

ACM Technology Policy Council TechBriefs Committee

FY 2022 Annual Report

Stuart Shapiro, Chair (July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022)

1. **BASIC INFORMATION**

1.1 Committee members (all terms indeterminate)

- Stuart Shapiro, Chair
- Michel Beaudouin-Lafon
- Juan Miguel de Joya
- Bran Knowles
- Larry Medsker
- John Murray
- Kashyap Tumkur
- Moshe Vardi
- Jim Hendler (ex officio)
- Adam Eisgrau (ex officio)
- Bruce Shriver (ex officio)

1.2 **Purpose**

The ACM Technology Policy Council TechBriefs Committee is charged with producing on an ongoing basis (currently quarterly) a series of short technical bulletins that present perspectives on the impact of specific developments or applications of computing technology. The primary goal of these documents is to inform, rather than advocate specific policy responses. Their primary audience is policymakers. Secondary audiences are the media, computing professionals, and the general public.

1.3 **Subcommittees**

N/A

1.4 **Committee meetings** (held as needed):

- July 19, 2021
- September 9, 2021
- September 14, 2021
- November 2, 2021
- December 16, 2021
- January 21, 2022
- February 11, 2022
- March 16, 2022
- March 23, 2022
- June 7, 2022
- June 8, 2022

2. **PROJECT SUMMARY**

While the Committee is one of three standing sub-units of the ACM Technology Policy Council, its work consists of sequential projects each one of which is designed to produce an individual TechBrief. Those published in FY 2022 were:

- Issue 1: Computing and Climate Change (November 2021)
- Issue 2: Facial Recognition (February 2022)
- Issue 3: Smart Cities (April 2022)

In FY 2022, the Committee formally established a quarterly publication schedule for each calendar year of January, April, July, and October. The Committee also continued to normalize and refine the production process, which has been enhanced by the addition of contract editorial and design support.

3. **PLANS**

3.1 **Current Projects**

A TechBrief on Quantum Computing and Simulation was published in July 2022. TechBriefs currently under development will address:

- Election Auditing
- Algorithmic Safety
- Trust and Data
- AI and Trust
- Quantum Sensing

A subset of these (TBD) will be completed in FY 2023.

3.2 **Prospective Changes or Milestones**

The Committee's attempt to utilize HotCRP as a production-facilitation platform was not successful. As a result, the Committee will be considering alternative tools to support its work, including Trello. The Committee also aims to increase its membership to enable better distribution of the workload and enhance productivity.

3.3 **New Projects or Programs**

In response to the interest expressed by ACM members in locations outside the US and Europe in developing localized TechBriefs, the Committee will investigate ways in which TechBriefs might be "franchised" while maintaining appropriate quality assurance. The Committee also will revisit the possibility of translating TechBriefs into one or more non-English languages, including particularly Chinese and/or Spanish.

4. **DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION**

The Committee operates by consensus and therefore places a premium on active engagement from its members. Efforts are consistently made in meetings and other interactions to actively elicit the views of all participants and exchanges have been invariably civil and respectful. The Committee's composition, however, remains skewed. It trends: older, American, academic, male, and white, though it is not monolithic in any of these respects. Consequently, the Committee has begun identifying candidates for recruitment outside this demographic with the aim of leveraging the opportunity for ad hoc participation by additional volunteers to improve its level of diversity.

5. **COMMENTS**

TechBriefs are intended primarily to inform policymakers, the media (on which policymakers and their staffs rely), ACM professional and student members (through media and ACM channels), other computing professionals, and the public at large (likely through media). They also are intended to establish ACM, its policy units, and the organization's member experts as authoritative, objective, trustworthy, and reliable apolitical sources for technical information in accessible forms on critical technology policy issues.

Specifically, each TechBrief aims to illuminate key current and/or emerging issues related to the impacts, trade-offs, benefits, and risks associated with a specific computing technology. TechBriefs topics thus can include both issues under present consideration by policymakers (e.g., facial recognition), as well as foreseeable issues raised by new technologies with significant anticipated social, political, economic, and environmental impacts (e.g., quantum simulation). They also may well address, in whole or in part, themes related to professional responsibility. As a product of the TPC, TechBriefs are intended for a global audience. Efforts thus consistently are made (with varying degrees of success) to "internationalize" their content.

**ACM TECHNOLOGY POLICY COUNCIL
TECH BRIEFS COMMITTEE
FY 2022 MEMBER ROLES AND CONTACT INFORMATION**

VOTING	EX OFFICIO
<p>Stuart Shapiro s_shapiro@acm.org <i>Chair</i></p> <p>Juan Miguel de Joya juandejoya@gmail.com <i>FCA Technology Policy Fellow</i></p> <p>Bran Knowles b.h.knowles1@lancaster.ac.uk <i>Europe TPC Representative</i></p> <p>Larry Medsker lrm@gwu.edu <i>Ad hoc USTPC Member</i></p> <p>John Murray jxm@calidris.net <i>Ad hoc USTPC Member</i></p> <p>Kashyap Tumkur kashyap.tumkur@gmail.com <i>USTPC Representative</i></p> <p>Moshe Vardi vardi@cs.rice.edu <i>Editorial/Publication SME</i></p>	<p>Michel Beaudouin-Lafon mbl@lri.fr <i>TPC Vice Chair</i></p> <p>Adam Eisgrau eisgrau@hq.acm.org <i>ACM Director, Global Policy & Public Affairs</i></p> <p>Bruce Shriver shriver@hq.acm.org <i>ACM Marketing and Communications Senior Manager</i></p>