

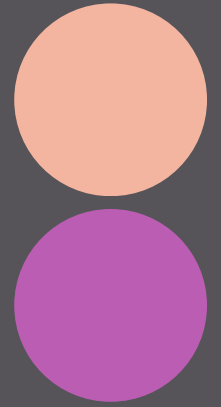


OPEN ROBOETHICS INSTITUTE

# LEARNING HUB GUIDELINES

CREATING INTERDISCIPLINARY DISCUSSION

FEBRUARY 2024



## Overview

### About ORI learning hub communities

The Learning Hubs are inclusive, accessible, and an open space for interdisciplinary communities to engage foundational and pressing topics in AI and robotics. Learning Hub communities are led by students and for students of varying educational backgrounds at universities across Canada. ORI provides this Learning Hub guidebook for student leaders which includes readings, resources, and discussion questions for 12 sessions based on topics in AI and robotic ethics. ORI actively supports student leaders in facilitating these sessions by providing orientation and training for the student leaders as well as a starter package. The session format and discussion questions are based on value-sensitive design in which stakeholder values provide helpful lenses to consider the possible benefits and harms of technologies in use.



### About the guidelines

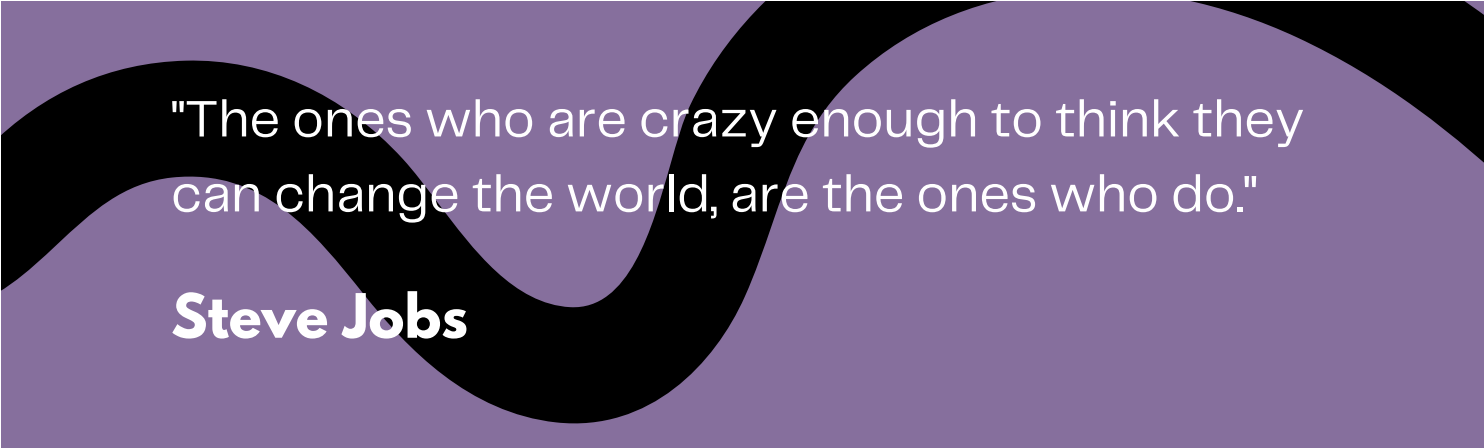
This guideline provides an overview to help you create a Learning Hub community at your school. The format, readings, and questions for the hubs have been tested over the course of two years with Learning Hubs at three different universities across Canada. We hope you find the ORI Learning Hubs Guidebook helpful in facilitating your sessions and that your discussions are, shall we say, generative!

## How do you use these guidelines?

This document gives you an outline of what is expected of session facilitators and a timeline for when the preparatory work should be completed. Please note that this document is likely incomplete or may not be entirely suited to your needs, so please feel free to adapt/edit/update the document as you see fit!

## What is the role of a student leader?

- Lead the recruitment for ORI Learning Hubs at the local university campus
- Plan ORI Learning Hub sessions in advance
- Lead facilitation and discussion during the session
- Duration of the role: Typically, ORI Learning Hub communities are run yearly. So, student leaders should begin planning their Learning Hub in August for a September launch. Then, ideally, student leaders can identify and prepare the leader for the next year.



"The ones who are crazy enough to think they can change the world, are the ones who do."

**Steve Jobs**

# Getting started

## Launch your learning hub community

- Choose a name for your Learning Hub community based on your location and interests (e.g., "AI Ethics Learning Hub at [university name]")
- Create a messaging app channel with your co-facilitators (e.g., "#learning-hub-leaders") and another for your participants (e.g., "#2022-learning-hub"). Historically, ORI student leaders have used Slack, but applications like Discord, Signal, and WhatsApp work well too.

## Recruiting

Two recruitment strategies to create your learning hub are to send emails to students/professors and create social media posts (see our templates here):

- Email the relevant professors (e.g., computer science, design, communications, social science, philosophy, etc.) and administrators to recommend the group to their classes and to refer interested

students

- Post announcement on your personal social media channels to promote the group and direct interested students to sign up (tip: Canva is an excellent resource for making posters and graphics for social media and it has a free tier)
- Prepare an open call for student email lists (sample provided below and [here](#))



## Preparation for each session

- **Before your first session**
  - Send your participants a welcome email. Feel free to draft your own or use our template ([here](#))
- **10 days before the session**
  - Check in with your co-facilitators and decide upon a topic (if applicable)
  - Use a pre-planned ORI Learning Hub session (see below for session plans)
  - Alternately, create your plan (template can be found [here](#)) and select readings (these can be relevant articles, papers, podcasts, videos, etc.)
- **7 days before the session**

- Send your group members the main session content with optional primers (i.e., videos and articles) based on ORI Learning Hub references or your own
  - Provide links to readings
  - Provide a sample discussion question or two to prompt thinking
  - For remote sessions or participants, send a video meeting link
- Share the session Reading Guide with participants in the participant chat thread
- **2 days before the session**
  - Determine the structure of the session (e.g., for remote sessions, how many participants per breakout room? What do groups discuss separately or together?)
  - Run through questions with your co-facilitators
- **Day of session**
  - For in-person sessions, set up the room to accommodate your participants and determine any breakout areas as needed
  - Also, prepare any audio/visual equipment as needed to accommodate any remote attendees
  - For remote sessions, join the video meeting link 15 minutes early to set up everything and resolve any last-minute issues
  - Enjoy your discussion!

# Meeting format

What follows is an outline for a typical Learning Hub Community gathering. Conversations take their course, but these are questions a facilitator can use to guide the discussion.

<b>Review (5 minutes)</b>	To get the conversation going, ask one participant to summarize the case study and readings to refresh memories and for the benefit of anyone who may not have completed the readings.
<b>Group Discussion (20 minutes)</b>	Summarize the articles (as a group) and discuss the session-specific questions. For additional questions, draw from the list of 'Bigger Picture' questions.
<b>Personal Reflection (20 minutes)</b>	Consider these questions to develop a personal understanding of AI risks and contributions to responsible development.

# Topics and Resources

The following is the list of the readings from different iterations of learning hubs over two years (2021-2023). The readings are tagged by their theme. You can see that we have different ordering of the readings over the two years. You can choose a format that works best for you and your team.

## #foundation

1. General landscape of AI, ethics, and society ([link 1](#), [link 2](#), [link 3](#))

## #impact and harm

1. AI and politics ([link](#))
2. Unpacking bias, discrimination and fairness for AI systems (AIS) ([link](#))
3. AI, information, communications, and society ([link](#))
4. AI and climate change ([link](#))
5. Critical race theory and chatbots ([link](#))
6. Use of AI in war ([link](#))
7. Trade in the digital era ([link](#))
8. Sustainability and AI ([link](#))
9. How are AI systems changing our society? ([link](#))
10. What are the potential harms of AIs? How do we regulate them? ([link](#))

## #interaction

1. Human-AI Interaction ([link 1](#) and [link 2](#))
2. How are we interacting with AI systems? ([link](#))

## #accountability

1. Accountability and risk management ([link](#))
2. How could we mitigate harm from AI systems? ([link](#))
3. How could we build a culture for responsible AI development and use? ([link](#))

### Sample organization of sessions

1. General landscape of AI, robots, ethics and society ([link](#)) #foundation
2. Human-AI Interaction ([link](#)) #interaction
3. How are AI systems changing our society? ([link](#)) #impact and harm
4. How are we interacting with AI systems? ([link](#)) #interaction
5. What are the potential harms of AIs? How do we regulate them? ([link](#)) #impact and harm
6. How could we mitigate harm from AI systems? ([link](#)) #accountability
7. How could we build a culture for responsible AI development and use? ([link](#)) #accountability

# Contact Information

For any questions or clarifications, please reach out to us at [contact@openroboethics.org](mailto:contact@openroboethics.org).