LOCAL AI
FOR
COMMUNITIES
AND
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

…where to start?

EMMA BEAUXIS-AUSSALET
e.m.a.l.beauxisaussalet@vu.nl

BEYOND EFFICIENCY

Algorithmic systems embed public policies,

they moved "at the centre of the **coercive and (re)distributive power of the state**". [1]

[1] Engstrom et al., 2020, Government by algorithm: Artificial intelligence in federal administrative agencies (p.11)
[2] Brauneis & Goodman, 2018, Algorithmic Transparency for the Smart City (p.109)
[3] Levy et al. 2021, Algorithms and Decision-Making in the Public Sector (Section 3)

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They may "enable **corporate captures of public power**" [2]

"**leaving progressively less to human** [...] **judgement**" [1]

while "shaping and [...] displacing the decisions" [1] [3]

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GLOBAL-LOCAL DYNAMICS

"Local variability is in tension with [...] top-down, global [principles]"
such as fairness or accuracy. [4]

[4] Solow-Niederman et al., 2019, The institutional life of algorithmic risk assessment (p.709)
[5] Alkhatib & Bernstein, 2019, Street–Level Algorithms: A Theory at the Gaps Between Policy and Decisions

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Street-level algorithms remain hard to refine,
and explanations & recourse are key to improvement. [5]

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SHOWING & LEARNING

Algorithm registers are promising for **transparency & citizen involvement** [6]
but **incomplete content** (e.g., error assessment, omitted algorithms)
reflect **practical & political challenges**. [7]

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[6] Floridi, 2020. AI as a public service: Learning from Amsterdam and Helsinki.
[7] Cath & Jansen, 2021. Dutch Comfort: The limits of AI governance through municipal registers.

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Beyond technicalities and inventories,
responsible AI needs **clear language & problem definition**. [3]

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NETWORKS OF ACTORS

Organisational gaps are critical, especially for responsible AI. [8]

Who should do what and when?

We know the key phases & tasks of algorithm lifecycle,
but actors should have the right skills & roles for them.

[8] Wieringa, 2020, What to account for when accounting for algorithms.

Truth is a broken mirror.

Everyone picks up a piece,

And think they see the whole truth.

— Rumi