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## **Digital *Ubuntu*: AI, Epistemic Cooperation and the Future of Peace**

This paper argues that as digital platforms continue to complicate the public square, threaten democratic institutions and global peace, there needs to be a paradigm shift in scientific knowledge production in the global south (global Africa) in the context of technology to address epistemic injustices, structural and systemic inequalities that risk being sustained through AI. Digital *Ubuntu* is foregrounded by the questions of “being in Africa” and “Africa digital being” thereof, that argue for the creation of a local knowledge ecology in the constitution of algorithms in deliberative platforms for digital epistemic sovereignty. The paper further argues that digital *Ubuntu* is a reconstruction project in the social sciences, starting with the epistemological interrogations concerning the objects, methods and status of knowledge produced by the human sciences and social sciences in digital spaces as they are applied to African realities of conflict and peacebuilding. It is a *gnosis* inspired by experimenting, co-creating and archiving community innovative experiences, resilience mechanisms in exploitation of digital platforms in their full cultural, archeological and linguistic expression in the context of polarization. It is the nurturing of a digital culture inspired by Africa’s *Ubuntu* value system that emphasises the capacity for compassion, which can be described as a pervasive sense of caring and community, harmony and hospitality, respect and responsiveness displayed by individuals and communities towards one another (organic social/community networks as opposed to mechanical neural networks). In this case, *Ubuntu* signifies spiritualism, empathy, love, community, collaboration, respect, humanism, and humaneness in the digital world. As an indigenous philosophical perspective of African people that connotes and symbolises human beings’ communal obligation to share life for the common good (Peace), it is at the core of epistemic cooperation, experimentation and collaboration in AI research across cultures to escape essentialism inherent in North South scientific positionalities in philosophical orientations in knowledge production in the digital age (digital divide, data poverty, digital coloniality, digital repression etc.) by depoliticizing, humanizing and giving fluidity to epistemologies through the universality of man-kind (humanity). The paper concludes that understanding the balance (of power) in scientific knowledge production in the context AI, is critical for constituting better digital relationalities; cultivating respect, understanding and relationships to achieve a higher peaceful order and cosmic balance for harmonious interaction of humans in the cosmos as human beings (as opposed to “Africa being or being black” or “European being or being White”) as well as with AI.