

"AI AT THE CROSSROADS OF DIPLOMACY: LEGAL FRAMEWORKS, TECHNOLOGICAL TOOLS, AND GEOPOLITICAL IMPLICATIONS" – A STATE-OF-THE-ART ANALYSIS

INTRODUCTION

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has recently become an area of interest due to its current and future potential to shape the international sphere. Thus, this thesis's:

Research question: How does the integration of AI in diplomacy impact international relations, and what are the legal, technological, and geopolitical dimensions that shape it?

Objective: summarize how the academic literature frames AI's impacts on diplomacy, describe historical progressions, identify its turning points, and propose a direction for its further development.

METHODOLOGY

A **State-of-the-Art Review** serves to synthesize the existing academic literature trends in these categories, to offer opportunities for further inquiry. It has been examined 89 English-language academic articles using the following design:

Analytical categories:



- AI as a topic on the agenda: AI governance
- AI as a tool for diplomacy
- AI as a geopolitical factor
- Cross-cutting topics (ethical considerations, privacy concerns and Human Rights implications)

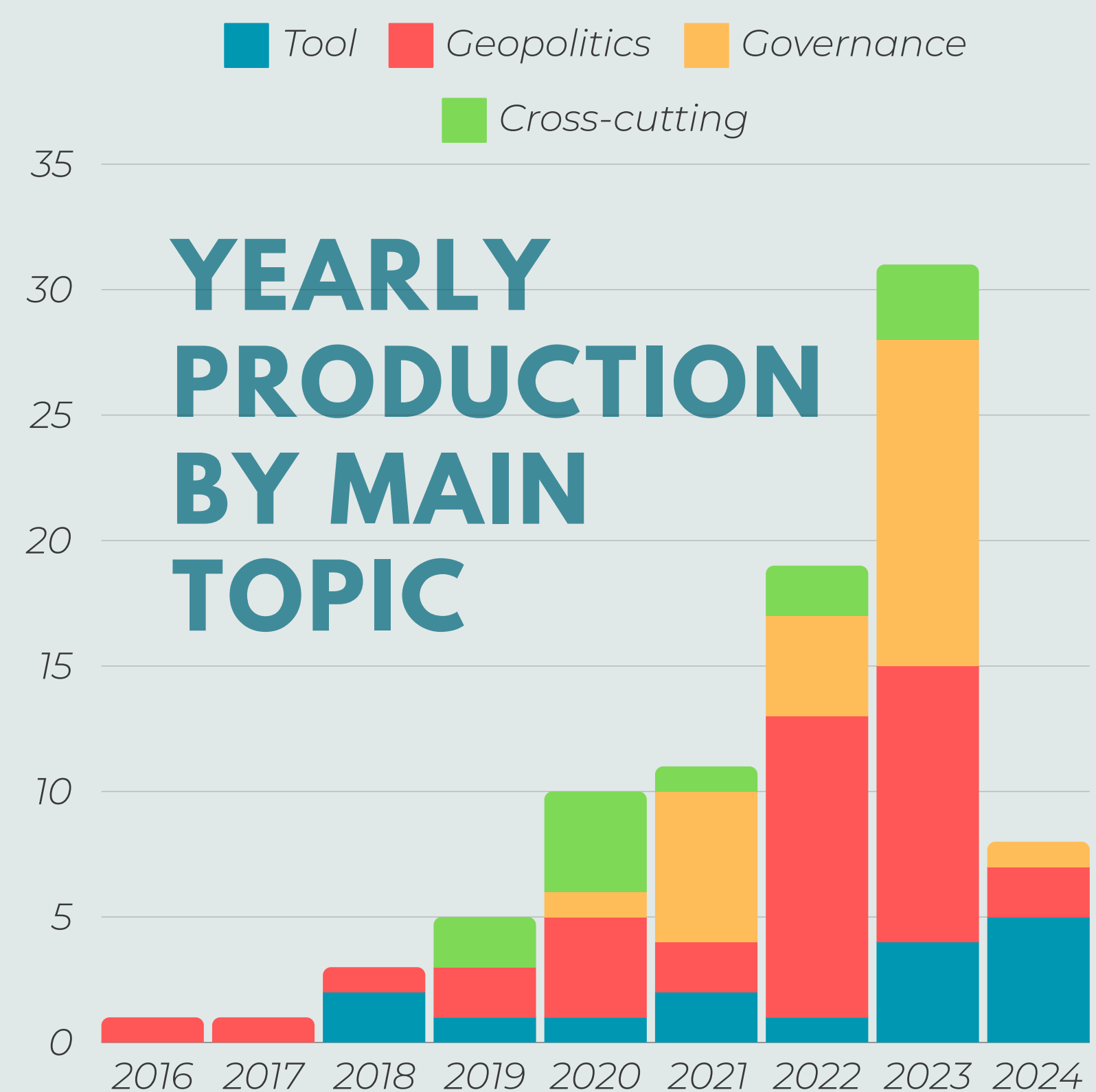


Article's inclusion criteria:

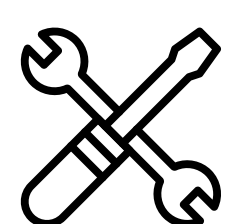
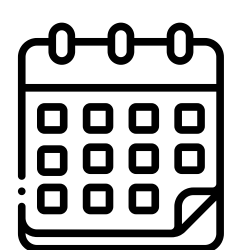
- From 2016 to April 2024
- Published on Scopus and Web of Science databases.
- Contains the presence of keywords in the title and/or in the abstract, and in the source keywords list.

RESULTS

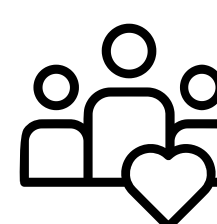
- **Boost production** on the second half of the period and mostly focused on AI's geopolitical and governance implications.
- The **2023** reveals a **high increase** in governance-related articles.
- AI as a **tool for diplomacy** articles were more than **half of 2024's production so far**. A third of them are case study on regions as Southeast Asia and countries like South Korea, Russia, China, and Kenya.
- AI as geopolitical factor, **maintains academic interest** constant during the whole timeframe, with a peak of 33% in 2022. Case studies mostly focus on the EU, US, China, and Russia.
- Cross-cutting topics have been **limitedly addressed** in academic publications from 2019 to 2023 only and with a case study on the EU's ethical governance.



CONCLUSIONS



- While substantial progress has been made in framing AI governance dialogues, significant **work remains to bridge the gap** between policy intentions and their operationalization in diverse global contexts.
- Need of a **balanced exploration of AI's capabilities and limitations**, ensuring technological advancements support diplomatic ethic and secure practices.



- AI's impact on shifting global power structures, particularly highlighting the **systemic — economic and military— competition** between leading nations like the US and China is underscored.
- Despite existing efforts to establish ethical guidelines, there remains a **critical need for transparent, accountable AI applications** that uphold human rights and promote global diplomatic equality.

