Brynjolfsson & Mitchell, 2017). A thorough review of the benefits and challenges of using AI in the electronic marketplace is needed to help marketers, business managers, entrepreneurs, and researchers leverage AI for maximum benefit while mitigating its potential risks, harms, and other dark aspects.

Systematic reviews on a topic can provide a comprehensive, synthesized understanding of academic knowledge and contribute to its domain. In this research, we conduct a systematic literature review (SLR) on the dark side of AI in the electronic market by combining qualitative and quantitative

analysis methods. Our research follows the procedures adopted by previous reviews (e.g., Cooper, 1988; Alavi & Carlson, 1992) in combination with the research methodologies by Webster and Watson (2002) and Vom Brocke (2015). Specifically, we investigate the following three research questions in this study:

- RQ 1: What types of dark sides have been identified by prior research on AI in electronic markets?
- RQ 2: What are the consequences of the dark sides of AI in electronic markets and the solutions provided by prior research?
- RQ 3: What are the research gaps and future research opportunities for AI's dark sides in electronic markets?

In addition to offering a general overview of the prior research and identifying gaps for future research regarding the dark sides of AI in electronic markets, we discuss the social consequences of AI's dark sides and the managerial strategies to cope with them. We hope to inspire researchers and practitioners to exploit the benefits of AI while reducing its potential risks in electronic markets.

The paper proceeds with the following structure. Section 2 provides the background. Section 3 introduces the review methodology. Section 4 details the results of the review. Section 5 discusses the essential findings and offers suggestions for future research directions. Section 6 provides the theoretical and practical implications, and Section 7 concludes the paper.

### **BACKGROUND**

In the literature addressing the dark sides of AI (see Table 1), Roche (2016) was the first to identify five conditions related to AI's dark side: the destruction of employment, stimulating societal instability, enabling criminal and terrorist activities, losing autonomy and privacy, and fuelling a cyber arms race. Cheng et al. (2021) uncovered both the bright and dark sides of AI by identifying two primary concerns: uncertainty and the invasion of privacy. In an extensive and comprehensive study on AI techniques, Jabbarpour et al. (2021) found the following negative aspects: energy consumption, data issues, security and trust, privacy, fairness, safety, predictability, explainability, complexity, monopoly, and responsibility.

AI has revolutionized the field of e-commerce. Despite the positive values being created, negative impacts arise when customers interact with AI technologies. Humans and machines jointly produce values, which can also be destroyed in human-computer interactions. The autonomy of AI should be questioned if technology is misused in unexpected ways or if companies' illegal or unethical actions involve using data without users' knowledge. For instance, in an overview of AI challenges in public management, Wirtz et al. (2020) categorized AI's dark side from societal, legal, and ethical perspectives. Exploring the co-destruction of values between humans and machines, Castillo et al. (2020) identified the top five reasons for customers' failure in interacting with chatbots: authenticity issues, cognition challenges, affective issues, functionality issues, and integration conflicts. Esmaeilzadeh (2020) summarized the significant factors contributing to the perceived risks of AI use from technological, ethical (trust factors), and regulatory perspectives.

Through a comprehensive examination of the existing literature, we observed a significant lack of scholarly attention to the negative aspects of AI in the electronic market (Yang et al., 2021). E-commerce plays a crucial role in facilitating online transactions and overseeing the entire service process, encompassing various functions, such as advertising, consultation and negotiation, online ordering, payment processing, electronic account management, service delivery, consultation, and transaction management. E-commerce activities demonstrate distinct characteristics, including integration, expansibility, security, and coordination (Raisch & Krakowski, 2021). The emergence of transformative technologies, including AI, has greatly enhanced these characteristics. Nonetheless, using AI to process personal data within a trading platform can raise privacy violations and system

Table 1. Dark sides of Al summarized in previous research

Author	Year	Challenges or Dark Sides of AI	Contribution
Roche	2016	<ul> <li>Destruction of employment</li> <li>Stimulating societal instability</li> <li>Enabling criminal and terrorist activities</li> <li>Losing autonomy and privacy</li> <li>Fuelling a cyber arms race</li> </ul>	Discussing both good and bad downstream consequences of AI
Wirtz et al.	2020	AI society (workforce substitution & transformation; social acceptance & trust in AI; transformation of H2M interaction)     AI law and regulation (AI rulemaking for human behavior; moral dilemmas; AI discrimination)     AI ethics (privacy & safety; responsibility & accountability; governance of autonomous intelligence systems)	Outlining the current state of AI governance Giving an overview of AI challenges and risks for public administration as well as previous AI governance or regulation frameworks Developing an integrated AI governance framework that organizes the key aspects of AI governance and regulation
Castillo et al.	2020	<ul> <li>Authenticity issues</li> <li>Cognition challenges</li> <li>Affective issues</li> <li>Functionality issues</li> <li>Integration conflicts</li> </ul>	Discussing how AI is transforming the service industry     Exploring the theoretical concept of value co-destruction by adopting an S-D logic lens     Discussing the proposed conceptualization of co-destruction in AI service settings
Esmaeilzadeh	2020	Technological concerns (perceived performance anxiety; perceived communication barriers)     Ethical concerns (perceived social biases; perceived privacy concerns; perceived mistrust in AI mechanisms)     Regulatory concerns (perceived unregulated standards; perceived liability issues; perceived risks)	Developing a model mainly based on value perceptions due to the specificity of the healthcare field     Examining the perceived benefits and risks of AI medical devices with clinical decision support (CDS) features from consumers' perspectives     Using an online survey to collect data from 307 individuals in the United States
Cheng et al.	2021	Uncertainty     Invasion of privacy	• Uncovering the interplay between the dark and bright sides of big data analytics and AI and the underlying mechanisms of cognitive appraisals for user behavior in ridesharing
Jabbarpour et al.	2021	<ul> <li>Energy consumption</li> <li>Data issues</li> <li>Security and trust</li> <li>Privacy</li> <li>Fairness</li> <li>Safety</li> <li>Beneficial</li> <li>Predictability</li> <li>Explainable AI</li> <li>The complexity issue</li> <li>Monopoly</li> <li>Responsibility challenges</li> </ul>	Discussing the general concepts of the CS problem and its variations     Conducting an extensive and comprehensive study on the dark sides of AI techniques to extract the main technical dark sides     Proposing a novel framework for the CS problem of ISs that considers the dark sides of AI

security issues (Li, Chu, et al., 2022). In addition, the prevalence of AI technology in e-commerce has opened the door to numerous criminal economic activities, posing a threat to the overall security of e-commerce. As AI empowers machines to acquire the ability to perform tasks traditionally performed by humans, ethical concerns surrounding its use and the extent to which we can trust AI have come to the forefront of the public consciousness (Wu, 2021).

## **METHODOLOGY**

## **Search Strategies**

AI research spans various disciplines, making it non-restrictive regarding discipline or field when gathering AI literature. To collect AI literature for our study, we conducted searches on two reputable databases, Web of Science and Elsevier. Our study exclusively considered publications written in English. The search strategy for each database was developed based on keywords identified from the literature and rules for subject headings in each. The keyword search query was constructed as follows: TS=("electronic markets" OR "electronic commerce") AND TS=("artificial intelligence" OR "machine learning") AND TS=("dark side" OR "negative impact" OR risks OR disadvantage OR problems).

The first author used a structured form to extract information from eligible papers, including author, publication year, journal title, organization type, country/region of the first author, research question, theoretical basis, core opinion, primary findings, and conclusions/comments. Two other authors subsequently validated this data set. The search yielded a total of 3,541 publications from the two databases.

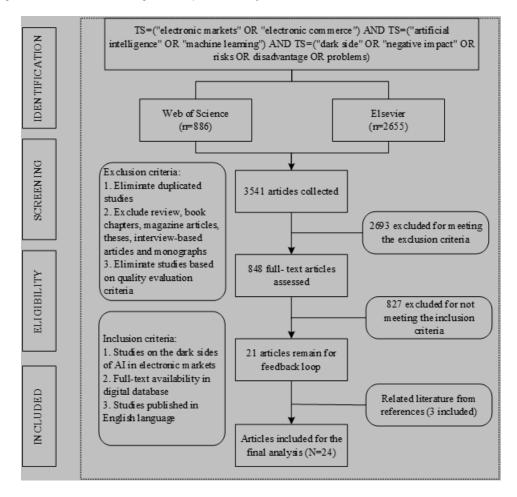
# **Article Screening and Selection**

We applied some exclusion and inclusion criteria based on the entire paper (see Figure 1). We first excluded articles based on the following exclusion criteria: duplicated studies and certain article types, namely reviews, book chapters, magazine articles, theses, and interview-based studies. Each study was then evaluated through an initial screening that examined the title and abstract. Articles that did not specifically mention "artificial intelligence" or "electronic market" in the abstract were excluded from the dataset. Article type was also restricted for full-text evaluation. Books, doctoral dissertations, book reviews, letters, and announcements were excluded from the dataset. We also used quality criteria to evaluate the articles to ensure they presented unbiased and transparent results. The quality criteria included the article's length, the journal's rank, the research scope regarding AI dark sides, and the research topic.

In this nascent and evolving field of research, we faced difficulties pinpointing relevant papers within our scope, prompting us to employ a manual search approach for obtaining search results. We established three key inclusion criteria to filter out articles. The primary criteria entailed choosing articles based on their theme and topics associated with the negative aspects of AI in electronic markets. For instance, while some articles discussed the theme of trust in AI within the electronic market, they primarily focused on fostering customer trust in e-commerce. Similarly, other articles offered only a scant mention, perhaps a sentence or two, of the negative implications of AI, leading us to exclude these articles from our dataset. Following this, two examiners independently reviewed the full-text articles. The classification was primarily based on keywords such as "ethical," "security," "privacy," "risks," "bias," "misuse," and "dysfunction." Factors such as the authorship, journal, and publication year were not concealed. In summary, we performed a comprehensive retrospective and prospective analysis of a selected sample of papers in our dataset to uncover additional relevant research. We carefully checked the references for the retrospective review to ensure that no relevant studies were overlooked. Thus, our final collection consists of 24 articles.

Upon examining our compiled literature set, we noticed a significant emphasis on the exploration, application, and progression of AI over the past decade. However, the challenges arising from the integration of AI into the electronics market have primarily been highlighted by researchers in more recent years. The literature review revealed that investigations into the negative implications of AI in electronic markets have only surfaced in the past seven years. These adverse aspects of AI in electronic markets can be placed into six categories: privacy concerns, security dilemmas, ethical dilemmas, potentially criminal and terrorist activities facilitated by AI, trust issues between humans and machines, and biases inherent in AI.

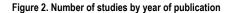
Figure 1. Flow of information through different phases of the systematic review



### **RESULTS**

This section discusses the findings of this study and presents their implications in detail. We count the number of studies by publication year and frequency by country. The results showed that publications on AI's dark side in electronic markets emerged within the last seven years, between 2016 and 2022 (see Figure 2). A notable surge in articles was observed in 2019, 2020, and 2021, with six papers published each year. However, the volume of publications on this subject declined in 2022.

The analysis indicates that the authors of the reviewed articles are associated with institutions spanning ten countries. As suggested by Figure 3, scholars from the United States are the most productive, contributing most of the published articles on the dark aspects of AI in electronic markets, with seven articles to their credit. German scholars come in second, trailed by their counterparts from the UK and China. Collectively, these four countries—the United States (with seven articles), Germany (with five articles), and the United Kingdom and China (each with three articles)—account for 75% of the sample representation. This distribution could be attributed to the fact that these countries, being global economic powerhouses, are predominantly impacted by the adverse effects of rapid technological growth and AI advancements. Interestingly, we observe that among high-output countries, US authors have placed significant emphasis on AI privacy; German researchers have



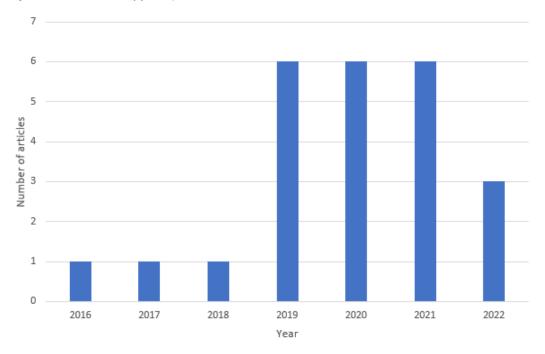
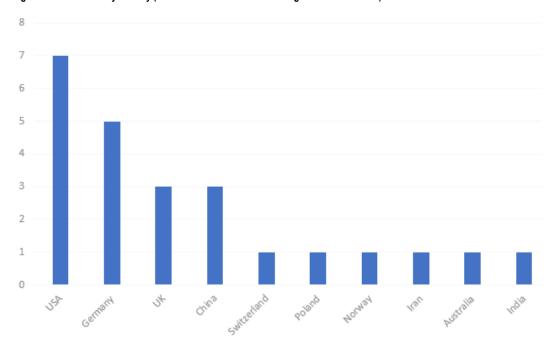
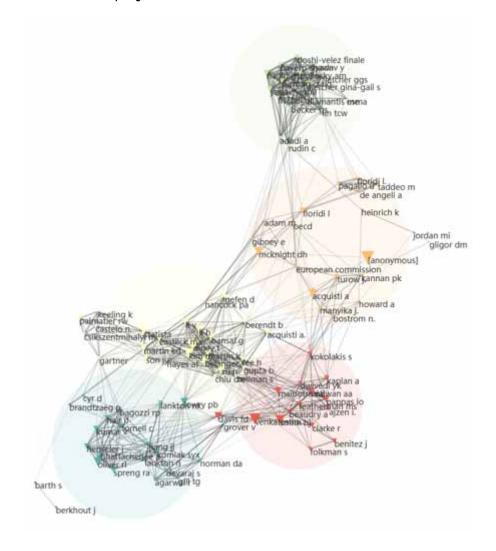


Figure 3. Publications by country (note: The institute location belongs to the first author)



delved into both privacy concerns and trust issues between humans and machines; UK researchers have focused more on AI security threats and associated criminal activities; and Chinese researchers have demonstrated a heightened focus on ethical issues and privacy concerns related to AI.

Figure 4. Co-citation relationship diagram on the dark sides of AI in electronic markets



We drew a co-citation relationship diagram based on the references of the 24 articles to see which articles were more important in the field of AI's dark side in the electronic market (see Figure 4). Influential references in the dark side of technology and AI field include Acquisti et al.'s (2015) research published in "Science" (cited four times), which connected insights from the social and behavioral sciences by taking advantage of uncertainty about the consequences of privacy behavior, the situational dependence of concerns, and the extent to which business and government interests can manipulate privacy issues. Acquisti et al. (2016) published another article in the Journal of Economic Literature, which summarized and drew links between theoretical and empirical studies of different schools of privacy economics. Other influential articles include McKnight et al.'s (2002) study in Information Systems Research, Son and Kim's (2008) research in MIS Quarterly, Podsakoff et al.'s (2003) paper in the Journal of Applied Physiology, Smith et al.'s (1996) research in MIS Quarterly, and Martin and Murphy's (2017) study in the Journal of the Academy of Marketing Science. These studies, despite discussing the dark side of AI, were excluded from our sample because they did not specifically address the electronic market domain. These studies were merely cited by researchers

investigating the adverse effects of AI in e-commerce. While no direct positive correlation can be drawn between author influence and citation count, a high citation rate does suggest the significant value and pioneering nature of research on the dark side of AI in the e-marketplace.

We have distilled the research topics that are prevalent in the selected articles. As per Table 2, the dominant themes related to the negative aspects of AI in electronic markets include consumer privacy concerns (covered by 45.83% of the selected literature), AI's ethical challenges, trust issues between humans and machines, and security concerns (each featured in 33.33% of the studies). Sundar Pichai (2018), Google's CEO, proposed a set of ethical principles for AI development, which included being socially beneficial, avoiding the creation or reinforcement of unfair bias, and being accountable to people. Our findings highlight a strong correlation between AI ethics research and the issue of unfair bias. Privacy is interwoven with multiple challenges, such as online security, fraud, and trust issues, which can threaten the growth of e-commerce. We observed a convergence between the literature addressing privacy concerns related to AI, and that focused on security in the electronic market. This is because privacy concerns are invariably linked to the disclosure of personal profiles and data security. In turn, research investigating individual privacy concerns often intersects with research on AI ethics within e-commerce. This is because privacy issues often challenge fundamental human ethics. Much of the discussion surrounding AI bias stems from these ethical studies. On another note, only four articles explore AI's role in "facilitating criminal and terrorist activities" (16.67%), and six delve into "AI biases" in the electronic market (25%). As a result, we infer that the most prominent negative aspects of AI in electronic markets are privacy concerns, security issues, and AI bias, followed by ethical challenges. By contrast, research has devoted little attention to AI's role in "criminal and terrorist activities" and trust issues between humans and machines.

### DISCUSSION

To help understand these issues better, in this section, we detail each of the dark sides identified in these articles, including research gaps and related further research opportunities.

## **Privacy Concerns**

Eleven of the publications we reviewed concentrated on privacy issues related to AI in the electronic market. Details, including the authors, journals, theoretical frameworks, datasets, key findings, implications of AI privacy disclosure, proposed solutions, and recommendations for future research, are illustrated in Figure 5. The theoretical foundations that have been shown to address privacy disclosure problems of AI in electronic markets effectively include expectation confirmation theory, social cognitive theory, protection motivation theory (Brill et al., 2019), coping theory, privacy calculus theory (Cheng et al., 2021), Nissenbaum's contextual integrity theory, and constructivist grounded theory method (Gerlick & Liozu, 2020). In terms of research methodologies, Steinhoff et al. (2019), Gerlick and Liozu (2020), Bandara et al. (2019), and Thamik and Wu (2022) each carried out literature reviews to encapsulate how AI has infringed upon privacy, leading to data breaches and misuse in electronic markets. Vimalkumar et al. (2021) conducted a noteworthy quantitative study utilizing the UTAUT2 model, focusing on perceived privacy concerns, perceived privacy risks, and perceived trust. Marjerison et al. (2022) adopted uses and gratification (U&G) theory to investigate consumer acceptance of applied AI, specifically in the form of chatbots, within the context of online shopping in China. Brill et al. (2019) and Cheng et al. (2021) delved into online consumers' privacy concerns as influenced by AI development. They employed semi-structured interviews and questionnaire surveys to underscore the crucial role of customer satisfaction (Brill et al., 2019) and the gathering of personal biometric information using big data analytics and AI technologies, particularly in the context of participation in ridesharing (Cheng et al., 2021; Haverila et al., 2022; Xie et al., 2022). The other studies discussed privacy issues through theoretical analyses (Mazurek & Małagocka, 2019; Schuetz & Venkatesh, 2020; Thiebes et al., 2020).

Table 2. Classification of research themes

Authors	Privacy Concerns	Security Issues	Ethical Challenges	Enabling Criminal and Terrorist Activities	Trust Issues Between Humans and Machines	AI Biases
Coeckelbergh, 2016						
Howard et al., 2017						
Motlagh & Bardsir, 2018						
Steinhoff et al., 2019	√					
Mazurek & Małagocka, 2019	√		√			
Brill et al., 2019	√					
Bandara et al., 2019	√	√				
Lauterbach, 2019		√				
Yeoh, 2019				V		
Schuetz & Venkatesh, 2020	√					
Gerlick & Liozu, 2020	√					
Thiebes et al., 2020	√					
Kaloudi & Li, 2020		√				
Toader et al., 2020					√	
King et al., 2020		√		√		
Cheng et al., 2021	√					
Wing et al., 2021			√			
Vimalkumar et al., 2021	√					
Gligor et al., 2021						
Fletcher, 2021				V		
Janiesch et al., 2021						
Thamik & Wu, 2022	√	√	√		√	√
Marjerison et al., 2022						
Azzutti, 2022				√		
Quantity statistics	11	8	8	4	8	6
Proportion	45.83%	33.33%	33.33%	16.67%	33.33%	25.00%

Studies have revealed that adequate privacy protection helps people maintain personal dignity, maintain a comfortable mood, and promote overall development. In contrast, perceived privacy intrusion would affect consumers' trust and usage (Esmaeilzadeh, 2020). However, motivated by interest, many e-commerce companies overuse consumer information. Scandals involving privacy infringement in AI marketing have become a universal phenomenon (Bandara et al., 2019; Thamik & Wu, 2022). The disclosure of private information by AI would cause severe consequences in electronic markets. Fear of a loss of privacy can trigger adverse reactions from customers. For example, they may provide incorrect or incomplete information, choose not to participate in communication, or even spread negative information by word of mouth (Karwatzki et al., 2017). In addition, ethically questionable business practices, data breaches, and social and economic side effects could cause the tech industry to lose its positive image in public opinion (Mazurek & Małagocka, 2019; Zheng, Wang et al., 2023). Therefore, the creation of professional, comprehensive, and high-quality data sets and the enhancement of their availability (proprietary or open access) are particularly beneficial for

Consequence of privacy Future research Author Journal Theoretical basis Dataset Managerial strategies 108 articles in 30 How can firms employ personalized strategies but also avoid the pitfalk arketing Scien Is these no contradiction in the usual tof success in the field of Al while perceiving this goal through the prism of ethical principles? Exploring if brand satisfaction impacts expectations, trust an privacy concerns for digital privacy is the top tanked IPMA er formance item for both males a Brill (2018) Theses theory The Interactive Characteristics of Journal of the Association for ccs Customers' trust in such an Al-based system might detogate if their data is involuntarily used for purposes of • Trust Cheng et al. (2021) formation System Online sellers Should be under scrut ny for unscrupulous data actices using AI, data mining and algorithms Bandara et al. (2020) Electronic Market Cause risk which is the probability or the service provider exhibiting an opportunistic behavior that leads to a loss on the part of the consumer Practitioners need to invest in ecuning consumer trust regarding the safety of their personal information 164 Indian Developer scan further explore optimizations in the areas of imiture technologies and privac security issues in order to Marjerison et al., (2022) · Use and Gratification (U&G) theor highlight existing issues There should be robust security standards, and a clear set of data-driven privacy polices needs to be Thamik & Wu,(2022)

Figure 5. Studies on the privacy of AI in electronic markets

online privacy protection, developing privacy standards, and making sure the online platform allows customers the right to control their privacy (Cheng et al., 2021; Thamik & Wu, 2022).

Regarding research gaps and opportunities for further research on this dark side, the most recent research on privacy has focused on the factors influencing user privacy awareness and their impact on AI marketing adoption and disclosure behavior. Prior studies have also identified the existence of privacy fatigue, which means that people are beginning to be indifferent to their privacy rights. If this phenomenon continues, people will lose their trust in society (Bandara et al., 2019; Brill et al., 2019). Therefore, future research needs to explore the causes of this phenomenon more deeply to find more effective solutions (Mazurek & Małagocka, 2019; Thiebes et al., 2020). In addition, research has found that rigorous privacy policies can hinder the development of AI technologies and economies; future research should seek effective ways to balance technology and legal formulation (Gerlick & Liozu, 2020).

## **Security Issues**

Eight articles addressed the security issues of AI in the electronic market, as shown in Figure 6. Researchers have used theoretical analysis methods to illustrate the security issues arising from the development of AI, especially cybersecurity in e-commerce environments (Ifinedo et al., 2022). Two articles explored existing AI-based cyber attacks and provided insight into new threats through a literature review (Kaloudi & Li, 2020; King et al., 2020). They found that with the development of technology, the danger of AI marketing is much more severe than in a traditional marketing environment (Motlagh & Bardsir, 2018). The development of AI results in more variants of viruses with shorter cycles, leading to additional virus solutions and new attack methods (Yeoh, 2019). Moreover, unlike traditional crimes, cybercrimes are easier to replicate since the developed hacking techniques are

Marjerison et al.,

(2022)

Future research Consequence of secure Managerial strategies Author Journal Theoretical basis Dataset issues of Al recommendations if AI practitioners are rushing to bring a system online, some of the training data might not be thoroughly scrubbed of anomalies, causing at algorithm to miss an attack. Municipalities organize people to become self-employed, market products and services worldwide, anage resources and social securi contributions Control of key AI technology will be a critical geopolitical and social issue Digital Policy, Regulation and · Concepts shaped by social sciences AI Lauterbach. (2019) technology stad in the future Uniform implementation of basic security measures and investments in defensive technologies, improvements to the existing Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty Cyber security promoted by AI would lead to labourmarket impacts, social inequality, cybercrime and even physical harm The right balance of openness in A developing improved technical measures to formally verify the influstness of systems na1 of Financia resources, business cases and relevant Yeoh.(2019) Crime laws and regulations The probability of AI failures of intended intelligence will increase in future AI systems, causing a much more serious problem without a chance for recovery. ACM Computing · Security of Kaloudi and Li. (2020) 14 literature Surveys Fake websites are considered as one of the major challenges of internet and e commerce and cause a lot costs as losses to users, online institutes and Reducing the feature space associated with fake web sites and apply according to the important learning feature. 11055 samples and Motlagh and Bardsiri. (2018) of Engin met infra Indeed, AI poses a significant risk, because it may deskill crime, and henc cause the expansion of what Europol Artificial agents should be banned to King et a1. (2020) Engineering Ethic Technological advancements have enabled online vendors to consumer data on the internet resulting in greate AI-driven fraud-detection mechanisms and crowdsourced virtual assistants Are efficient in preserving privacy and security of consumers. Electronic Market 99 literature a1. (2020) risks to privacy and se The rigorous security standards are currently not found in electronic markets, leading to trust

Figure 6. Studies on the security topic of AI in electronic markets

Use and gratification (U&G) theory

Sustainability

Behavior

Technology

often shared in hacker communities (Bandara et al., 2019). The lowering of technological barriers is likely to lead to more AI-based crime.

Information leakage, and data theft and related problems still emerge regularly, making consumers concerned about

Extensive and in-depth deployments of AI technologies are found in marketing, and the extent to which security risks may be enhanced depends significantly on how well the action is embedded in a computational environment, mainly using cloud or edge computing. Moreover, as AI marketing involves a lot of important information and trading activities, once security is challenged, significant harm could come to a country's personal or economic safety (Yeoh, 2019). Therefore, it is crucial to identify the security risk factors associated with AI marketing to defend against cybercrime and risks from developed systems.

Hazardous activities in AI marketing occur mainly through two channels. First, the attacker can destroy or control the AI marketing system or intentionally change the input, such as interfering with sensors to change data input or using malware to inject malicious data so the system can make the decision the attacker wants (Lauterbach, 2019). Second, the attacker may steal the confidential data used to train the AI system or extract the AI model (Huawei, 2018). In particular, most current AI marketing systems use open-source software and architectures, which have many security vulnerabilities.

For enterprises, it is necessary to improve security by strengthening the architecture's security, enhancing the model's robustness, and strengthening real-time monitoring (Polasik et al., 2015). First, organizations must increase the security of edge computing and systems through early-stage secure deployment. Adopting the necessary verification and rigorous audit programs, AI software and hardware environments should be carefully evaluated, such as servers and clients, software configurations, load management, patch management, and runtime configuration management for real-time monitoring. Specifically, algorithms such as deep learning can be used to implement malware characterization and detection in edge computing security (Yuan et al., 2016).

In terms of the research gaps and further research opportunities regarding security issues, we found that a large number of scholars have explored how to adopt technical means to discover and solve the problems of data security and system security in AI marketing (King et al., 2020; Nilashi et al., 2015). More effective technology remains the dominant direction of further exploration, and how to implement these technologies has become a more prominent issue (Bandara et al., 2019; Lauterbach,

2019). For example, ways to truly apply blockchain technology to achieve security in e-commerce deserve further study. Managers should also pay special attention to organizational-related security issues arising from AI marketing. For example, how multinational e-commerce companies resolve the differences in AI security standards in different countries or regions matters (Yeoh, 2019).

## **Ethical Challenges**

Six articles examined the ethical challenges of AI in the electronic markets, as shown in Figure 7. All of these studies used theoretical analysis to explore the ethical issues raised by AI. The authors presented a similar opinion on the importance of AI ethics management, the effect of ethical deficiencies on society and country, and how urgently the problem needs to be solved through countries in electronic markets. Thiebes (2020) argued that when AI is developed, deployed, and used in a way that ensures compliance with all relevant laws and regulations and adheres to general ethical principles, users (e.g., consumers, organizations, and societies) will find it trustworthy. Mazurek (2019) maintained that it could only be a metaphor if the transparency of AI processes can be implemented and ethical norms can be applied in practice rather than just in theory.

Ethical issues related to data science and AI are frequently discussed. Organizations in online markets and trading platforms should address the ethics of the use of data and algorithms. Ethics is embedded in the design and development process of online trading. A human-centered, ethical AI should be designed and developed to be consistent with the values and ethical principles of the online communities it affects (Li, Deng, et al., 2019; Wing et al., 2021). Interpretability is needed to build consumer confidence in AI disruptive technologies in the electronics market, promoting safer practices and broader social adoption (Lauterbach, 2019). AI may have to make ethical value decisions but is subject to algorithmic bias (Zhao, 2021). Analysis exploring the ethical dimension can provide stakeholders insight into business value creation and confidence in their decisions (Vanderelst & Winfield, 2018; Vidgen et al., 2020). When AI helps consumers make sensitive decisions, it should explain why it makes such recommendations, what data was used, and the reasoning steps or processes behind them. In practice, AI ethics is often considered an "add-on" to technical concerns.

Regarding the gaps and further research opportunities regarding this dark side, ethical considerations must be a vital component of any AI policy in the electronic market. The current frameworks on AI ethics focus on society's ethical concerns (Mazurek & Małagocka, 2019), but notable gaps remain. For example, the environmental impacts associated with data processing and storage, the unfairness of the unequal distribution of benefits, and the potential exploitation of employees are all likely to raise ethical issues in terms of AI (Lauterbach, 2019; Thiebes et al., 2020). Thus, we need new strategies to transition to a fair AI-driven economic environment (Coeckelbergh, 2016). On the other hand, while questions about the ethical principles of AI are critical to the future

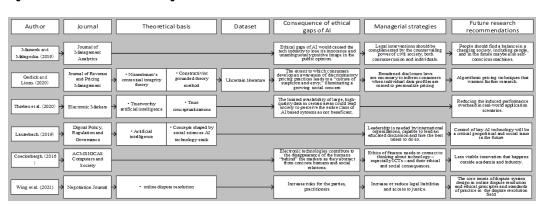


Figure 7. Studies on the ethical challenges of AI in electronic markets

global adoption of this critical technology, not all countries understand the ethics of AI in the same way (Wing et al., 2021). Therefore, a comparative study of AI ethics in electronic markets, national regulatory approaches, and consumer attitudes in different countries would provide exciting insights into ethical understandings of AI.

# **Enabling Criminal and Terrorist Activities**

Only four articles dealt with the criminal and terrorist activities of AI in the electronic market. This topic has received the least attention in the literature, as seen in Figure 8. Techniques and tools developed for crime prevention and detection can be misused for criminal activities. Financial crime refers to behaviors that occur in financial activities, violate financial management laws and regulations, destroy financial management order, and should be punished according to the law (Fletcher, 2021). Money laundering and financial fraud are familiar types of financial crimes in our daily lives. Some efforts have been made to classify potential risks and threats from AI-assisted crime (King et al., 2020). AI, digital security, and physical security are closely linked. As AI systems are further developed and applied in the electronic marketplace, more sophisticated social engineering attacks that exploit these capabilities are likely to emerge (Azzutti, 2022; Li, Feng et al., 2022).

Criminals are likely to leverage AI to improve their attacks. AI-enabled crime has been on the rise recently. Criminals use AI to maximize profit opportunities and exploit more victims. Some cybersecurity experts express concerns about AI-related crimes in online markets, including AI-supported hacking, AI-assisted password guessing, insider trading, and deep fakes (Caldwell et al., 2020). More efforts and resources are needed to help mitigate these risks. Also, governments should strengthen the policy construction and supervision to hold AI entities accountable and intervene and regulate AI activities in electronic markets and online social networks (Fletcher, 2021). As a double-edged sword, AI can either curb financial crimes or accelerate them, depending on the management strategies of policymakers and regulators.

Concerning the research gaps and related research opportunities for this dark side, little attention has been paid to the criminal and terrorist activities arising from the development of AI in the electronic market. Although various criminal risks of AI and its characteristics have been addressed (Caldwell et al., 2020; Yeoh, 2019), it is still unclear to what extent those crimes affect the electronic market. In addition, the roles of employers and employees in defending against crimes have not been as well explored as would be expected (Azzutti, 2022; King et al., 2020). More broadly, research on AI crime in the electronic market is still in its infancy, and research on different dimensions of future AI criminal activity should be considered. Researchers should focus on individual factors that may create perpetrators in future e-commerce environments. Such research will help mitigate future AI crimes and terrorist activities.

Consequence of AI enabled Future research Author Journal Theoretical basis Dataset Managerial strategies recommendations The location of methods for otecting public and private data sets against any efforts at data sabotage. There are legitimate apprehensions about the deployment of AI systems to harm society including the perpetuation of financial crimes Journal of Financia Yeoh (2019) cases and relevan poses a significant risk, because it deskill crime, and hence cause the mansion of what Europol calls the King et al. (2020) Engineering Ethics Azzutti. (2022) Security Review Legal framework must focus on increasing the potential costs of anipulation to dissuade a would-bad actor from engaging in Raising questions such as the capacity of the regulatory framework to prevent Fletcher, (2021)

Figure 8. Studies on Al crime in electronic markets

## **Trust Issues Between Humans and Machines**

Six articles addressed trust issues between humans and machines in the electronic market, as shown in Figure 9. The trust issue is a cornerstone for AI (Schuetz & Venkatesh, 2020), and it also provides commerce with powerful competitive advantages (Karimova & Goby, 2020). Therefore, if e-commerce companies cannot effectively reduce the perceived risk while establishing trust and benefits, consumers will not accept the value delivered by AI marketing (Steinhoff et al., 2019). Furthermore, in 2019, the European Commission published ethics guidelines for trustworthy AI, stressing the importance of keeping people's trust in AI.

However, building human—AI trust in AI marketing has become a challenging problem due to the complexity and non-determinism of AI behavior. Robots with various structural, functional, social, and psychological properties have been rapidly introduced (Karimova & Goby, 2020). In addition, the objects of trust involve algorithms and systems and the organization and operation of AI marketing (Steinhoff et al., 2019). More specifically, several difficulties in trust-building have emerged in AI marketing. From a technology perspective, as most algorithms in AI marketing are uninterpretable, people will fear a lack of control, affecting trust building (Bandara et al., 2019). Moreover, consumers will doubt the goodwill behind the organization's use of AI (Thiebes et al., 2020). Consumers worry about whether AI marketers collect information about them from all over the world and whether they "look" at their faces through web cameras to read their expressions. Moreover, due to technical limitations, even if machines are equipped with a well-defined and generally accepted value system, they cannot feel the emotional consequences as people do. This may make it difficult for AI marketing systems to build trust with people.

To better establish the trust issues between machines and people, studies have explored the characteristics of the electronic markets with established trust and found that security, design, and content factors have different weights (Schuetz & Venkatesh, 2020; Vimalkumar et al., 2021). Meanwhile, scholars suggest e-commerce marketers should turn off some of the AI functions to alleviate consumers' concerns about being monitored. Moreover, empirical studies have shown that the form of AI affects the construction of trust. In AI robot design, typology, anthropomorphism, and immediate behaviors can be considered. Gligor et al. (2021) argued that in the process of building trust, electronic market participants also develop close relationships that can lead to mutually advantageous outcomes.

In terms of research gaps and further opportunities related to the dark side of AI marketing, trust is widely acknowledged to play a crucial role. However, building user trust remains a significant challenge. Although existing studies have explored the importance of website design and security in the e-commerce trust-building (Thiebes et al., 2020), few studies have considered how to change the characteristics of AI to enhance trust, especially through a detailed exploration of different AI marketing contexts (Steinhoff et al., 2019; Toader et al., 2020). Furthermore, cross-disciplinary research is needed because the interaction between AI and humans involves complex psychological

Author Journal Theoretical basis Dataset Consequence of lack of Al (Trust

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Figure 9. Studies on the Al trust in electronic markets

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and ethical issues. In addition, most research on trust in AI has focused on the individual level, while less has been done on the group, organizational, or social level. Therefore, conducting studies at different levels and even across levels of trust is an important research direction. For example, how to adopt appropriate organizational configurations to ensure that AI has a positive impact on the team is a question worth discussing.

#### Al Biases

Four articles discussed the bias problems of AI in the electronic market, closely related to AI ethics (see Figure 10). AI decision quality is adversely affected by algorithmic bias. Bias issues grow exponentially when e-marketers rely primarily on their own data to train their algorithms. Organizations' AI algorithms are heavily biased toward what they have done in the past (Vidgen et al., 2020). When training an AI algorithm, it depends on the input data. This is especially true in business environments, where the purpose of AI may be to interact with customers, manage automated systems, or mimic human decisions (Chen et al., 2022). Crucially, the results match the goals. However, companies must be able to address any biases that might distort the way AI responds to commands or requests (Thiebes et al., 2020).

Bias can be a stumbling block in electronic markets. Potential flaws and biases in the algorithms used by AI may disproportionately impact diverse populations (Howard et al., 2017; Zheng, Zheng et al., 2022). If the underlying AI algorithm favors certain demographics over others, the results can be biased and unfair to specific populations (Janiesch et al., 2021). Furthermore, the training data sets for the AI algorithms are often not large enough or representative of the general population (Esmaeilzadeh, 2020; Gerlick & Liozu, 2020). This could put underrepresented and underserved groups at a systematic disadvantage.

Marketers should consider multiple complementary models to reduce AI biases (Thiebes et al., 2020). Combining multiple models and inputs is likely to result in richer insights. In addition, companies need to be mindful of the data sources, avoiding misrepresentative or inapplicable data sets since the integrity of the algorithms behind AI depends on the quality of the training datasets (Gerlick & Liozu, 2020; Kumar et al., 2022). If a model is trained to predict the future online market, the training data upon which it is built must accurately reflect that online market. Conversely, AI algorithms could lead to biased or wrong predictions (Lavorgna et al., 2020). Another good way to mitigate AI biases is by maintaining the right level of human interaction in the AI decision-making process while scrutinizing the data sources (Howard et al., 2017). Other strategies include capturing training data from a pool that provides quantity, quality, and diversity. Without diversity in the training

Future research Autho Journal Theoretical basis Dataset Consequence of AI biases Managerial strategies recommendations Journal of Revenu Constructivist Gerlick and and Pricing grounde d'theory How to design a token economy such that it is effective in stimulating public participation and the generation of more diverse Al training data? Technical and non-technical means to create large, high-quality data sets and enable their availability in areas Trustworthy artificial intelligence • Trust Such training data bias createstens between imput data and the TAI principle of justice Lack of AI bias would increase Lauterbach (2019) intelligence technology stack Governance Develop a layered approach to this problem that combines the results of a generalized learning algorithm with those of a specialized learner The Machine learning models will exhibit the same (human-)induced tendencies that are present in the data or even amplify them. Howard et al. (2017) eptualiza misuse of AI in electronic markets n pose severe threats with societal plications when abusing them for malicious purposes

Figure 10. Studies on the Al bias in electronic markets

data, the algorithm will not identify a wide range of possibilities, making the algorithm ineffective (Lam et al., 2022; Li, Yu et al., 2019).

Concerning research gaps and opportunities for further research on AI bias, the discipline of AI bias in electronic markets should be filled, maintained, and utilized. While researchers across disciplines have made some progress in figuring out how to reduce AI disparities caused by human bias and how to deploy AI more equitably, further exploration is needed. Although there are many methods for mitigating bias, which methods perform best is still inconclusive (Thiebes et al., 2020). To deal with biases, different application areas and real-world challenges that manifest themselves should be covered by benchmark datasets. Finally, AI developers and customers involved in the decision-making process in the electronic market should be aware of AI bias issues and the impact of their choices in using AI.

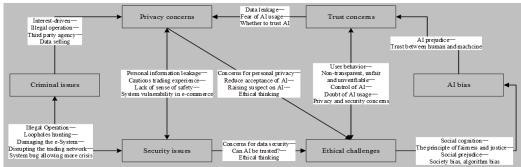
# **Correlations of the Dark Sides of AI in Electronic Markets**

Having discussed the six adverse aspects of AI in electronic markets, we then examined the interrelationships among these aspects by constructing a relational graph through content analysis, as depicted in Figure 11. The arrowhead signifies that the source issue could potentially trigger or lead to the target issues. The double-headed arrow indicates a reciprocal relationship between two issues, suggesting that their coexistence could intensify the challenges posed by AI systems in electronic markets. For example, the criminal issues of AI in e-commerce are implemented by illegal organizations. They prey on online economic vulnerabilities, damage electronic systems for profit, disrupt trading networks, threaten online trading networks, and cause security problems through AI technologies. On the other hand, those electronic bugs allow for more crises in return, creating a vicious cycle for malicious AI in e-commerce. The relationships between the associations are indicated in the literature. For example, Gligor et al. (2021) proposed that the demotivation arising from a lack of personal interactions and emotional exchanges can lead to a decline in affective commitment, thereby fueling organizational inertia. Similarly, blockchain can enhance trust within the system (Teoh, 2022). Too much trust can lead to a lack of information search and complacency. New technologies can lead to inertia by limiting creativity, fueling demoralization among employees, and creating too much trust within the system. Graphically, privacy concerns and ethical challenges are at the center. They are considered primary issues of AI usage in the electronic market and require close attention from governments and societies. Less significant AI challenges include security issues and trust concerns between humans and machines. Finally, criminal issues and AI bias in e-commerce still need to be brought to the forefront of AI governance. The correlation graph suggests that the government and related institutes are aware of the situation of malicious AI. It also guides the management of AI usage in the electronic market.

Privacy concerns, security issues, ethical challenges, criminal and terrorist activities enabled by AI, trust issues between humans and machines, and AI biases introduced in electronic markets are significantly correlated with each other. These factors have both direct and indirect effects on each other; for instance, privacy breaches can lead to compromised security (Azzutti, 2022; Thamik & Wu, 2022). Ethical challenges arise in electronic markets through the use of AI, particularly regarding data handling, algorithmic fairness, and potential unintended consequences (Marjerison et al., 2022). The exploitation of AI technologies by criminals and terrorists poses additional security risks and ethical dilemmas. Trust issues can arise between humans and machines when AI systems fail to meet expectations or when biases in the algorithms are perceived as unfair or discriminatory (Howard et al., 2017). It is crucial to address these complex correlations to facilitate the responsible and sustainable use of AI technologies in the electronics market.

In addition to the six dark sides discussed in this paper, other concerns exist regarding the development of AI. First, AI models the data through self-training. Therefore, its models lack theories to support them (Lavorgna et al., 2020). Their understanding may deviate from reality in exceptional circumstances, leading them to make poor judgments. Second, the volume of AI-based transactions is

Figure 11. Correlations among six dark sides of AI in electronic markets



still small compared to the size of the electronic market. The use of AI in e-commerce could potentially create liquidity risks in some small-scale markets. Third, many countries have incomplete or even inaccurate credit entry data. It is difficult to guarantee that spurious data will not mislead models of AI techniques. Solutions to these problems remain unclear.

#### **IMPLICATIONS**

This paper has presented and extracted six dark sides of AI in electronic markets. Assessing and using AI, such as ChatGPT, in electronic markets can yield significant advantages, including increased efficiency, improved decision-making, and enhanced customer experiences.

To ensure the future adoption of AI in electronic markets, it is vital to identify key areas of AI applications. These may include customer service, where AI chatbots such as ChatGPT can be utilized, as well as price optimization, demand forecasting, supply chain management, and fraud detection. To effectively evaluate AI models, testing them using real-world data and examining related metrics, such as accuracy and recall, for a given task is crucial. Stringent data privacy and security measures must be in place, especially when dealing with sensitive information with AI systems to prevent potential data breaches. Moreover, it is crucial to ensure that AI solutions such as chatbots are user-friendly and provide a positive customer experience. It is essential to be mindful of the ethical implications of AI usage, which involves addressing fairness, transparency, and accountability issues. To achieve this, it is crucial to be transparent with users about when and how they interact with AI while minimizing biases in the AI-generated responses.

Before fully rolling out an AI solution, it is advisable to conduct pilot tests to assess its functionality and usefulness and identify any potential issues that need to be addressed. Finally, it is crucial to ensure that the AI system can handle increased user interactions or data processing without significant performance degradation.

# **Theoretical Implications**

Theoretically, the literature review presented in this study has provided a rigorous and structured overview of research on AI's dark sides in the electronic markets through a combination of quantitative and qualitative analysis of the AI literature. A systematic search led to 24 publications studying any dark side of AI in electronic commerce. The theoretical basis, dataset, core opinion, consequences of AI's dark sides and the solutions, and future research recommendations were all summarized and compared among the prior studies. We also showed the correlations of the six dark sides of AI in electronic markets. Given the practices of disguising employees' and customers' concerns about privacy, security, ethics, untrusting, and bias problems, merely mining such data for research or to inform public services raises ethical challenges. This is especially true when consent has not or cannot

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be obtained. There is a need for further research to assess the extent to which economic measures are consistent with laws or policies and also acceptable to the stakeholders. We hope to provide the authors with an in-depth understanding of AI's dark sides in the electronic market through thorough analysis.

# **Practical Implications**

On the practical level, we aim to provide guidance for the government and institutions for AI regulations. As technological advances in AI have made rich contributions to various applications in electronic markets, special care should be taken regarding the dark side of AI. Governments and policymakers are recommended to establish legislation to ensure that AI-powered innovation (Wang et al., 2022) and implementation are beneficial to the social good while limiting the threat posed by the dark side of AI. It is also crucial for regulations to regularly assess their AI applications, approaches, and practices to ensure proper and responsible use of AI for themselves and their customers. Governments should increase the use of information security technology in the electronic market. Taking information encryption technology as an example, when applying AI, organizations involved in the electronic market should closely combine AI with information encryption technology to improve the security of AI systems to prevent customer information from being stolen and intercepted and avoid the risk of information leakage. Appropriate laws, policies, and regulations must be developed and enforced in countries where AI is applied in the electronic market.

## CONCLUSION

The application of AI has accelerated the transformation of digital services in the electronic market and provided an impetus for further growth. However, AI presents various ethical, legal, and social challenges when AI technologies are used in electronic markets. If these risks are not managed effectively, there will be serious consequences for the future growth of the electronic market.

This paper involves several limitations. Our selection was limited to English-language articles, which may have resulted in overlooking relevant articles published in other languages. Moreover, this study did not encompass the gray literature pertaining to the dark side of AI, which could have possibly offered some valuable contributions. Despite these limitations, this research has successfully provided insightful knowledge and enhanced our understanding of the dark side of AI in the electronic market, as well as strategies to address these challenges.

Future research could delve into other negative aspects of AI in electronic markets and suggest an AI governance framework to assist governments and regulators in effectively managing these dark sides of AI. Subsequent research should take an interdisciplinary approach, bolstering research at the crossroads of people, technology, and organizations. This would aid in identifying user expectations, investigating potential privacy violations, imposing penalties for non-compliance, and discerning approaches to mitigate the risks consumers face.

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