



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Introduction</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Survey Results</b>	<b>3</b>
What is Responsible AI?	3
Survey Participants	4
Our Future With AI	5
The Trust Gap	6
Areas of Concerns with Technology & AI	7
Trustworthy Community & Information Source	9
<b>Conclusion and Key Takeaways</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Additional Background</b>	<b>10</b>
RI Lab	10
Acknowledgments	10
Transparency	11
Incentives & Disclosures	11
The Responsible Innovation Project	11

# Introduction

On August 20, 2020, The Responsible Innovation Project, held an academic/industry Responsible AI? roundtable. The participatory roundtable included multi-disciplinary academic and industry leaders, practitioners, and researchers working on technology and AI or at the intersection of technology, policy, and social science. The goal was to leverage both quantitative and qualitative responses to arrive at a collective understanding of the challenges and strategies for building technology and AI responsibly. **Everyone who registered for the event received a survey before the roundtable. 42% of the roundtable attendees completed the survey.** After the roundtable, the survey was made available to other experts interested in the roundtable report.

## Survey Results

### What is Responsible AI?

**Can AI Be Responsible?** Though terms like Ethical AI, Trustworthy AI, and now Responsible AI are widely used, the language and framing shift the primary responsibility of responsibility, trust, and ethics to technology. Considering that what is defined as AI can be a complex ecosystem of systems that keeps evolving, it is also not clear how it can be ethical, trustworthy, and responsible. The Responsible Innovation Project wanted to probe what Responsible AI means to those working on AI. **Though the survey respondents did not explicitly question the term, Responsible AI,** their definitions and requirements put the responsibility on the makers and designers of the technology--**people.**

#### What is Responsible Innovation and AI? \*

It is the responsible use of technology with considerations for upstream and downstream consequences. It is human and planet centered AI. It is people applying AI with integrity while respecting the rights of individuals and the collective.

**Building or Using AI responsibly means** developing technology that is both useful and accountable to the people who are meant to use it or who could be impacted by its use. It requires people and entities such as businesses, open source forums, nonprofits and governments to act responsibly when building, deploying, and using AI systems.

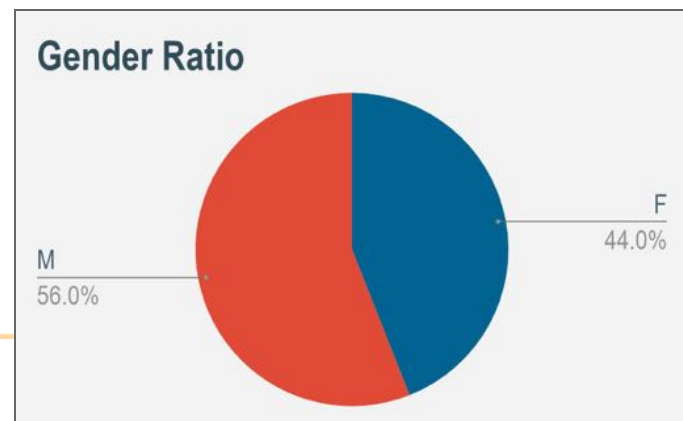
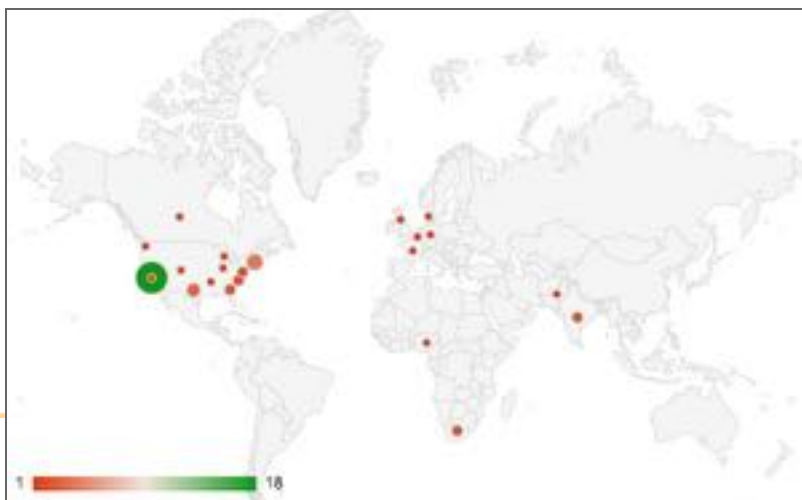
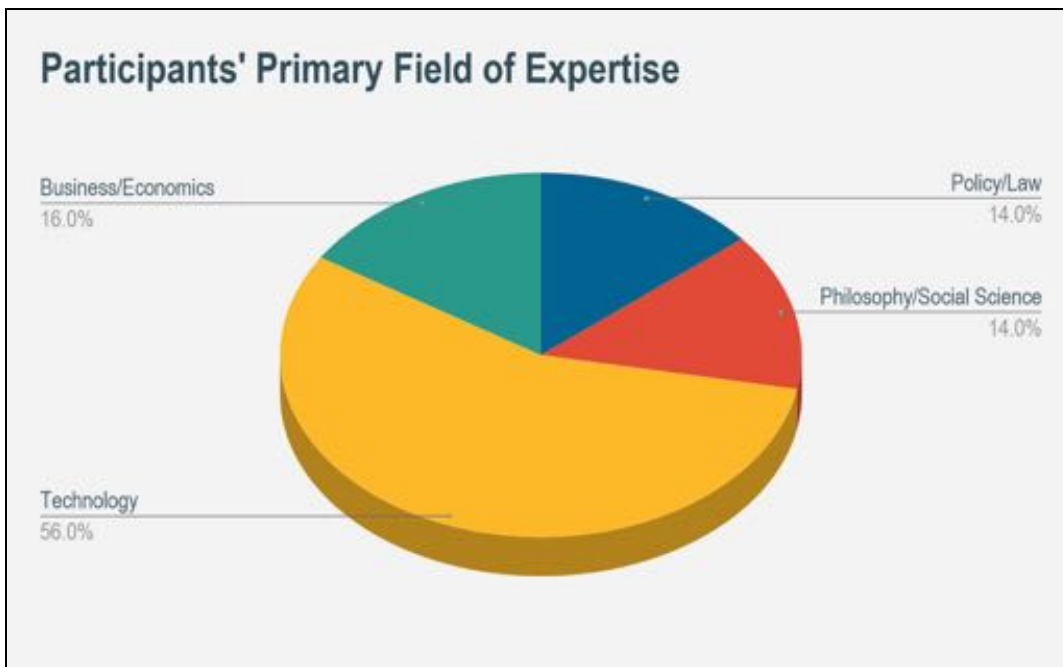
\*Modified Collective Definition Based on The Responsible Innovation's Responsible AI? Survey Responses

# Survey Participants

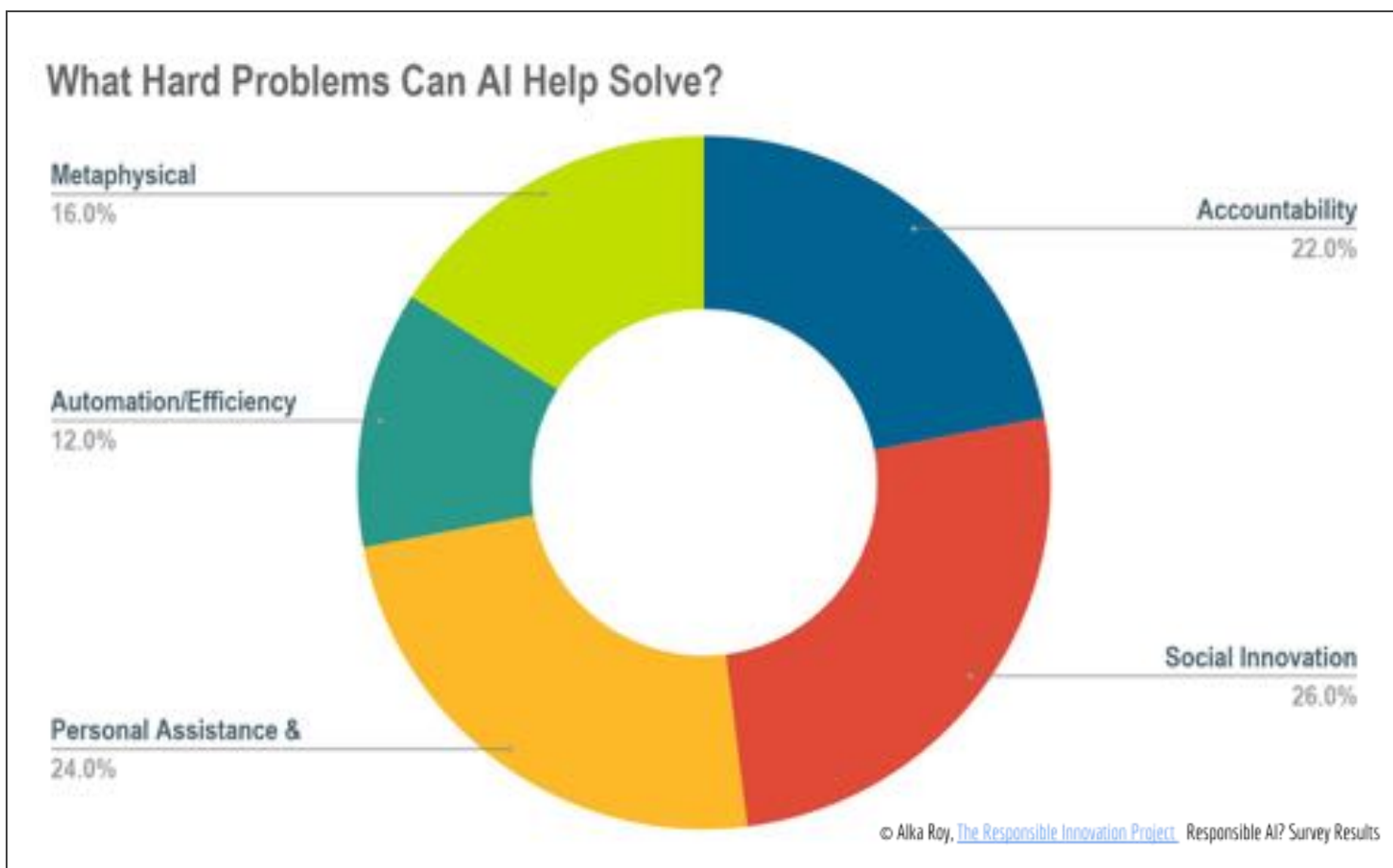
The survey results include input from **fifty (50)** participants. **Diversity in Participation:** Over 50% of the participants identified themselves as multi-disciplinary and 46% as Industry or Academic researchers. Gender breakdown is 44% Female, 56% Male. 76% of the participants are based in the United States, and 24% are International: Canada, Europe, Africa and Asia.

## Participants' AI Area of Expertise

- Speed, Accuracy & Reliability in Prediction
- AI Governance
- Understanding the Impact of AI & Technology
- Trust & Bias in Public/Private Datasets
- Privacy and Security
- Democratizing AI Training & Understanding
- Open Source AI Development & Access
- Improving User Experience in Extended Reality
- Augmenting Humans
- Future of Work



# Our Future With AI

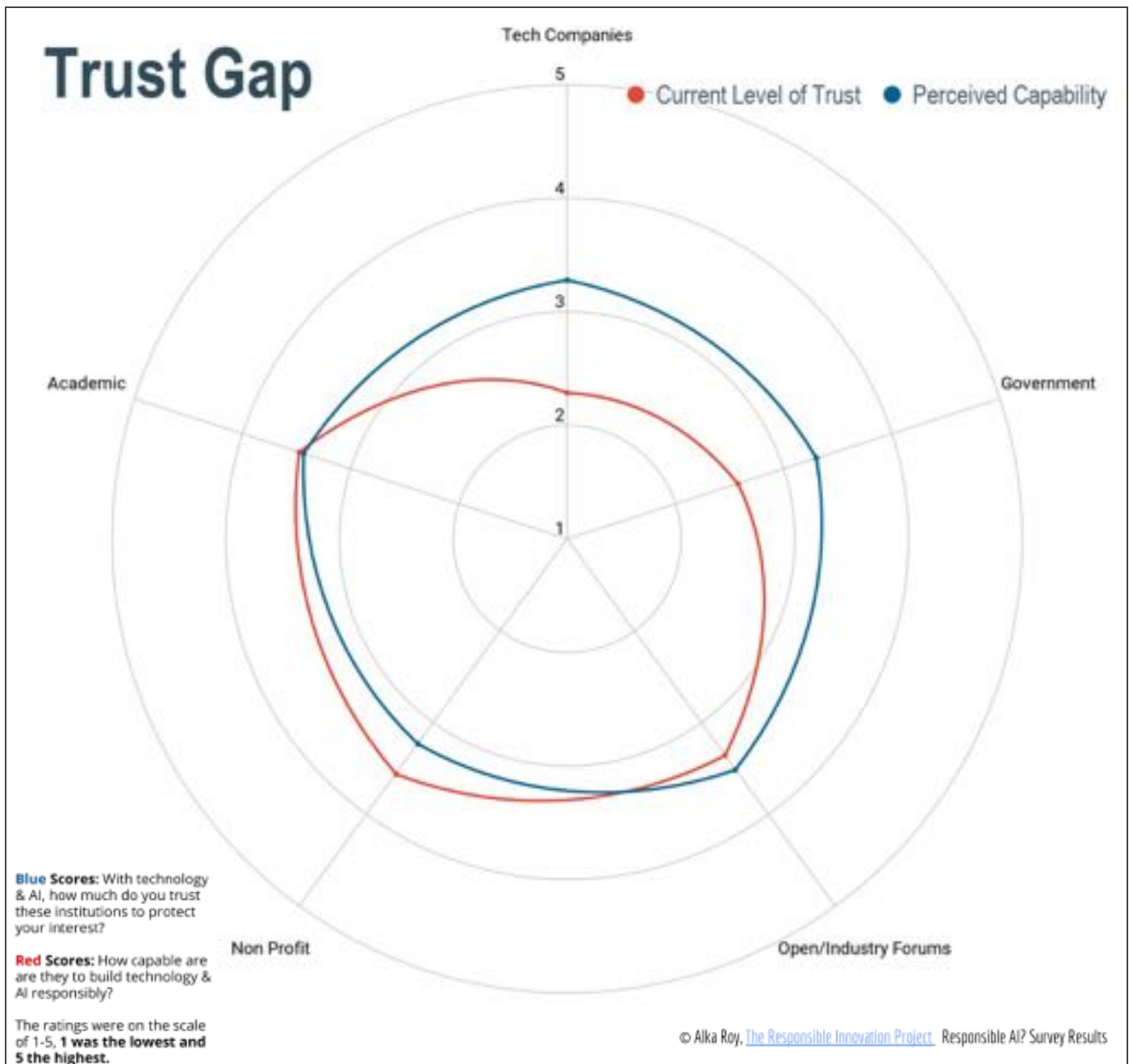


*If you had a magic wand, what would you want AI to enable us to do?*

Categories	Example Responses
Social Innovation	<i>Solve world hunger. Predict natural disasters. Tackle climate change &amp; economic and social disparity.</i>
Personal Assistance & Augmentation	<i>Funnels to work for me while I sleep. Cognitive assistant.</i>
Accountability	<i>Hold industry and government accountable. To get the decision-making matrix from the decision-makers. I want observability and interpretability of model outputs that are intelligible to business users.</i>
Metaphysical	<i>The purpose and reason for existence. Oneness.</i>
Automation/Efficiency	<i>Identify patterns in symptoms to solve problems faster. Predictive processing for endpoint management.</i>

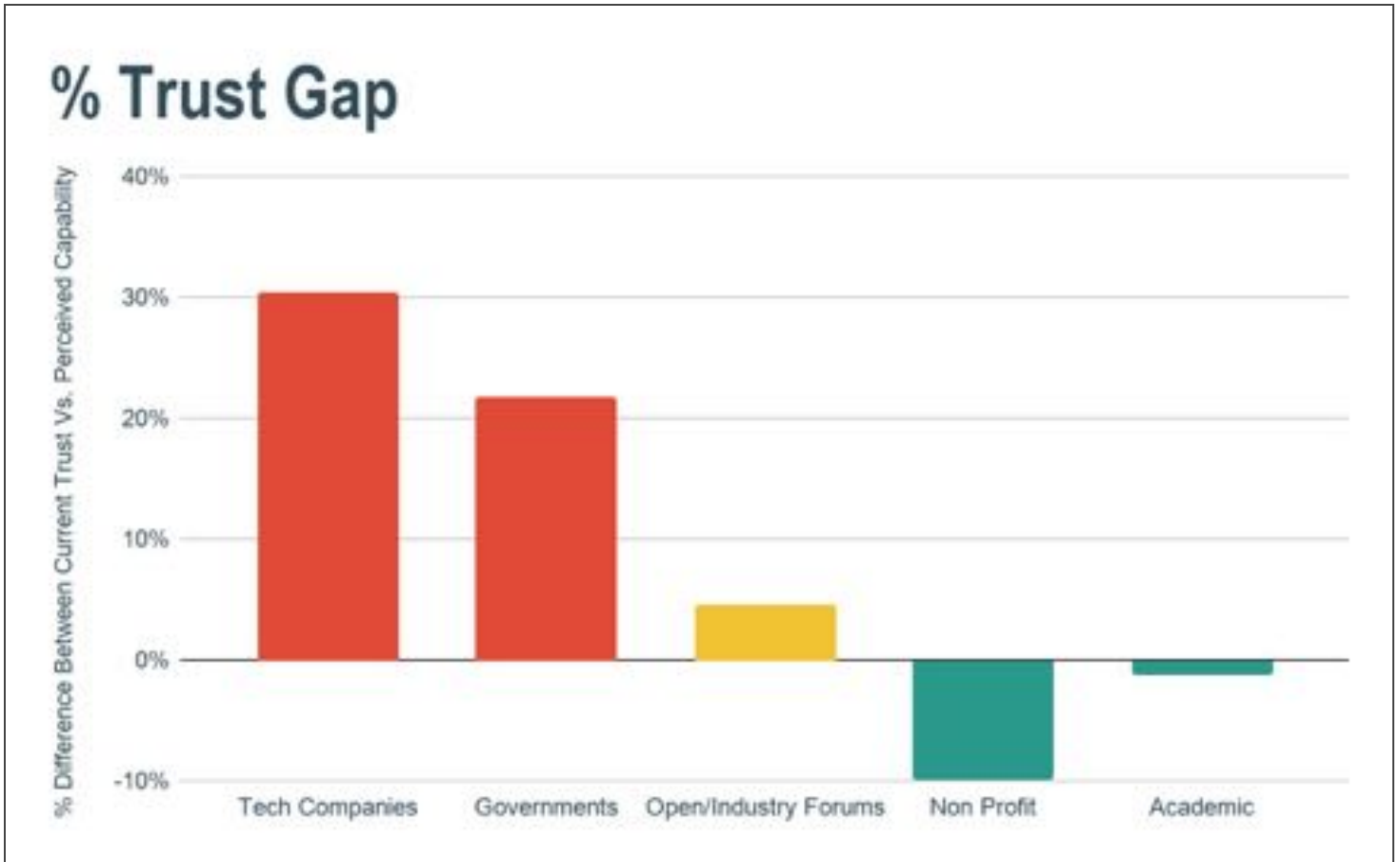
# The Trust Gap

The survey participants were asked to rate how much they trust tech companies, governments, open/industry forums, and academic institutions to protect their interests. They were also asked how capable these same institutions are to drive accountability and responsibility. The scale was 1 (lowest trust/capability) to 5 (highest trust/capability). The graph below shows the average scores.





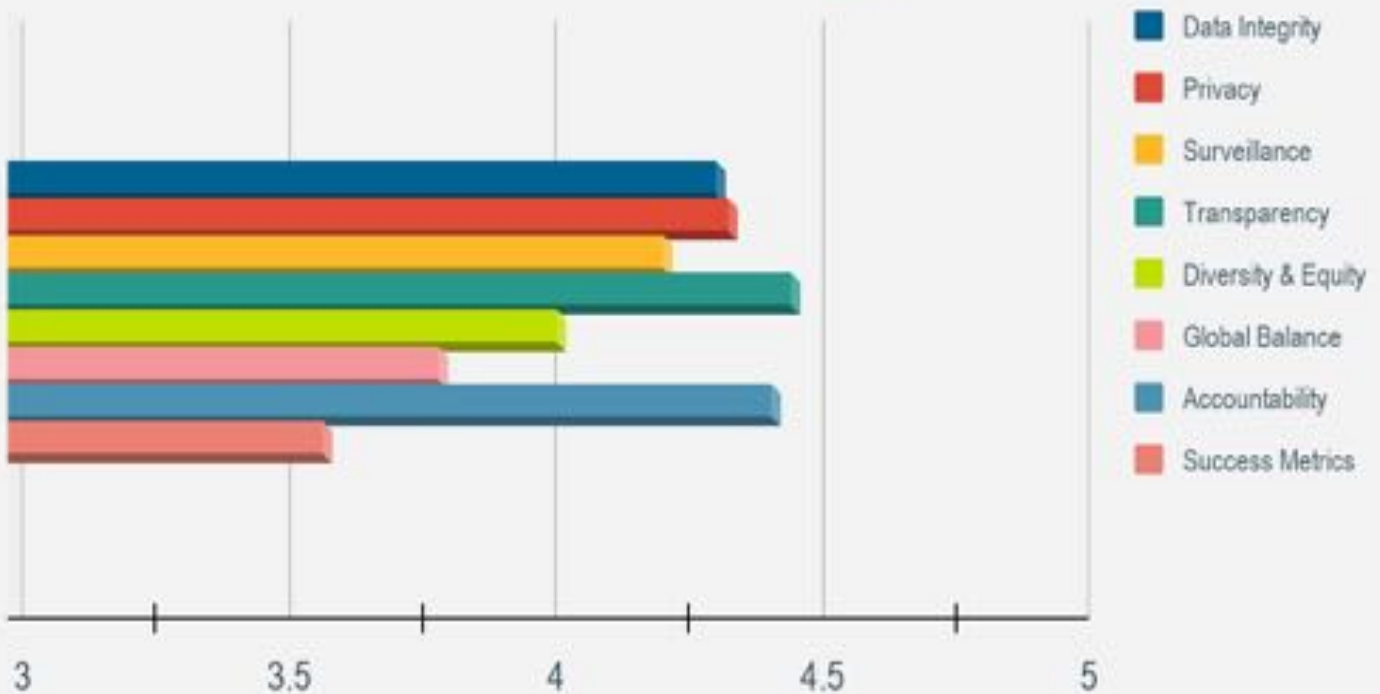
**The Responsible Innovation Project interprets the Trust Gap** as an underutilized capability and an opportunity to earn public trust. The trust gap is the percentage difference between the perceived capability (potential for trust) and the actual trust. According to the survey results, the biggest opportunity to close the trust gap (30%) is for tech companies. They are followed by government institutions (22%)--76% of the participants were USA based. Interestingly, the results show that non-profits, who seem to be the most trusted but perceived to be the least capable, have an opportunity to expand their capabilities and serve this unmet need. Academic institutions and open standards and industry forums have the smallest trust gap and highest likelihood to align trust with capability.



## Areas of Concerns with Technology & AI

The roundtable participants, many of whom are at the center of technology and AI development or research on building privacy, trust, and fairness into technology, were asked to rate their concerns. Generally, all concerns were rated 3.5 or higher (out of 5), where 1 was the lowest (no/low concern) to 5, the highest (extremely concerned).

# Concerns with Technology & AI



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**This graph shows high concern across multiple interconnected areas for technology and AI.** All concerns averaged a score between 3.5- 5 (on a scale of 1-5, 1 (not concerned), 5 (extremely concerned)). **Areas of concern with scores of 4 or higher: Transparency, Accountability, Privacy, Data Integrity, Surveillance, Diversity & Equity.**

*"I see broad value in the application of AI in any number of verticals from healthcare to manufacturing to finance to consumer facing products, but I have a high level of concern about the gaps we have in the data we use to build AI applications, in the systems design of current AI deployments, and in our ability to deliver transparency and accountability for users and consumers."*

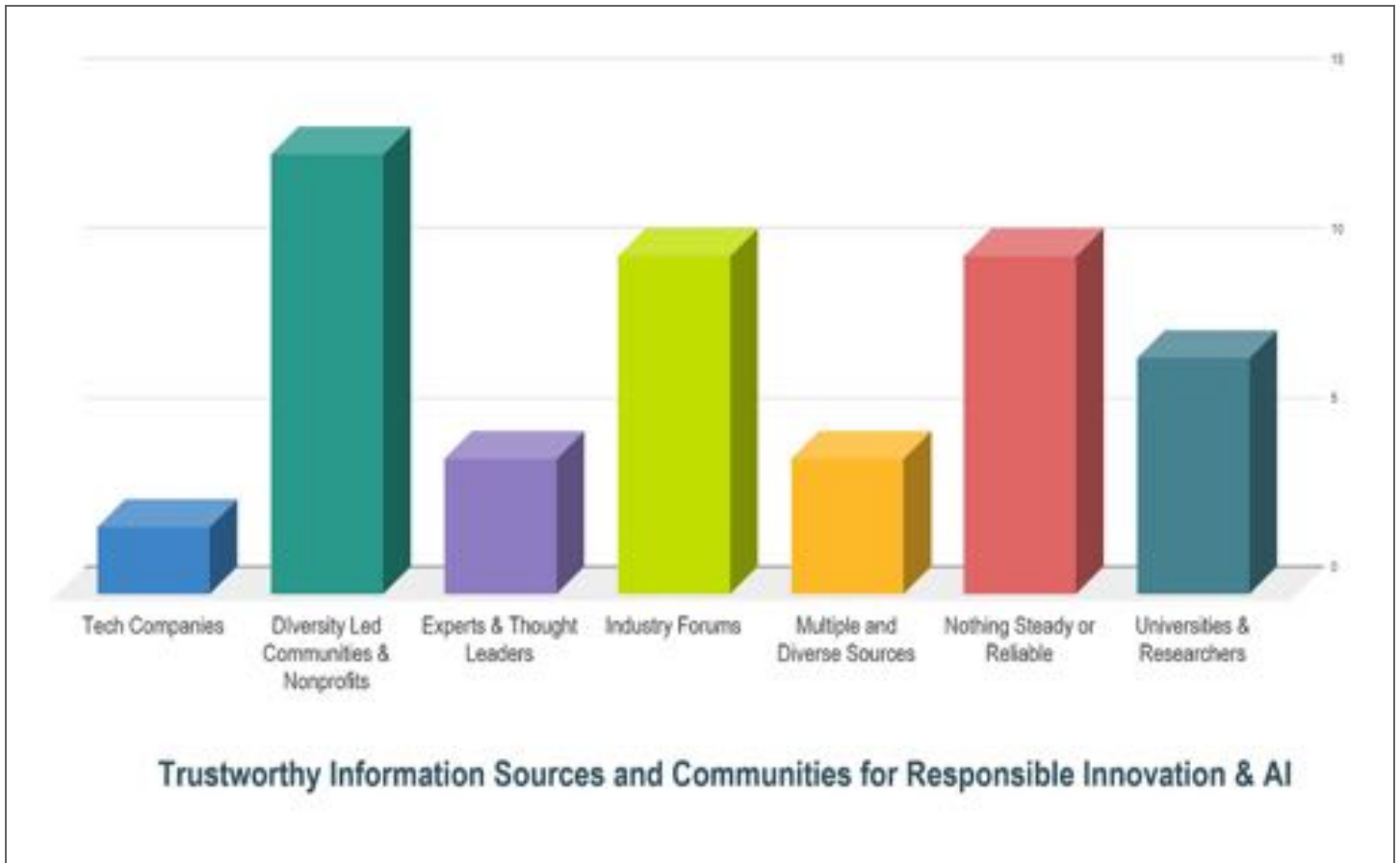
*How can we "mitigate consequences of biased/prejudiced data sets and machine learning models... Trust the data used to test and train AI models?"*

*"The development of AI applications should be coupled with a thorough understanding of legal implications. Many times, applications are released without a consideration of the impact they could have. There is a need to bridge the gap between developers and engineers, and lawyers."*



# Trustworthy Community & Information Source

Finally, the survey participants were asked: *When trying to build AI responsibly or with accountability, what community, organizations or resources do you turn to for support?*



The list of organizations and responses were diverse but fell into these categories:

**Diversity Led Communities & Nonprofits** (*Because they are making AI and machine/deep learning communities embrace inclusive diversity in more equitable ways. Historical events and history of ethics.*)

**Nothing Steady or Reliable** (*There are too many organizations that want to jump on the train without providing anything really useful. Unfortunately, I don't know good resources. Open to finding out.*)

**Industry Forums & Associations**

**Universities & Academic Researchers**

**Experts & Thought Leaders** (*Industry leaders and thinkers who are thinking about the problem.*)

**Multiple Sources** (*Multiple because this should not be from just one single source.*)

**Tech Companies**

# Conclusion and Key Takeaways

Why should we care about trust? Real or imagined, trust can create pathways for cooperation and decision making. Lack of trust on the other hand can erode value creation, cause confusion, create barriers, slow down adoption and introduce complex rules and challenges that are not always in the best interest of the public or innovation. It was our inquiry into [Trust & AI](#) that led us to bring a multidisciplinary group of academic/industry experts together for the Responsible AI? roundtable and survey.

The Responsible Innovation Project's RI Lab survey results highlighted:

1. That responsibility and accountability for technology and AI needs to start with the people who own, make, invest, and profit from the technology.
2. There are needs and opportunities for the tech ecosystem and the government to begin to close the trust gap.
3. There is an opportunity for universities and non-profits and
4. There is a general recognition of the interrelated problems with technology & AI and the need for accountability is leading the charge.
5. And finally, there is a need for reliable and trustworthy communities and sources of information.

The qualitative and narrative portion of the roundtable report with additional insights and takeaways will be released in November. **A live online report launch with Q&A will follow.** Both the report and the online event will include details of upcoming **RI Lab projects**. [Join The Responsible Innovation Project mailing list](#) to be notified or fill out this [engagement form](#) if you are ready to get involved.

## Additional Background

### RI Lab

The Survey Results are a product of the Responsible Innovation Project's RI Lab. RI Lab is bringing together a collective of multidisciplinary researchers, professional leaders, community members, artists, and tech practitioners to investigate the impact and possibilities of emerging ideas and technologies. The goal is to make space for thoughtful inquiry and bridge across academic, industry, startup, and non-profit communities for practice-based collaboration and projects.

### Acknowledgments

The Responsible Innovation Project is thankful to all survey participants for their time and candid and

valuable thoughts and ideas. Special thanks to the industry and academic reviewers of the survey and this report and for improving them both. And finally, thank you for taking the time to read and engage in this inquiry.

## Transparency

The desired goal for this survey was to begin to discover and highlight general trends in the emerging area of responsibility and AI. The primary purpose of the survey was to supplement and inform the roundtable discussion. The participation and demographic information have been shared so the readers can critically interpret the relevance of the findings for their needs. And though the goal was to identify general AI-related trends, it is important to acknowledge that the area and definition of technology and AI is vast and the challenges vary with application, complexity, and field.

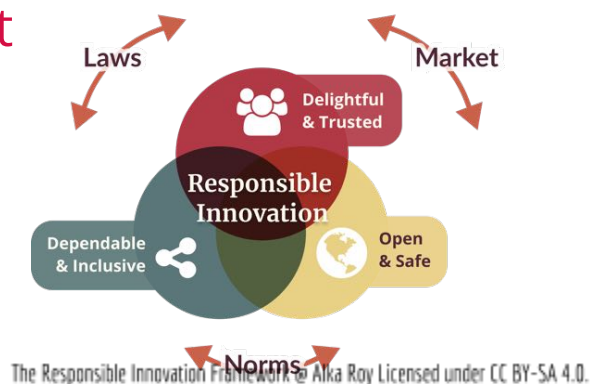
## Incentives & Disclosures

No financial incentives were provided to or by The Responsible Innovation Project to conduct this survey or create this report. The survey participants were offered a copy of the roundtable narrative report as an incentive for completing the survey.

## The Responsible Innovation Project

We are building a community and ecosystem for responsible innovation. We are grateful to the volunteers, supporters, and cheerleaders of [The Responsible Innovation Project](#).

**Curious? Ready to Engage? [Contact Us](#)** to advise, mentor, support, or work on projects at the RI Lab collective or Join [The Responsible Innovation Project mailing list](#) for reports and invitations to future projects and initiatives.



**Alka Roy** is the founder of [The Responsible Innovation Project](#) working on building delight, trust and inclusion into technology and AI and a guest lecturer on Responsible Innovation & AI at UC Berkeley. She is preoccupied with the questions: How are we designing our future? And how will that design, design us?

Alka is a product and technology leader who has been part of several industry firsts for AT&T and Cingular Wireless. She was instrumental in setting up the Bay Area 5G co-create lab for AT&T to spur innovation and lead the Responsible AI initiative for AT&T Innovation Center. In addition to a Computer Science & Electrical Engineering degree, Alka also holds an MFA in creative writing & literature and speaks, writes, mentors and hosts multidisciplinary and deep tech sessions on innovating with values and serves on several open source and industry ML/AI, Data Science and Trusted AI committees.