

## MIT Industrial Liaison Program Faculty Knowledgebase Report

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Conversation on Ethics & AI

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October 29, 2020 10:00 am - 11:00  
am

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10am

## Safeguarding Humanity in the Age of AI

Bernhardt Trout

Raymond F. Baddour, ScD, (1949) Professor of Chemical Engineering

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Bernhardt L. Trout is the Raymond F. Baddour, ScD, (1949) Professor of Chemical Engineering and Director of the MIT Society, Engineering, and Ethics Program. He received his S.B. and S.M. degrees from MIT and his Ph.D. from the University of California at Berkeley. In addition, he performed post-doctoral research at the Max-Planck Institute.

After having integrated humanities in engineering courses for over a decade, in 2009, with several colleagues, Trout started the MIT Society, Engineering, and Ethics Program. Its aim is to broaden and deepen the understanding of MIT engineering students, focusing on the societal and ethical implications of engineering. He has taught Ethics for Engineers to undergraduates at MIT for over a decade and recently launched a version focusing on the Ethics of AI. He also co-teaches a course on the Ethics of AI for professionals through MIT Short Programs. He is on the Editorial Boards of both *AI and Ethics* and *The AI Ethics Journal*. His research focuses on applications of quantum mechanics and statistical mechanics together with experiments to develop pharmaceutical products and processes. This includes developing advanced manufacturing technologies, public outreach, and the application of machine learning to pharmaceutical product design. He is co-editor of the 2016 volume *Mastery of Nature* and has published over 200 technical papers with 18 patents issued or pending.

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Leigh Hafrey

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Leigh Hafrey is Senior Lecturer in Behavioral and Policy Sciences at the MIT Sloan School of Management. Since 1995, he has offered courses in communication, ethics, and leadership in the MBA and other graduate programs in the U.S. and abroad. He has also taught at Harvard Business School; served as co-Master of Mather House, one of the undergraduate residences in Harvard College; and for more than 20 years has moderated seminars in programs of the Aspen Institute, an international educational and policy studies organization focused on values-driven leadership. He serves on the boards of the Green Rural Opportunities Fund, a spin-off of the Butajira, Ethiopia-based GreenPath Food, and ClassACT HR73, an alumni initiative of the Harvard-Radcliffe Class of 1973.

A former staff editor at *The New York Times Book Review*, Hafrey has published translations from French and German and columns, feature articles, essays, reviews, and interviews in *The New York Times* and other periodicals, as well as blog posts and business case studies for MIT Sloan. He is the author of two books on values and leadership, *The Story of Success: Five Steps to Mastering Ethics in Business* (2005) and *War Stories: Fighting, Competing, Imagining, Leading* (2016). Hafrey holds an A.B. in English Literature from Harvard College and a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from Yale University.

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