Value-Oriented and Ethical Technology Engineering in Industry 5.0: A Human-Centric Perspective for the Design of the Factory of the Future

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Featured Application: This work can be used to drive the design and development of Industry 4.0 technological solutions and the Factories of the Future in a human-centric, value-oriented and ethical direction.

Abstract: Although manufacturing companies are currently situated at a transition point in what has been called Industry 4.0, a new revolutionary wave—Industry 5.0—is emerging as an ‘Age of Augmentation’ when the human and machine reconcile and work in perfect symbiosis with one another. Recent years have indeed assisted in drawing attention to the human-centric design of Cyber-Physical Production Systems (CPPS) and to the genesis of the ‘Operator 4.0’, two novel concepts that raise significant ethical questions regarding the impact of technology on workers and society at large. This paper argues that a value-oriented and ethical technology engineering in Industry 5.0 is an urgent and sensitive topic as demonstrated by a survey administered to industry leaders from different companies. The Value Sensitive Design (VSD) approach is proposed as a principled framework to illustrate how technologies enabling human–machine symbiosis in the Factory of the Future can be designed to embody elicited human values and to illustrate actionable steps that engineers and designers can take in their design projects. Use cases based on real solutions and prototypes discuss how a design-for-values approach aids in the investigation and mitigation of ethical issues emerging from the implementation of technological solutions and, hence, support the migration to a symbiotic Factory of the Future.

Keywords: Industry 4.0; Industry 5.0; Human-Machine Interaction; Operator 4.0; Smart Operator; ethics; technology engineering; Value Sensitive Design; smart factory; human factors

1. Introduction

Recent years have witnessed technology-oriented manufacturing megatrends such as robotics, computer-integrated manufacturing and cyber-physical production systems (CPPS), molding how industrial production is seen and understood [1]. As we continue to reap the benefits of the age of ‘smart production’, scholars and practitioners have recently begun emphasizing the critical function that workers form as a constituent of human-centric CPPS [2], as well as the importance of designing industrial systems and work processes to integrate and embody human factors [3]. Despite numerous studies focused on the interplay between the design of work processes or workplaces and human well-being [4], technologies shaping the Factories of the Future are far more impactful. In particular, their sociotechnical influence in industrial settings has been typically overlooked, perhaps resulting...
from the technocratic paradigm that characterizes the 4th Industrial Revolution [5]. Although Industry 4.0 is not yet full-grown and it is still the major revolution on manufacturers’ minds, some industry pioneers and visionary technology leaders have already opened up the floor to the 5th Industrial Revolution, Industry 5.0. Unlike Industry 4.0, the new revolutionary wave combines the diverging strengths of CPPS and human agents to create symbiotic factories [6]. To address this phenomenon, institutions and policy makers are shifting their attention towards ‘human-centered design’ as well as ‘ethical and responsible innovation’ in the Factories of the Future [7]. The European Union, for example, has been encouraging research into methodologies that centralize technology design for values that also encircles socio-cultural and ethical considerations [8,9]. Despite the inclination to frame technologies as neutral objects, they unavoidably manifest values, whether those of their designers or users [10], consequentially shaping and transforming how workers using them can actualize their potentials, identities, relationships, and aims [11]. Industry 5.0 is compelling computer scientists, designers, industrial engineers, as well as philosophers and legal experts to concentrate on the means by which technologies within 5.0 industrial systems can be designed for human values, rather than relegating them as an afterthought [12]. This is particularly apparent when converging technologies blur the lines between human and technological capabilities [13], such as in the case of the emerging Operator 4.0 paradigm. Scholars [13] have recently taken up the invitation to find acceptable and ethically sustainable solutions together with the employees. Given the impacts that manufacturing systems have on both workers and society, coupled with the fact that the human-centric CPPS paradigm is still in its infancy, it warrants investigating the role of human values and ethical design for the converging technologies enabling the Operator 4.0.

Scope and Aims

This paper argues that a 5th revolutionary wave in the industrial sector, Industry 5.0, is imminent and develops in tandem with a growing consciousness of the value of a human-machine symbiosis in industry. The emergence of Industry 5.0 as the Age of Augmentation is discussed in Section 2 where ethical questions are presented regarding the impact of technology on human workers in the field of future industrial systems engineering. The second aim of this study is to ascertain whether the industrial community is truly attentive to the human-centric evolution of the Industry 4.0 paradigm towards an Industry 5.0 and whether human values and ethical issues represent an actual concern for the workers at different levels and in different kind of organizations. A survey has been administered to industry leaders from different companies already leading the 4th industrial revolution to different extents and the results are discussed in Section 3. What makes this paper comparatively unique in its approach is that it then proposes a Value Sensitive Design (VSD) methodology as an overarching framework for a human-centered design of the Factories of the Future, with technologies shaping and embodying human values. Guidelines and recommendations are provided in Section 4 that are based on the results of the survey, including a list of values—that may serve as starting point for future studies—to uphold during techno-social change and human-machine symbiosis towards the Industry 5.0. Three use cases are finally proposed in Section 5 and discussed. The use cases build upon technological solutions and prototypes for the Operator 4.0 and describe prospective scenarios that industrial workers will deal with in the Factories of the Future. Insights describe how a design for values aids in the investigation and mitigation of ethical issues concealed behind the implementation of specific technological solutions and, hence, support the migration to a symbiotic Industry 5.0. Finally, Section 6 draws the conclusions by summarizing the contribution of the study, illustrates the limitations and suggests directions for future research.
2. Industry 5.0

2.1. The Emergence of Industry 5.0 as the Age of Augmentation

Almost a decade after the term Industry 4.0 has been coined and the benefits of an interconnected, highly digitalized, and automated smart factory are well-documented in the literature, most industrial firms are still ‘transitioning’ to the smart manufacturing paradigm, rather than ‘revolutionizing’ [14]. They are currently experimenting and piloting standalone solutions to establish a digital foundation that may yield in the short or medium term greater efficiency into traditional manufacturing routines [15]. Despite the fact that the 4th industrial revolution seems to set aside the human component, the ubiquitous integration of digital and automation technologies in the industrial socio-technical framework has today spontaneously triggered the genesis of a futuristic vision of a new evolutionary stage where the human and machine reconcile and work in perfect symbiosis with one another (Figure 1). After the last two ‘industrial ages’—the Age of Automation (Industry 3.0) and the Digital Age (Industry 4.0)—where smarter and smarter connected devices and computer technologies have automated manufacturing processes and workflows, the next ‘age’—the Age of Augmentation (Industry 5.0)—will be focused on the cooperation between human intelligence and cognitive computing and on treating automation as a further enhancement of the human’s physical, sensorial, and cognitive capabilities [16]. By putting humans back into the loop, Industry 5.0 profoundly restructures human tasks in the realm of manufacturing in ways that benefit the workers. They will be upskilled to shift from manual to cognitive labor [17], to provide value-added tasks in production and to work—with peace of mind—alongside an autonomous workforce, i.e., collaborative robots, that will be perceptive and informed about human intention and desire [18].

| Year | Industry Revolution |
|------|---------------------|
| 1784 | Industry 1.0 (Steam) |
| 1870 | Industry 2.0 (Electricity) |
| 1969 | Industry 3.0 (Automation) |
| 2011 | Industry 4.0 (Digital Age) |
|      | Future (Augmentation) |

Figure 1. Moving to the fifth industrial revolution or Industry 5.0: the Age of Augmentation.

Although this discourse may appear premature and Industry 5.0 literature does not exist yet, the 5th industrial revolution is already underway among the enterprises that are just now adopting the principles of Industry 4.0. Recent years have indeed assisted in drawing attention to the human-centric design of CPPS [19] and to the genesis of the ‘Operator 4.0’, defined as a hybrid agent established as the product of a symbiotic relationship between the human and the machine [20]. The impact of the technologies enabling the Operator 4.0 on human perception, cognition and interaction capabilities is explained in Figure 2. Coined as an enabler for computers to perceive the world, the Internet of Things (IoT) paradigm evolved now full circle to aim at enriching the human perception of the CPPS (and of the environment in general) with a multitude of sensing devices and technologies. Nonetheless, the abundance of data generated by such devices has not been yet fully exploited in a production environment [21]. Augmented cognitive capabilities are needed to process, understand and analyze this amount of data to get valuable information from it. Technologies enhancing cognitive capabilities do not only include those belonging to the Artificial Intelligence (AI) sphere—i.e., cognitive computing, computer vision, knowledge representation, machine learning, recommender systems and planning, scheduling and optimization algorithms. They also include simulation for what-if scenario analysis, big data analytics, cloud computing (that provides on-demand resources, especially data storage and computing power) and virtual reality (for training and experiential learning purposes). In order to move towards more cognitive and intelligent spaces [22], human workers are also asked to cooperate with the CPPS and complement the robotic and virtual world of the automated production system.
through novel technologies enabling faster and more intuitive workflows [23]. A considerable amount of information and knowledge is indeed generated during the augmented cognition process that should be made available to the operator in a meaningful and intuitive way. Augmented Reality, mobile device and smartwatch apps and advanced human–machine interfaces in industry will be augmented with voice-enabled interaction, thus giving birth to digital intelligent assistants. While Industry 4.0 creates the foundation for the Smart Factory, Industry 5.0 is the era of a ‘Social Smart Factory’, where every single cooperative building block of a CPPS will be able to communicate with the human component through enterprise social networks. In the ‘Social Smart Factory’, humans will work alongside collaborative robots [24], will use exoskeletons to perform strenuous tasks [25] and will be able to control and act upon the CPPS remotely if needed. Given the close interplay and symbiosis between human and machine, it becomes compelling to pay attention to the possible consequences of Industry 5.0 on the welfare of humans interacting with these systems [26]. Bringing back human workers to factory floors is about creating meaningful and sustainable socio-technical systems to support harnessing smart technologies in organizations [27].

![Figure 2. Towards human–machine symbiosis in the Industry 5.0: technology-augmented human capabilities as part of a cognitive process.](image)

2.2. The Role of Ethics in Industry 5.0

Since organizations have witnessed an increasing human–machine cooperation level, more and more ethical questions and concerns have been raised regarding the impact of technology on humans in the field of future industrial systems engineering [28]. Just like ethics acts as a self-governing system to keep human self-interest and the good of society in equilibrium, so we argue that ethics is expected to fuel a symbiotic relationship between humans and the cyber-physical world in Industry 5.0. Although literature specifically focusing on ethical issues related to technologies is steadily expanding, much of this research focuses on separate individual values or technologies. A significant body of research focuses, for example, on ethical concerns related to information and communication technologies (ICT) and robotic engineering. Human–robot co-working issues have been, for example, identified in psychological issues, lack of social interaction, skepticism towards learning robots, shrinking human workforce, and human–robot competition, among others [29]. Although this research is very valuable to flesh out specific values, it generally does not take a holistic approach. This can be a miss particularly when values are competing. Hence, even if the theoretical background exists and face-to-face interviews are widely adopted to elicit values influencing the future of industrial workforce and its connection to technology [30], current research in this field remains scarce and most of the research efforts focus asymmetrically on the technical aspects of the Factories of the Future.
In Industry 5.0, instead, researchers are compelled to design CPPS using a ‘human-centered’ rather than a ‘techo-centered’ approach [26], with a focus on social and ethical considerations [5]. The vision of Industry 5.0 comprises of two prospective scenarios, commonly known as the automation and the tooling scenarios, which are characterized by a different degree of self-X abilities of the CPPS [31]. On the one hand, the ‘automation’ scenario proposes an extensive automation of work processes and tasks, including planning of production process that might eventually lead to a devaluation of simple working tasks and to maintenance and supervision efforts performed only by highly qualified personnel [32]. Conversely, in the ‘tooling’ scenario, technology is mostly implemented to extend human capabilities and support the worker to make the right decision [16]. Which of the two scenarios will be dominant is not predictable and will depend on the pace of technological advances, and company-related conditions among other factors. However, in both cases, serious ethical harms can arise because of either poor design, inappropriate application or misuse of multiple types of technologies in industrial environments.

Two sub-fields of applied ethics are directly relevant: (1) how to design industrial systems based on ethical principles and (2) the ethics of the technologies themselves, or machine ethics. Due to greater intelligence embedded into production systems, machine ethics—i.e., how these systems can themselves behave ethically—is becoming relevant, but further discussion of this subject is not within the scope of this article. Instead, the role of industrial systems designers is to examine human values and ethical aspects a priori so that they are not construed as costs, but instead as design requirements. Designers have traditionally employed cost-benefit analyses in determining design requirements where, for example, safety and efficacy are at odds and safety is usually categorized as a cost [33]. Today, this approach is no longer acceptable. Any poorly value-oriented design can result in a lack of technological transformation due to barriers for the adoption of technologies [34] or serious ethical issues. Besides the huge investments required for the current industrial transformation, companies are experiencing significant worker hesitation to adopt Industry 4.0 technologies. This might be intended as a genuine concern due to the lack of a robust ethical framework that encompasses all the aspects of the Factory of the Future.

3. Ethics and Technology in Industrial Enterprises: A Survey

In order to ascertain to what extent the industrial community is attentive to the human-centric evolution of the Industry 4.0 paradigm towards an Industry 5.0, and whether human values and ethical issues represent a barrier for adoption and an actual concern for the workers, a survey has been administered to industry leaders from different companies already leading the 4th industrial revolution at different levels and with different purposes.

3.1. Survey Structure and Administration

A Scalable Information Dimension (SID) and Value-oriented Semi-structured Survey [35] has been constructed to tap into respondents’ understandings, views and values about the technologies adopted to augment the capabilities of the workers as well as to tease apart the influence of a technology’s pervasiveness, proximity, granularity of information, and other scalable dimensions [35]. After the opening section for the collection of anonymous socio-demographic data, the survey comprises of four sections with a total of 42 questions. The questions delve into their prior knowledge and opinions about a large set of technologies enabling today the human–machine symbiosis in industrial environments, examine the interest of their enterprises in these kinds of technologies, and elicit human values and ethical questions related to the augmentation of workers’ capabilities in a hypothetical Industry 5.0 scenario. For the sake of simplicity, technologies included in the survey were identified with the following acronyms: Activity and Motion Trackers (AT); Artificial Intelligence, including all its subfields (AI); Augmented Reality (AR); Big Data (BD); Cloud Computing (CC); Collaborative Robots (COB); Digital Voice-enabled Assistants (DA); Exoskeletons (EXO); Health Monitoring Devices (HMD); Human-Machine Interface (HMI); Internet of Things, including machine sensors and identification
sensors, e.g., RFID (IOT); Mobile Devices, e.g., smartphone or tablets (MD); Simulation (SIM); Social Networks, including tools for collaborative working and smart interaction with work equipment (SN); Teleoperated Systems, including devices for remote supervision and control, e.g., PLCs, actuators (TOS); Virtual Reality (VR); Wearable Devices, including smart clothes and smart watches (WD); and Work Environment Sensors, including visual, temperature or other sensors (WES).

In order to aid the elicitation process, this survey applies Schwartz’s 10 values to the workplace, thus defining a potential map of work values that guide individuals in work-related activities [36]. Items were created in the form of brief statements which reveal diverse aspects of each value type (three items per dimension, for a total of 30 items) and describe an example concrete work situation considered important by a hypothetical person (e.g., ‘for him/her it is important . . . to succeed more than others’). Participants were asked to evaluate the extent to which they view themselves as similar to the person in the item on a 5-point Likert scale (from 1 = ‘Not at all like me’ to 5 = ‘Very much like me’). To enhance the reliability of the survey, in the other questions, the same values were proposed by using different wording and synonyms (e.g., the value ‘Achievement’ was replaced by ‘recognition of one’s abilities and results’). Furthermore, throughout the value section of the survey, the values from VSD [37] that are considered important for technological design were also proposed to the respondents as an input for the elicitation, namely Welfare, Ownership and Property, Privacy, Freedom from Bias, Universal Usability, Trust, Autonomy, Informed Consent, Accountability, Courtesy, Identity, Calmness and Environmental Sustainability.

The survey was designed in Google Forms for its ease of access and use, and distributed via email to industry experts. At the beginning of the survey, the respondents were informed of the survey’s purposes, terms and conditions. Thereafter, the Operator 4.0 concept and the technologies enabling human–machine symbiosis in the Factory of the Future were briefly presented to uniform their interpretation of the context under study. Illustrative images of mock-ups, narratives, and stories of use of 4.0 technologies as well as videos of workers using prototypes of such technologies in daily situations were also used to investigate value implications of technologies that are yet to be built or widely adopted. An example video that shows one of the prototypes of a voice-enabled knowledge assistant on the factory floor used for the survey is provided in the supplementary materials.

3.2. Participants

About a hundred different-sized enterprises, with at least one Italian headquarter and currently transitioning (according to the press and their website information) from Industry 3.0 to Industry 4.0, were selected from several industry sectors, including Manufacturing, Industrial Automation, Electronics, Oil&Gas, Energy, Shipping, Waste Management, Food, Fashion, Construction, and ICT. ICT enterprises were included in this survey, albeit not strictly related to the industrial and manufacturing domain, given their role in designing new technologies. Eighteen enterprises responded to the survey: three microenterprises (fewer than 10 employees), eight small enterprises (10 to 49 employees), two medium-sized enterprises (50 to 249 employees), and five large enterprises (250 or more employees). Reports from different online survey platforms demonstrated that surveys with lower response rates (near 20%) had more accurate measurements compared to surveys with higher response rates (near 60 or 70%) [38]. The answers’ accuracy was crosschecked in this study during some follow-up meetings and emails with the respondents. It is also important to mention that the aim of the survey is not to carry out a statistical analysis over a huge dataset, but to understand which is the first feeling and perception of industry leaders in different industrial sectors about the topics of the Operator 4.0 (or Augmented Operator) as well as Value-oriented and Ethical Technology Engineering. The survey, which begins with a section gathering anonymous socio-demographic data, was answered by 18 people (83% males), ranging in age from 28 to 64 and distributed as follows: 11.1% between 25–34 y.o., 38.9% between 35–44 y.o., and 22.2% between 45–54 y.o. The majority of the respondents (≈ 72%) hold a managerial role, while the remaining ones are operatives, specialists and technicians. Their professional experience is as follows: 5.6% less than 5 years, 22.2% between
5–10 years, 27.8% between 11–15 years, 16.7% between 16–20 years, 11.1% between 21–25 years, 5.6% between 26–30 years, and 11.1% more than 30 years. With respect to their level of education, the 61.1% reported to have a master degree, the 22.2% a bachelor’s degree, while the remaining ones have other post-graduate education (e.g., Ph.D. or Professional Master).

3.3. Survey Results and Discussion

3.3.1. Section 1: Prior Knowledge

The human-centric design of the Factory of the Future and the Operator 4.0 rose in popularity over the last few years in the industrial community. Only 11.1% of the respondents never heard about this concept, while the remaining respondents heard about this shift towards a human-centered industry from meetings, fairs, and conferences, but also newspapers and political talks. The 72.2% of the surveyed companies have already initiated a roadmap for the transformation of the worker into an Operator 4.0, while all the respondents reported that the management of their enterprises show an obvious interest to implement and use such technologies. It is notable that technologies enabling human–machine symbiosis in an industrial context do not receive the same level of attention. A snapshot of the digital transformation of the enterprises under study in this work is presented in Figure 3. While all the technologies are widely known by the respondents, only a few of them are extensively used in the workplace. Among others, IOT, AI, CC, and MD receive the greatest attention at the executive level, probably for their obvious return on investment. Nevertheless, executives and managers still have limited confidence with such technologies and are skeptical about their real benefits to the business. For this reason, most of them have started to implement them at the workplace as piloting standalone solutions developed in collaborations with research institutions. Furthermore, it can be noted that technologies such as AT, EXO and HMD are not used at the workplace. While EXO are characterized by notable investment costs and still few beneficial applications were documented, AT and HMD imply significant privacy concerns for the workforce, thus showing how a discussion over the ethical issues connected to the use of technology and their design for values is an imperative in Industry 5.0.

![Figure 3](image-url)
3.3.2. Section 2: Opinion

Despite a certain skepticism, the respondents unanimously agree on the prospective beneficial impact of augmenting the worker’s capabilities. What emerges from the survey in the first place is the importance to extend the worker’s cognitive capabilities to fill the gap with technology (they had a 4.1 score on a 5-point Likert scale). The capability to interact with other workers and with the CPPS in an intuitive and smart manner resulted to be almost as important as the ‘cognitive’ one (the ‘interaction capabilities’ scored 3.8), unlike the ‘sensorial capabilities’, whose augmentation is considered mildly important by the respondents (3.5 score). A more detailed view on this segmentation is given in the treemap chart of Figure 4 that is a qualitative illustration to compare proportions within groups of technologies augmenting human’s capabilities. In this chart, each technology is represented by a rectangular shape, where bigger rectangles indicate a higher perceived beneficial impact of the technology by the industry expert. The color allows to distinguish the categories of human capabilities (i.e., cognitive, interaction and sensorial) that the technology augments and to understand the significance of each technology set. This result is in line with the literature and the data from the previous section that pictures the current situation of the enterprises’ digital transformation. Indeed, studies focusing on the augmentation of the worker’s cognitive capabilities in industrial environments recently emerged in the perspective of the ‘tooling’ scenario. The survey respondents pointed out several prospective benefits of implementing such technologies, especially at the field level. Human–robot collaboration would increase production efficiency, whereas an enhanced problem solving (e.g., AR tools may help maintenance technicians to minimize machine stop time) is enabled by a faster and intuitive access to data (e.g., workers’ health data), information, competences, and knowledge available at the workplace. In their opinion, maintenance, manufacturing and process supervision tasks will be impacted the most, but they do also mention improvements for the capability to respond to market changes, for planning activities, manual assembling, process control, quality checks, as well as back-office activities if such technologies are integrated with enterprise systems (e.g., MES).

Figure 4. Treemap chart of the perceived beneficial impact of Operator 4.0 enabling technologies.

Another significant aspect emerging from this section of the survey refers to the beneficiaries of the current 4.0 digital transformation and explicitly calls for an Industry 5.0. Based on the feedback of the industry leaders, the technologies under study are expected to positively impact (e.g., by simplifying) the work of technicians, deskless operators, warehouse workers, and field specialists, but also production and maintenance managers/supervisors. However, they are also the ones that are bearing (or will bear) the negative impacts of this transformation. In the end, a paradox is established: the workers, whose work may get the highest benefits, are also the ones that may observe a deterioration of their
work conditions, or even lose their job if the ‘tooling’ scenario evolves in an uncontrolled manner towards the ‘automation’ scenario. Among others, the respondents reported significant implications, such as the worker’s alienation, a higher control on working times and duties, with consequent reduced freedom and autonomy for the workers. The collection of personal data increases privacy issues, thus causing resistance to change especially by workers with an old mindset or with work-related stress. Despite the fact that the workforce downsizing risk is of course the most predominant potential negative aspect of Industry 4.0, the majority of the workers in the responding enterprises (≈89%) are resolutely willing to undertake this transformation. It then bears investigating the role of human values and ethical design for the converging technologies enabling a human–machine symbiosis from the perspective of a 5th industrial revolution that places the human worker again at the center of the Factory of the Future.

3.3.3. Section 3–4: Human Values and Ethics

The same inclination holds for when the respondents agreed to the fact that the technologies that the workers use (or will use) in the Factory of the Future should embed or be designed for human values: 88.9% responded ‘yes, definitely’ while the remaining responded ‘maybe’. The majority of the surveyed enterprises revealed to be very attentive to human values and formal ethical codes of conduct are available in 72% of the cases, especially in the larger enterprises.

However, when it comes to technology, respondents are even more attentive to human values, as demonstrated in Figure 5. The questionnaire items analysis revealed that, while the perceived level of importance for some values does not change when associated to technology, it significantly rises for some others if compared to their personal value scale, such as in the case of ‘conformity’, ‘tradition’, ‘achievement’, but also ‘universalism’ and ‘security’. This result captures the conflict between the disruptive effect of technology and the workers’ inclination to preserve the past and resist change in the workplace in order to maintain the status quo. The ‘security’ value confirms this interpretation, as workers—especially older adults—strive to get stability and safety in their workplace (something that the introduction of new technologies cannot guarantee in their opinion). In contrast to the ‘conservation’ mindset, workers—in particular younger adults—also aim at reaching goals and personal success, demonstrating their competence with technological solutions.

![Figure 5. Perceived importance of the Schwartz’s ten values.](image-url)
The analysis of the extent to which values from VSD should be considered when designing new technologies and solutions for the factory workers confirmed the findings above. All the values were rated on a range between 3.45 (for 'Ownership & Property') and 4.36 (for 'Trust'). It proves that respondents are concerned about the fact that technology should be trustful, serve for the common good and be designed to prevent any possible misuse. Linked to the need of digital trust, the respondents cited 'honesty', 'explainability' and 'transparency' as well as 'integrity' and 'professionality' as the foremost values that any technology used by the Operator 4.0 at the workplace should embed. In fact, the analysis of a list of seven ethical issues proposed to the respondents—including unethical conduct (lying, deception, theft, ...), toxic workplace culture, discrimination and harassment, privacy and confidentiality, unethical leadership, unrealistic and conflicting goals, and misuse of technology—corroborated the value of the ethical conduct. Despite the fact that all the issues scored a mean value between 3.36 and 4.09 on a 5-point Likert scale (thus demonstrating the importance of a design for ethics), digital and automation technology is explicitly considered as a tool that should support accountability and responsibility. This may be seen somehow in contrast to the values of second-most importance for the respondents, namely informed consent, privacy and confidentiality.

Autonomy, courtesy, calmness, and universal usability also scored more than four among the VSD values. As emerged from the analysis of the Schwartz's values, 'universality' should also be a core value in the human-centered design of the Factories of the Future. The human–machine symbiosis in Industry 5.0 should be fair and respectful of everyone's dignity and opinion equally. It should not create relational gaps, but foster social interaction: the respondents frequently revealed their concern about worker alienation and work depersonalization that an ethical design of the human–machine symbiosis in Industry 5.0 should avoid. In this case, poor technology design that does not respect the roles and expertise of a person in the company may negatively impact the value of experienced people and, ultimately, lead to job displacement. Indeed, some respondents argue that technology may overpower the workers, for example, if technology is designed with episodic memory like humans, with the aim to improve the workers’ problem solving skills. However, technology may also give some workers (e.g., younger ones) the opportunity to overpower (consciously or not) other people (e.g., older ones). Instead, value-oriented technology should be centered on the workforce’s continuous learning and growth thanks to a sharing and collaboration mindset (for example, knowledge and expertise). It is eventually the opportunity for the executives and managers to express a ‘positive leadership’ and to establish a healthy work environment and workplace culture.

Similarly to Figure 4, the treemap chart of Figure 6 is a qualitative illustration to make a comparison between and within groups of technologies augmenting human’s capabilities where the size of a rectangular shape is proportional to the respondents’ concern and opinion that the technology implies bigger ethical issues and challenges. It shows that the respondents expressed ethical concerns mainly towards BD and AI, while SN, DA, HMI, and AT were of second-most criticality. Although the ethical issues connected to these technologies are quite well-known, the low awareness towards the potential ethical issues that may derive from the use of co-bots at workplace is a surprising result.

It can be concluded that, despite some skepticism by small enterprises, all the respondents reported that the workers are aware of the ethical issues in the workplace and agree on the fact that a value-oriented design of a future human–machine symbiosis in industrial organizations may aid in the amelioration of the ethical issues associated with technologies and lead the enterprises towards a new industrial age, Industry 5.0.
4. Methods

4.1. Value Sensitive Design in the Industry 5.0 Era

Currently used by the European Union’s Framework Programmes, Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) is founded on an interactionist principle that technology and humans co-construct and co-vary one another [7]. Several design approaches to technology engineering have been proposed that account for the social embeddedness of technologies and their impacts. Particular emphasis is given to the involvement and elicitation of stakeholders, either those directly or indirectly implicated by technology design. Approaches such as universal design [39], inclusive design [40], sustainable design [41], participatory design [42], and values sensitive design [43–45], among others have been theorized; Value Sensitive Design (VSD) becoming one of the most popular approaches over the last 20 years [46]. Emerging from the field of human–computer interaction, VSD is precisely predicated on the same premise that technology is not value-neutral, rather it is sensitive to stakeholder values, whether they are direct stakeholders such as users and designers or indirect such as industry CEO’s, governments, and the biosphere at large [35,47].

VSD is chosen as the theoretical and methodological framework to guide the design of the Factory of the Future in the perspective of Industry 5.0 for two main reasons: (1) because of its inherent self-reflexivity and emphasis on enrolling both direct and indirect stakeholders into the design process and the philosophical investigation of implicated values, a coupling that is not explicitly called for as a fundamental process in other design approaches [48]; and (2) for its robustness, meaning the scope and applicability of VSD across different design spaces. VSD aims to account for multiple dynamic variables ranging from a wide array of values, technologies, social contexts, and stakeholder groups among others. In doing so, VSD promotes working at the meta-level rather than focusing on an exhaustive set of values such as safety or usability, or a particular set of stakeholders such as the differently-abled. This meta-level approach divorces VSD from any specific moral or theoretical vows and permits it to be widely applicable across sociodemographic contexts and design spaces. To this end, the VSD methodology aims to be fundamentally proactive and anticipatory, engaging with stakeholders to guide technological development in Industry 5.0 from an early stage and recursively self-improve throughout the design process as new values or tensions emerge. This reflexivity towards beneficial development is on account of the approach’s tripartite structure illustrated in Figure 7. Three types of investigations—namely conceptual, empirical and technical investigations—are necessarily iterative and in a continual feedback cycle [49].
Figure 7. The tripartite iterative Value Sensitive Design methodology.

Not only this, but VSD encourages designers to consider always building malleable and flexible architectures into technologies to permit post-deployment augmentations to be possible as new values and issues emerge [12]. Previous studies have looked at how VSD can be applied to discrete technologies while generally referring to their interactions with other technologies in only a cursory way. To illustrate, VSD has been applied to energy systems [50,51], mobile phone usage [52], architecture projects [53], and augmented reality systems just to name a few [54]. However, it works speculatively too for future technologies, both near and long term. Examples include its exploratory application to nanopharmaceuticals [55], molecular manufacturing [45], intelligent agent systems [56], and, less futuristic, autonomous vehicles [57]. Although these studies provide useful illustrations of the intricacies of how the VSD approach can be accommodated to various technologies in particular, they do not provide discussions of the convergence factor of these technologies in general or how they can be designed with this structural embeddedness and interdependence. Furthermore, no applications of VSD to the industrial domain have been found so far in the literature. Guidelines and recommendations for the three different investigations are proposed in the following subsections, while use cases are illustrated in the next section.

4.2. Conceptual Investigations

The VSD approach aims to embed stakeholder values both early on and throughout the design process to steer the design of the technology in such a way as to successfully map the values deemed critical [12,45]. Similar to other human experiences, work experiences are ‘objects’ rich in meaning and defined by both individual and collective values. Indeed, values contribute to ideally delineating the job with respect to potential and/or favorable goals/aims to pursue. Hence, a more holistic approach, taking into account sets of values (rather than individual values) is highly preferable, as it allows a more comprehensive view and further balancing of values. The starting point of a conceptual investigation is to look for any valuable literature containing list of values, from different ethical perspectives, regardless of the context for which they are intended or in which they are used. Using well-consolidated value system measures is a good starting point for this analysis. Research has proposed and utilized the WVI—Work Values Inventory [58], the WIS—Work Importance Study [59] and the PVQ—Portrait Values Questionnaire [60]. Beyond theoretical discussions, value lists that are prominent in particular disciplines or professions (i.e., professional codes of ethics or ethical codes of conduct) as well as application-based approaches (e.g., Google’s AI principles) can be assessed. Lists relevant for novel and emerging technologies include the anticipatory emerging technology ethics list [61] or the technomoral value list [62]. Technomoral values include the following 10 values as most worthy of upholding: honesty, self-control, humility, justice, courage, empathy, care, civility, flexibility, perspective, magnanimity, and technomoral wisdom. Instead, the values listed in anticipatory emerging
technology ethics are the following: harms and risks, rights and freedoms, autonomy, human dignity, privacy, property, animal rights and animal welfare, (distributive) justice, and well-being and the common good. The recent interest towards the implementation of values into emerging technologies, such as Big Data, find application in [63], that distilled a comprehensive set of 10 ethical values for new technologies: human welfare, autonomy, non-maleficence, justice, accountability, trustworthiness, privacy, dignity, solidarity, and environmental welfare. VSD studies also have provided various lists of human values that may be important to technologies design, they typically include values such as: Welfare, Ownership and Property, Privacy, Freedom from Bias, Universal Usability, Trust, Autonomy, Informed Consent, Accountability, Courtesy, Identity, Calmness and Environmental Sustainability among others. Besides the document review of relevant literature and research projects dealing with the value-oriented design of the Factory of the Future and related technologies or the analysis of industrial practices, there are a multitude of strategies from the social sciences that establish ways of eliciting such values such as the use of stakeholder tokens, value source analysis, and value scenarios among others [64–66]. After having selected the most appropriate lists and narrowed down the spectrum of values, integration and contextualization for the specific technological solution being adopted at the workplace is the next step. It is fundamental to distil an a priori comprehensive list of values from previous conceptual work in an abstract manner. A list of values to uphold during techno-social change toward human–machine symbiosis in Industry 5.0 and recommendations for value-oriented design of technologies are presented in Table 1. The list is of course not exhaustive given that there exists no framework to provide such a list; certain values are technology-specific and some emerge over the design process and, in many cases, after the deployment of the technology [67]. Speaking about robotics, for example, [30] identified the following values: social interaction, movement and exercise, (human) autonomy, problem solving, task variety, and building with their hands. However, values may have common points of contact and are not mutually exclusive. They overlap to a certain extent; therefore, the list can be considered a priori comprehensive.

Table 1. Values to uphold during techno-social change towards human–machine symbiosis in Industry 5.0.

| Human Value  | Technology Shall Be Designed to … |
|--------------|----------------------------------|
| Self-actualization | … enable the workers to accomplish their own goals and obtain personal success, to demonstrate their own capabilities and competence in order to advance their career. |
| Accountability | … ensure full transparency of how the symbiotic CPPS operates and makes decision. It includes that the actions of a worker or group of workers is shared transparently to ensure that any problem can be traced back to the cause. |
| Trustworthiness | … be honest, trustworthy, reliable, and avoid systematic bias, thus performing its required function under given conditions for a stated time interval, as well as to improve interpersonal trust in a human-machine hybrid system. |
| Privacy | … ensure informational privacy, respect for the workers’ private sphere and the right to determine what information can be communicated to others through informed consent. |
| Welfare | … ensure workers’ health (physical well-being and peaceful psychological state) also thanks to a proper work-life balance, a balanced workload and a comfortable and pleasant work environment. |
| Autonomy | … allow workers to be independent, free and flexible while at work in order to express themselves, engage in autonomous thinking, make independent choices, utilize their creativity and fully use their own intelligence. |
| Altruism | … enhance teamwork and mutual care among the workers and to favour the wellbeing of all those one comes into contact with during one’s professional activities, thus demonstrating oneself as sincere, open to helping and responsible. |
Table 1. Cont.

| Human Value | Technology Shall Be Designed to . . . |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|
| Common Good | . . . ensure environmental welfare and sustainability as well as to contribute to the beauty of the world and make good things. |
| Security    | . . . provide a secure return (economic or abstract) to the workers and preserve order, stability and harmony within the physical environment, work-related relationships and professional activities. |
| Stimulation | . . . keep stimulating workers with challenging, various and novel tasks, that require continuous learning and professional growth and may sometimes require even a certain level of risk. |
| Sociability | . . . stimulate good social relationships and interactions with fellow workers, thus working in a social environment rather than in isolation. |
| Identity    | . . . to ensure people’s equality, universality, respect and inclusion and avoid discrimination of any kind. It also requires proper actions to guarantee to everyone the same possibilities of others as well as a certain amount of human control over the events. |
| Authority   | . . . allow workers to attain and/or exercise a prestigious or authoritative position and/or social status that increases one’s influence or ability to control other members of the organization and resources. |
| Conformity  | . . . support the workers to respect rules and expectations, thus demonstrating social discipline and loyalty. At the same time, it shall restrict one’s actions and/or conditioning one’s choice, inclinations, impulses and desires. |

4.3. Technical Investigations

Technical investigations follow up on the previous analyses to determine how the technical aspects of the technology itself can support or restrict the values distilled in the previous investigation. Value Sensitive Design adopts the position that technologies in general provide value that follow from their properties. That is, a given technology is more suitable for certain activities and more readily supports certain values while rendering other activities and values more difficult to realize. In one form, the ultimate aim is to move from the values to the design requirements through the definition of norms. As mentioned, values can often be abstract philosophical concepts that are difficult to conceptualize in terms of concrete engineering requirements. Because of this, VSD aims at the embodiment of values that extend beyond—but not excluding—economic value, which is what technological solutions are traditionally designed for. Norms, which are situated in the transition point between values and design requirements, are the contextual designations of those values and can be understood as the design objectives of any given project (i.e., ‘maximize safety/usability/efficiency’ or ‘minimize cost’).

The norms of any given value are established on the basis of the industrial context-of-use in which the technology is or will eventually be deployed. To this end, the norms of any particular context can be used to derive specific design requirements that the technology can embody to support any given set of norms. Doing this appears prima facie abstract and meta-level, and for this reason we provide some salient use cases to illustrate how designers can begin to conceptualize the bi-directional process. Van de Poel is clear in saying that the ‘elements at the lower levels cannot be logically deduced from the higher level elements’ [68]. The reason for this is because there is no one avenue from values to design requirements; there are numerous ways that values can be translated and embodied in design requirements. In many design spaces, the successful construction of a value hierarchy will almost certainly need to be conducted in both directions. Figure 8 illustrates simply the value-norm-requirement hierarchy. Each of the norms and design requirements are not inextricably exclusive to any single value. Any of the below design requirements can just as easily satisfy other norms which in turn can satisfy other values. What engineering teams need to do is specify as best as possible how different design requirements, norms and values relate to one another in any given design project and determine how to most aptly satisfy them.
4.4. Empirical Investigations

Empirical investigations conclude the iteration of the VSD cycle by enrolling stakeholders to determine their relationship with the technologies in the Factory of the Future and how well the identified values map on to the current design architecture [35]. As such, the functional directive of this step is to enroll stakeholders directly into the design process by eliciting their values in order to design technologies that more accurately mirror their values. Methods include but are not limited to scalable information dimensions, value-oriented semi-structured surveys, analysis of prospective working scenarios or value-oriented mock-ups and prototypes. In any case, empirical investigations will eventually identify ethical issues with a bottom-up approach and answer the following questions:

- Which values should be driving technology design and development to achieve a human–machine symbiosis in the Factory of the Future?
- Which values are involved with the technology at today’s point in its development in industries?
- How do those critical values in industrial workplaces align with societal priorities at large?
- How do stakeholders prioritize competing values in design trade-offs?
- How do they prioritize individual values and usability considerations?
- Are there differences between espoused practice (what people say) compared with actual practice (what people do)?
- Do organizations do appropriate value considerations during the technology design and implementation process?

This process should be reiterated every time there are technological advancements, when people at the workplace change or the social context changes. This is done continually through the design process. As new empirical values emerge and are defined, they may come into conflict with the a priori values initially delineated in conceptual investigations, triggering a reevaluation of how those initial values and their technical understanding impact design. Similarly, post-deployment of any given system may trigger the emergence of a previously unconsidered value, triggering a reevaluation of how to account for such emergence and the technical capacity for actualizing such a change.
5. Use Cases: Preliminary Results and Discussion

Three use cases were defined with the purpose to explore the ethical issues concealed behind the implementation of specific technological solutions towards a human–machine symbiosis in Industry 5.0. The use cases build upon solutions and prototypes developed by CAL-TEK S.r.l., a Spin-off company of the University of Calabria, Italy and carried out at the Modeling & Simulation Center-Laboratory of Enterprise Solutions (MSC-LES) at the Department of Mechanical, Energy and Management Engineering of the University of Calabria.

Regarding the empirical investigations for these use cases, experts were consulted within the professional networks of the researchers involved in the projects, but also at expert forums. In particular, during a major Industry 4.0 conference, experts were asked to consider the prototypes illustrated here in the following and identify the values from Table 1 that are more relevant or identify new ones. In most instances, experts confirmed that the proposed list of values was comprehensive. The discussions with them were particularly valuable in deepening the understanding of and thinking on how to regard particular values when designing technological solutions for achieving human–machine symbiosis in the context of Industry 5.0.

5.1. Use Case #1: Augmenting the Workers’ Perception Capabilities -&gt; Monitoring Workers’ Health and Movements via Wearable Sensors

Wearable technology, including smart garments (e.g., gloves) wristbands and smartwatches, are designed to collect the data of workers’ personal health as well as to track the movement of the operators. Prototypes were developed to track the movements of the worker’s arms and fingers and, at the same time, to collect data about their heart rate variability to monitor the task-related stress during manual assembling tasks in a manufacturing company (Figure 9). It is worth mentioning that using these devices requires handling and processing big data, therefore, the developed solution embeds big data analytics methodologies.

![Figure 9](image-url). Example of wearable technology—from left to right, wristbands, gloves, smartwatches—augmenting workers’ perception capabilities.

Figure 10 lays out one potential way to translate values, through norms and into design requirements that embody the value of welfare. The value was considered important in the environments in which the augmented operator works. As mentioned above, the bi-directional hierarchy of values does not prescribe one direction over the other, but instead allows for various permutations to be undertaken depending on the context of design/use and the current design paradigms that are specific to the context. Because of this, various design requirements can ultimately satisfy the final value(s).
While values such as welfare have already some background literature (e.g., ergonomics of wearable devices) that may help the designers, some other values are more intricate, for example the value of trustworthiness. Some of the issues that may arise here can include the various ways that these existent wearable technologies adopted for the Operator 4.0 uses change efficacy depending on the user. For example, trustworthiness can be severely limited between the technology and the user depending on the physical build of the user. Arm band technologies must ensure that they are adaptable to different skin types, arm diameters and hair density. Likewise, it may be implicitly required that systems recognize the type of user that is currently employing the technology. How a technological intelligent system provides an explanation of its goals and actions depends on the user that prompts it, and such can change at any time. These systems must be designed in such a way as to handle dynamic use. How existent wearable technologies employed for the Operator 4.0 use can be designed retrospectively to satisfy these issues remains to be seen.

5.2. Use Case #2: Augmenting the Workers’ Cognitive Capabilities - Using Simulation-Based VR Training Solutions to Enhance Learning

Complexity has increased significantly in production environments, thus making traditional training methods outdated. This has made necessary the integration of Modeling & Simulation methods with Virtual Reality to deliver a meaningful environment for personnel training. Prototypes of simulation-based VR training tools for augmenting workers’ cognitive capabilities and enhancing the learning speed are presented in Figure 11. In such contexts, at the beginning of the training session, the players are usually given certain directives and rules to respect in order to succeed. Multiple scenarios (even very unlikely ones, such as industrial accidents) may be experienced to test the worker’s capability to minimize impulsive behavior and assess the player’s improvements over time in terms of compliance to rules and expectations. Figure 12 lays out one potential way to translate design requirements, through norms embodying the conformity value. Of course, various other instantiations in terms of design requirements can better suit such translations. This is, of course, not an exhaustive illustration, as values are interdependent. While on one side, players are usually given certain directives and rules to respect in order to succeed.
illustration, as values are interdependent. While on one side, players are required to conform to the procedure and expectations, on the other side easygoing and uncritical adhesion to norms would minimize the worker’s capability to make informed decisions, thus potentially leaving the worker in unknown situations that are risky for health and safety. It emerges therefore the need of a discussion over the correlation of the conformity value with the trustworthiness of VR technology. Technologies that are used or will be used by the workers are shaped by human values but also transform workers’ (and people’s) identities.

**Figure 11.** Prototypes of simulation-based VR training tools for augmenting workers’ cognitive capabilities.

**Figure 12.** Bi-direction hierarchy showcasing how the value of conformity can be extrapolated from technical design requirements through norms for simulation-based VR training tools.
5.3. Use Case #3: Augmenting the Workers’ Interaction Capabilities -> Using Intelligent Voice-Enabled Digital Assistants at the Factory

Voice-enabled digital assistants are drastically changing the way we interact with the CPPS, and prototypes are today available, for example, to support technicians and specialists during maintenance tasks at the factory as showed in Figure 13. Prospectively, every single autonomous and cooperative building block of a CPPS will be able to interact with the human worker via digitally-generated voice responses, thus giving birth to the Social Smart Factory. Digital assistants give workers intuitive and quick access to a plethora of information and knowledge, processed and made available by a ubiquitous intelligence, but concerns exist on how to design ‘ethical digital agents’ that treat people with consideration and courtesy.

Figure 13. Prototypes of voice-enabled digital assistants that augment the worker’s interaction capabilities towards the CPPS.

Figure 14 tackles the translation of the value of identity for the design of voice-enabled digital assistants, showing how several ethical issues (discrimination of physical-impaired workers, or by language, culture, or current mood) could potentially emerge if value-oriented design requirements are not embedded into ‘assistance technology’. One of the issues that can arise is work-related and emotional over-reliance, thus creating a potentially harmful reliance-dependence paradigm where operators are continually encouraged to use these devices for most of their duties. The risk is that a kind of emotional dependence develops, accompanied by overconfidence in the ability of the machine to support one’s tasks, even in unexpected situations. Poor design requirements that encompasses all the human values simultaneously can lead to an exacerbation of potentially harmful technical outcomes that then put human welfare in jeopardy given the system reliance on such systems.
Augmentation, where humans and machines cooperate in perfect symbiosis with one another and providing a solely speculative application of the VSD methodology to the individual technologies that converge to form the Factory of the Future, we evaluate the applicability of VSD as a pragmatic embodiment elicited human values and shows actionable steps that engineers and designers can take in technologies enabling human–machine symbiosis in the Factory of the Future can be designed to the Factories of the Future can adopt to contribute towards systemic robustness. It illustrates how Sensitive Design (VSD) approach has been proposed as a principled framework that design teams of

sociocultural nuanced ways, designers are considering using towards the Factory of the Future. Likewise, they all agreed that all or some of the issues that may arise with these technologies can be responded to and ameliorated by designing these technologies explicitly for human values.

This paper argued that a value-oriented and ethical technology engineering in Industry 5.0 is an urgent and sensitive topic. As is true for values in general, which tend to be construed in highly sociocultural nuanced ways, designers require tools to help translate these abstract values, through sociocultural norms (including legal/policy norms) into concrete design requirements. The Value Sensitive Design (VSD) approach has been proposed as a principled framework that design teams of the Factories of the Future can adopt to contribute towards systemic robustness. It illustrates how technologies enabling human–machine symbiosis in the Factory of the Future can be designed to embody elicited human values and shows actionable steps that engineers and designers can take in their design projects. For this reason, this paper is comparatively unique in its approach. Rather than providing a solely speculative application of the VSD methodology to the individual technologies that converge to form the Factory of the Future, we evaluate the applicability of VSD as a pragmatic

Figure 14. Bi-direction hierarchy showcasing how the value of identity can be extrapolated from technical design requirements through norms for voice-enabled digital assistants.

6. Conclusions

6.1. Contribution of the Study

This paper envisages a new revolutionary wave in the industrial sector, Industry 5.0 or Age of Augmentation, where humans and machines cooperate in perfect symbiosis with one another and human capabilities are augmented by a human-friendly technology. Despite arguments that industry is being ‘versioned’ way too arbitrarily, the human-centered transformation of the smart and automated factories is a completely new paradigm that has been recently anticipated by concepts like ‘socially sustainable workplaces’, ‘human-centric factory’, and ‘Operator 4.0’ and is markedly different from the ‘techno-centric’ Industry 4.0. In this regard, the paper reveals the growing concern in several industrial sectors regarding the ethical issues that arise with technologies that workers currently use or are considering using towards the Factory of the Future. Likewise, they all agreed that all or some of the issues that may arise with these technologies can be responded to and ameliorated by designing these technologies explicitly for human values.

This paper argued that a value-oriented and ethical technology engineering in Industry 5.0 is an urgent and sensitive topic. As is true for values in general, which tend to be construed in highly sociocultural nuanced ways, designers require tools to help translate these abstract values, through sociocultural norms (including legal/policy norms) into concrete design requirements. The Value Sensitive Design (VSD) approach has been proposed as a principled framework that design teams of the Factories of the Future can adopt to contribute towards systemic robustness. It illustrates how technologies enabling human–machine symbiosis in the Factory of the Future can be designed to embody elicited human values and shows actionable steps that engineers and designers can take in their design projects. For this reason, this paper is comparatively unique in its approach. Rather than providing a solely speculative application of the VSD methodology to the individual technologies that converge to form the Factory of the Future, we evaluate the applicability of VSD as a pragmatic
approach to informing the work of engineers at a specific nexus of practice. In this case, this paper looks at how the adoption of VSD can be used to guide the development of Industry 5.0 solutions.

6.2. Limitations of the Study

Still, there are areas of limitations that this paper does not explore but warrant future research. The insights derived from the survey are applicable to a large number of enterprises and sectors but are not exhaustive. Cross-cultural or cross-national comparisons to identify similarities and differences in the specificity of value systems may be needed. Researchers have shown how a value system is not entirely stable but rather dynamically influenced by socio-cultural factors, the changing work world, and transformations in production activities. Therefore, the results of this survey should be intended with reference to enterprises with similar characteristics.

Regarding the VSD approach to the human–machine symbiosis in Industry 5.0, the manner in which such values express themselves in a particular culture at a particular point in time can be quite different [35,69]. Investigating relevant stakeholders, determining their values and translating those values into norms and design requirements for any given technological artifact is demanding. Values, as already mentioned, are typically abstract, and conceptualizing how such abstract concepts can be turned into concrete design requirements is understandably laborious. Even the most experienced engineers and design specialists can be stopped in their tracks when trying to determine the inter-relations of values that are in tension and determining how to address such tensions. What must be resisted is the urge towards perfection, something that VSD actively resists. This tendency can hinder learning and meaningful progress [12]. We stipulate this given that the above discussion, until this point, seems idealistic in its attempt to balance so many potential stakeholders and values. Although robustness can be reasonably increased in any project if it is allotted more time and resources, most innovation hubs are constrained by such variables. VSD at its foundation pushes engineers to consider how to achieve the most good given the present constraints and to resist the urge towards the burdensome ideal of perfect innovation.

6.3. Further Research

This discussion paves the way for an Industry 5.0 designed for human values. Most of the research efforts focus asymmetrically on the technical and technological aspects of the Factories of the Future while it neglects that a human–machine symbiosis requires profound ethical considerations. The results of our survey showed that 28% of respondent were part of organizations that did not have any formalized code of ethics. This presents both challenges and opportunities for how technologies enabling human–machine symbiosis are designed and used currently within organizations. However, the opportunity to reflect on how to begin codifying the values of the stakeholders both in the organization as well as those who are impacted by that organizations’ actions becomes apparent. Future research should look at the salience of existent standards and codes of practice towards O4.0 technologies as well as practices for developing new standards and guidelines alongside the ethical development and use of those technologies. Co-construction provides the most salient mode of policy innovation and VSD is similarly apt to providing a means by which both technologies and their respective governance and policy structures can be co-constructed [68]. Future work will also be designed to assess whether there are significant differences between organizational members and leaders, comparing for instance, the values of pairs of supervisors and subordinates as well as significant differences among enterprises depending on their size. Further elicitation methods will be used to ask for additional value considerations, organizational motivations, methods of training and dissemination, reward structures, and economic incentives with reference to ethics at the workplace. Ethics training for executives, managers and employees may be required in the next future as well as the need for a 24 h hot line for ethical situational advice that may aid workers or employers in the case of ambiguous situations. Future works should clarify when automation starts decreasing and affecting the workers’ quality of life (‘over-automation’) and understand who decides that developing
a certain kind of new technology is ‘safe’ for the workforce. From our review, we noticed that the main proposals fostering the adoption of techno ethics considerations are often related to the idea of charters to be signed (‘Hippocratic oath’). However, the legal system is having trouble in catching up with the increasing speed of technological advances. In this sense, the iterative VSD approach may dramatically help in the identification of ethical rules and frameworks that technologies for a human–machine symbiosis in the Factory of the Future must be designed for.

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