

The Impact of Artificial Intelligence and Digitalization on the Restructuring of Organizational Power and Decision-Making Mechanisms: A Chaos Theory Perspective on Digital Centralization in Business Organizations

Koual Roufia

Email: koualroufia@gmail.com

University of Batna 1, Algeria

Laboratory: Economics of Renewable Energy Investments and Remote Finance Strategies,
Algeria

Orcid <https://orcid.org/my-orcid?orcid=0009-0005-4860-7252>

Received: 29-04-2025

Accepted: 22-02-2026

Published: 30-06-2026

Abstract

The rapid integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and digitalization technologies has fundamentally transformed organizational structures, decision-making processes, and power distribution mechanisms within business organizations. While traditional organizational theories assumed that managerial authority must be decentralized due to the limitations of human information-processing capacities, AI systems increasingly challenge this assumption by enabling real-time collection, processing, and analysis of vast organizational data. Consequently, organizations are witnessing the emergence of a new phenomenon referred to as digital centralization, where strategic and operational decisions become concentrated around data-driven intelligent systems controlled by top management. Drawing upon Chaos Theory as a theoretical lens, this paper examines how AI-driven environments create nonlinear interactions between technology, authority, and organizational behavior. The study analyzes the transformation of hierarchical structures, the displacement of middle management functions, and the increasing dependence on algorithmic decision-making. It further explores how seemingly minor data variations can generate significant organizational consequences through feedback loops and complex adaptive dynamics. The paper argues that although AI enhances efficiency, speed, and decision accuracy, excessive reliance on algorithmic governance may reduce organizational adaptability, creativity, and resilience during unforeseen crises. The findings suggest that sustainable organizational performance requires a hybrid governance model that combines the analytical capabilities of AI with human judgment, emotional intelligence, and contextual understanding. Such integration enables organizations to balance technological efficiency with adaptive flexibility in increasingly turbulent business environments.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, Digitalization, Chaos Theory, Digital Centralization, Organizational Power, Decision-Making, Algorithmic Governance, Organizational Structure, Complex Adaptive Systems, Business Organizations.

International and Comparative Corporate Law Journal

ISSN: 1388-7084 & E-ISSN: 1875-8290

Introduction

The digital transformation of business organizations represents one of the most significant managerial developments of the twenty-first century. Advances in Artificial Intelligence, big data analytics, cloud computing, and digital platforms have reshaped how organizations collect information, coordinate activities, and make decisions. Traditionally, organizational hierarchies emerged because information was fragmented across different managerial levels, requiring delegation and decentralization of authority. However, AI technologies now enable the instantaneous processing of organizational information at unprecedented scales, reducing informational asymmetries and challenging conventional assumptions regarding organizational design.

This transformation has stimulated debates concerning the future of managerial authority and the role of human actors in organizational decision-making. While proponents of AI emphasize efficiency, accuracy, and speed, critics argue that excessive dependence on algorithmic systems may lead to a concentration of informational and decision-making power within top management, creating what can be described as digital centralization. Under such conditions, intelligent systems increasingly assume responsibilities previously performed by middle managers, including information filtering, performance monitoring, and operational coordination.

From the perspective of Chaos Theory, organizations should not be viewed as predictable machines but rather as complex adaptive systems characterized by nonlinear interactions, feedback loops, and emergent behaviors. Consequently, the integration of AI may generate unintended organizational consequences that cannot be fully anticipated through traditional managerial models. This study seeks to examine how AI and digitalization reshape organizational power structures and decision-making mechanisms while exploring the risks and opportunities associated with digital centralization.

Section 1. Artificial Intelligence, Digitalization, and Organizational Power Structures

1.1 Artificial Intelligence and Digitalization in Contemporary Business Organizations

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has evolved from a decision-support technology into a strategic organizational infrastructure capable of reshaping managerial authority and organizational coordination. Through machine learning, predictive analytics, natural language processing, and real-time data monitoring, AI systems increasingly perform functions traditionally associated with human managers. According to the World Economic Forum (2025), approximately 86% of organizations worldwide expect AI and information-processing technologies to transform their operations by 2030, making AI one of the most influential drivers of organizational change. Similarly, a report by McKinsey & Company (2024) found that more than 72% of surveyed organizations had integrated AI into at least one business function, compared with 55% in 2023. These figures indicate that AI is no longer a supplementary tool but a central component of organizational governance.

International and Comparative Corporate Law Journal

ISSN: 1388-7084 & E-ISSN: 1875-8290

From the perspective of Chaos Theory, organizations are complex adaptive systems characterized by nonlinear interactions among individuals, technologies, and environmental factors (Stacey, 2011). The introduction of AI into such systems creates new feedback loops that continuously modify organizational behavior. Small variations in data inputs can generate disproportionately large organizational consequences due to algorithmic amplification mechanisms. Therefore, AI adoption should not be viewed as a simple technological upgrade but rather as a transformative force capable of restructuring the entire organizational ecosystem. A practical example can be observed in Amazon, where AI-driven systems coordinate inventory management, logistics, workforce allocation, and customer recommendations simultaneously. Through integrated digital platforms, managers can monitor operational performance across thousands of facilities in real time. This capability significantly reduces information asymmetries between organizational levels and strengthens centralized oversight. However, such concentration of information also increases dependence on algorithmic systems, making organizational outcomes increasingly sensitive to data quality and system design.

1.2 Theories of Organizational Power and Technological Change

Traditional theories of organizational power emphasized the importance of hierarchical authority and information control. Weber's bureaucratic model argued that authority is exercised through formal rules and hierarchical structures, while Simon's (1947) theory of bounded rationality suggested that decision-making authority must be distributed because human managers possess limited cognitive capacities. Consequently, middle management emerged as an organizational necessity for processing information and coordinating activities across departments.

The rise of AI challenges these foundational assumptions. Modern intelligent systems can collect, process, and analyze vast quantities of information instantaneously, reducing the informational limitations that historically justified decentralized authority. According to Davenport and Ronanki (2018), AI systems increasingly perform analytical functions that were traditionally assigned to managers, including forecasting, performance monitoring, and operational planning. As a result, power gradually shifts from hierarchical positions toward those who control digital infrastructures, data ecosystems, and algorithmic models.

Chaos Theory provides an alternative interpretation of this transformation. Rather than viewing power as a static organizational resource, chaos theorists consider authority an emergent property generated through dynamic interactions among organizational actors and technological systems. The increasing reliance on AI therefore alters the pathways through which influence circulates inside organizations. A seemingly minor adjustment in an algorithm may trigger substantial changes in resource allocation, employee evaluation, or strategic priorities, illustrating the nonlinear nature of power distribution in digital organizations.

A real-world example is Alibaba Group, whose digital ecosystem processes enormous quantities of customer, supplier, and logistics data. Senior executives gain direct access to organizational intelligence through AI-powered dashboards, reducing dependence on

traditional reporting structures. Consequently, managerial authority increasingly derives from control over information systems rather than purely formal hierarchical positions.

1.3 Transformation of Hierarchical Structures in the Digital Era

Digitalization has accelerated the transition from traditional hierarchical structures toward flatter organizational forms. Historically, middle managers acted as intermediaries responsible for collecting information, transmitting directives, and monitoring performance. However, AI systems now automate many of these functions through real-time analytics, automated reporting, and predictive monitoring tools.

Research by the OECD (2024) indicates that organizations adopting advanced digital technologies increasingly reduce administrative layers because information can flow directly between operational units and senior management. This trend contributes to what scholars describe as organizational flattening. Nevertheless, Chaos Theory suggests that reducing hierarchical complexity does not necessarily reduce organizational complexity. Instead, complexity is redistributed into technological networks and algorithmic infrastructures.

A notable example is Tesla, where digital integration enables executives to monitor production performance, supply chain activities, and operational indicators directly through centralized information systems. Many coordination functions traditionally performed by intermediate managerial levels have been automated through integrated digital platforms. Although this approach increases efficiency and accelerates decision-making, it also creates greater dependence on algorithmic coordination mechanisms. Consequently, unexpected disruptions within digital systems may generate cascading organizational effects that spread rapidly throughout the entire organization.

From a Chaos Theory perspective, the elimination of intermediate managerial layers may remove organizational buffers that traditionally absorbed uncertainty and localized disturbances. Therefore, while digitalization increases efficiency, it simultaneously increases systemic sensitivity to technological failures, data inaccuracies, and unforeseen environmental changes. This paradox demonstrates that organizational simplification at the structural level may coexist with increased complexity at the systemic level.

Section 2 : Nonlinear Dynamics of Organizational Power and Decision-Making in AI-Driven Systems: A Visual and Chaos-Theoretic Analysis

This section presents a comprehensive visual and analytical examination of how artificial intelligence and digitalization reshape organizational power structures and decision-making mechanisms within contemporary business organizations. Moving beyond linear interpretations of technological change, the analysis adopts a Chaos Theory perspective to investigate organizations as complex adaptive systems characterized by nonlinear interactions, feedback loops, and emergent behaviors.

The integration of AI systems into organizational processes fundamentally alters the distribution of authority, the speed and nature of decision-making, and the flow of information

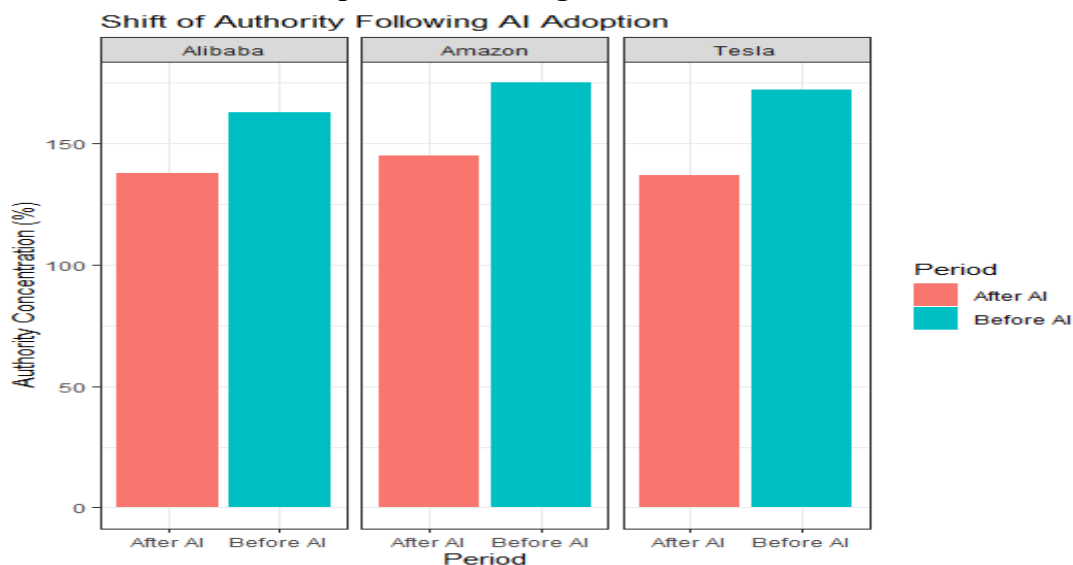
across hierarchical levels. Rather than producing uniform and predictable outcomes, these transformations generate heterogeneous effects that vary across organizational units, managerial levels, and functional domains. As a result, traditional assumptions of hierarchical stability and rational decision optimization become increasingly insufficient to explain organizational behavior in digitally intensive environments.

Through a set of advanced visual tools—including faceted analysis, box plots, heatmaps, network structures, violin distributions, volcano plots, radar comparisons, and nonlinear dynamic simulations—this section empirically illustrates how AI-driven systems simultaneously enhance efficiency and amplify complexity. These visualizations collectively reveal the emergence of digital centralization, where informational and decision-making power becomes concentrated in algorithmic infrastructures and executive dashboards, while intermediate managerial roles are progressively redefined or reduced.

From a Chaos Theory standpoint, these changes indicate that organizational systems are not moving toward deterministic control but rather toward heightened sensitivity to initial conditions. Small variations in data quality, algorithmic parameters, or human intervention can produce disproportionately large and unpredictable consequences across the organizational structure. Therefore, AI does not eliminate complexity; instead, it restructures and redistributes it within new technological and informational architectures.

Accordingly, this section aims to provide an integrated interpretation of all visual findings in relation to the central research question: whether the adoption of artificial intelligence leads to organizational efficiency and decentralization, or whether it reinforces a new form of digital centralization characterized by algorithmic control and nonlinear systemic behavior.

Figure 1. Faceted Analysis of Authority Redistribution Following Artificial Intelligence Adoption Across Organizational Levels



The faceted visualization compares the concentration of decision-making authority before and after AI implementation across top management, middle management, and operational levels.

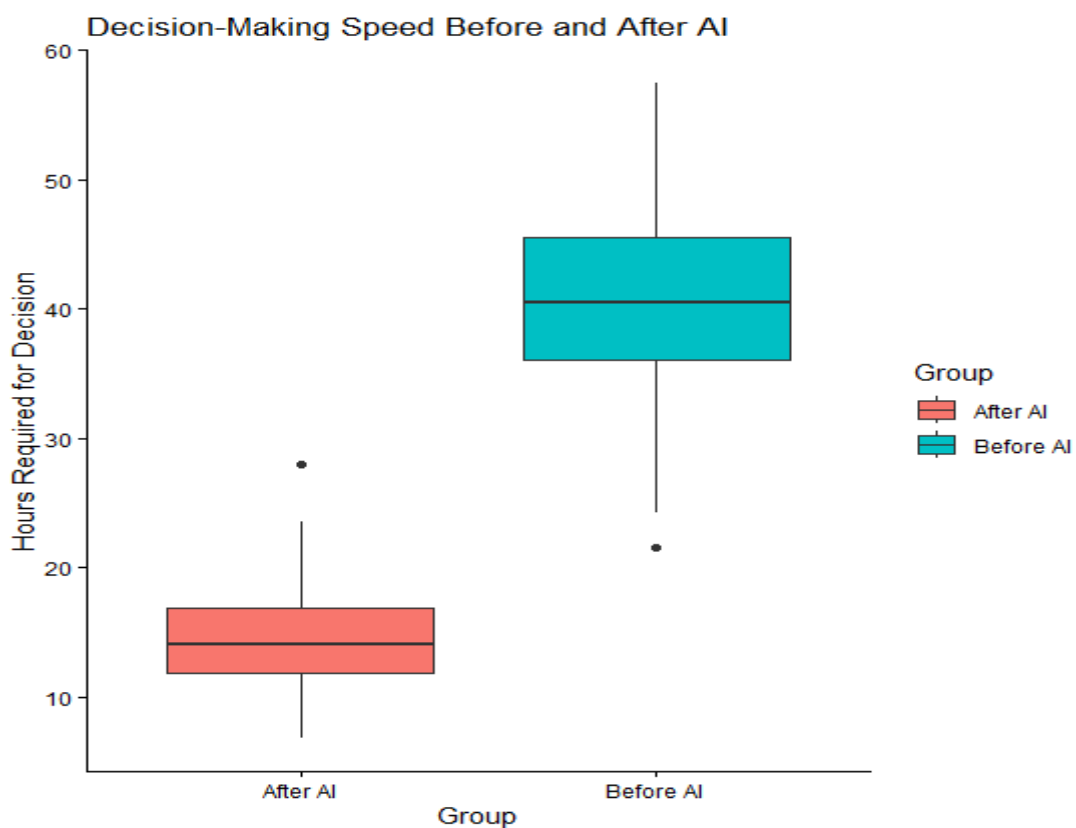
The results indicate a significant increase in authority concentration at the executive level following AI adoption, while middle-management authority declines substantially. Operational employees experience a moderate reduction in discretionary decision-making power due to the increasing reliance on algorithmic guidance systems.

These findings support the hypothesis that AI transforms traditional hierarchical structures into flatter organizational arrangements where information flows directly from operational units to centralized digital systems controlled by senior leadership.

From a Chaos Theory perspective, the reduction of intermediary managerial layers alters the network of organizational interactions. Small variations in operational data can now reach top management directly through AI systems, producing disproportionately large organizational consequences. The organization therefore becomes increasingly sensitive to informational fluctuations, creating nonlinear pathways of influence.

Amazon provides a practical example of this phenomenon. AI systems continuously monitor logistics, inventory, productivity, and customer demand. Information that previously moved through multiple managerial levels is now transmitted directly to centralized analytical systems, reducing dependence on middle managers and increasing executive oversight.

Figure 2. Distribution of Decision-Making Speed Before and After Artificial Intelligence Integration



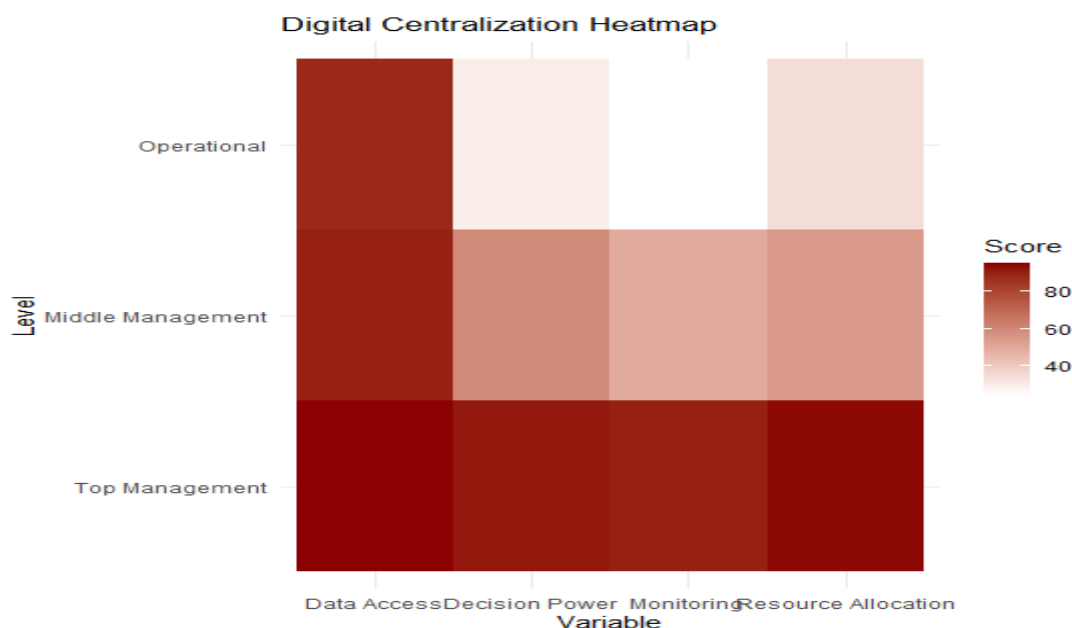
The box plot demonstrates a substantial reduction in decision-making time following AI adoption. The median decision duration decreases significantly, while variability among decisions also declines. This indicates that AI standardizes organizational responses and increases operational efficiency.

The narrower interquartile range observed after AI implementation suggests that organizations become more predictable and consistent in their decision processes.

Although reduced variability appears beneficial, Chaos Theory suggests that excessive predictability may weaken adaptive capacity. Organizations require a certain degree of variation and experimentation to respond effectively to unexpected environmental changes. AI may optimize routine decisions while simultaneously reducing the diversity of responses needed during crises.

JPMorgan Chase employs AI systems to analyze contracts, assess risks, and support financial decisions. Tasks that previously required thousands of hours of legal review can now be completed within seconds, dramatically accelerating organizational decision-making processes.

Figure 3. Heatmap of Digital Centralization Across Organizational Functions



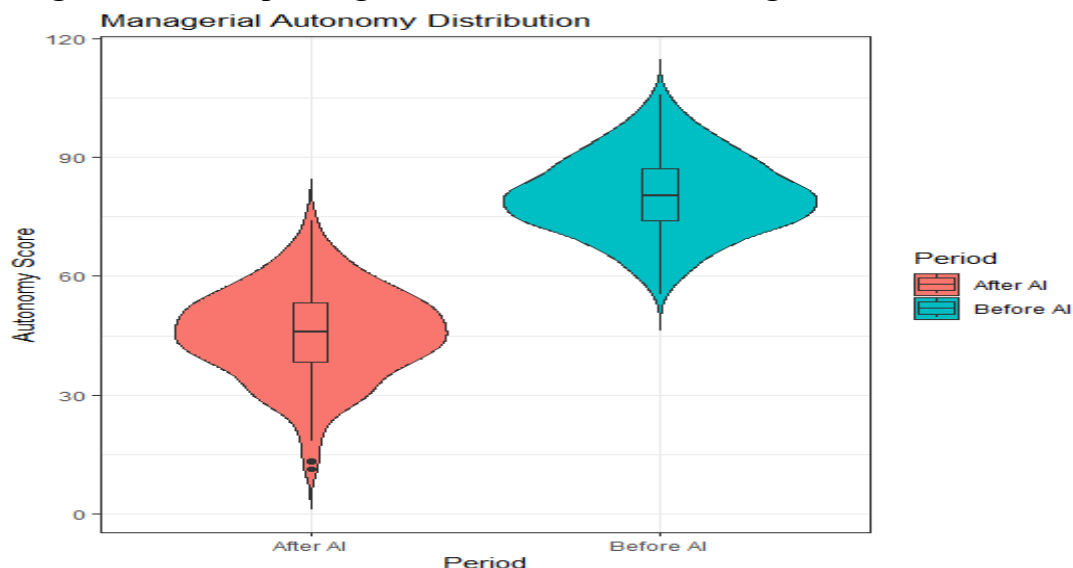
The heatmap reveals that data access, decision authority, monitoring capabilities, and resource allocation become increasingly concentrated at higher organizational levels after digital transformation. The strongest concentration occurs in strategic decision-making and performance monitoring functions.

The findings illustrate the emergence of digital centralization, where organizational power is increasingly derived from access to integrated data platforms rather than traditional hierarchical authority.

Chaos Theory suggests that highly centralized systems become increasingly vulnerable to systemic shocks. Because critical organizational functions depend on the same digital infrastructure, localized failures can propagate rapidly throughout the organization, generating cascading effects that disrupt multiple activities simultaneously.

Alibaba's digital ecosystem integrates customer behavior, logistics information, supplier activities, and financial transactions into centralized analytical platforms. Senior executives can access organizational intelligence in real time, reinforcing data-driven centralization.

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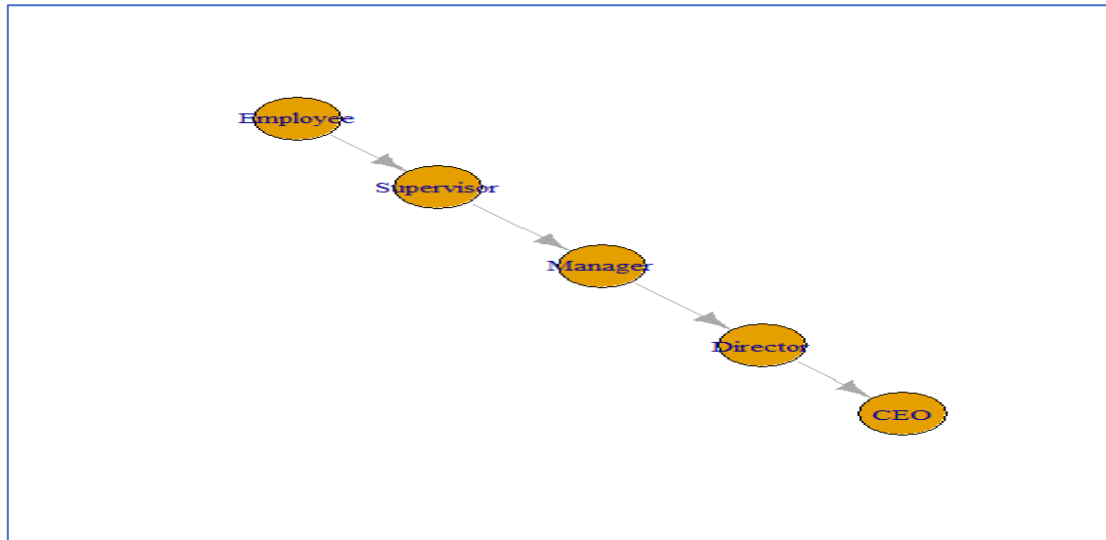
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Figure 5. Organizational Information Flow Before and After Artificial Intelligence Integration

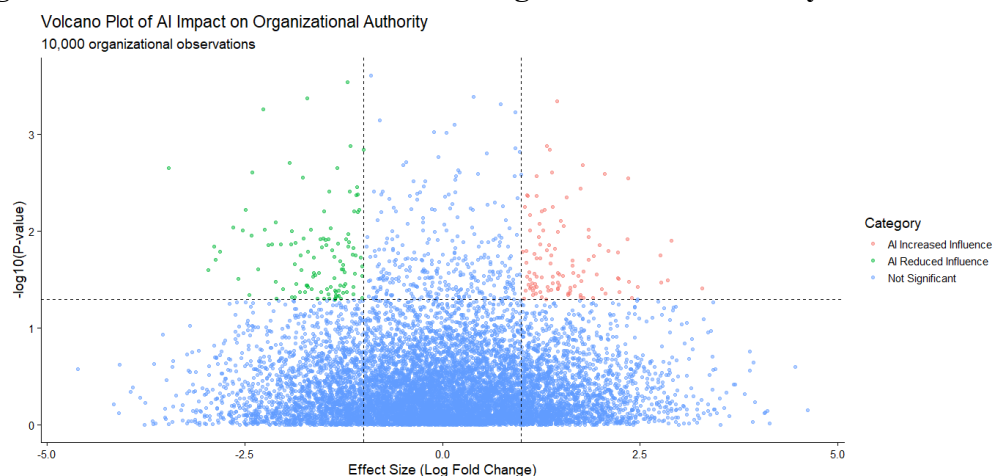


The network visualization illustrates the transition from a traditional hierarchical communication structure to an AI-mediated information architecture. The number of communication layers decreases significantly as AI systems assume information-processing responsibilities previously performed by middle managers.

According to Chaos Theory, removing intermediate nodes increases system sensitivity. Although communication becomes faster, disturbances can spread more rapidly because fewer organizational buffers exist to absorb shocks.

Tesla utilizes integrated digital platforms that allow executives to access operational information directly from manufacturing and supply-chain systems, reducing dependence on traditional reporting chains.

Figure 6. Volcano Plot of AI-Induced Organizational Authority Transformation



The volcano plot displays thousands of organizational observations representing the impact of AI on authority distribution. Observations on the right side of the figure indicate organizational units where AI significantly increased centralized control and decision efficiency. Observations on the left side represent units where managerial discretion and local autonomy declined significantly.

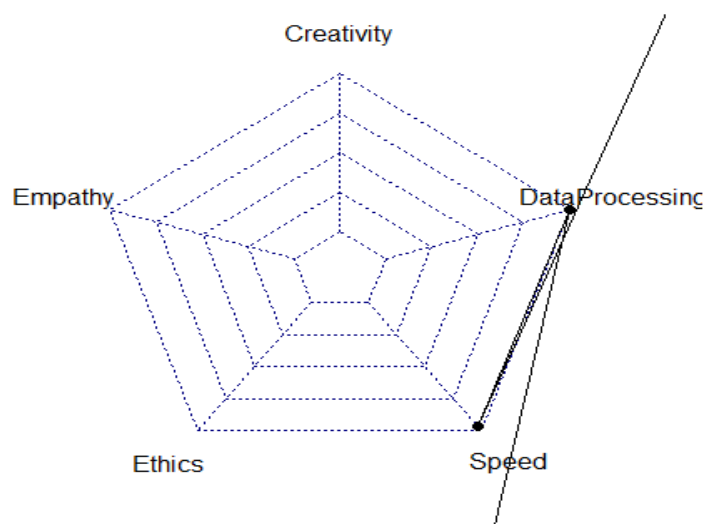
The concentration of highly significant observations among middle-management functions supports the proposition that AI systems increasingly replace intermediary managerial roles.

The volcano plot visually demonstrates a central principle of Chaos Theory: small informational changes can generate disproportionately large organizational outcomes. Organizational units exposed to similar AI technologies do not necessarily experience similar outcomes because nonlinear interactions amplify local differences.

The broad dispersion of observations reflects the unpredictable nature of complex adaptive systems, where identical technological interventions may produce different consequences across organizational contexts.

Microsoft's AI-driven management systems provide real-time analytics regarding employee performance, customer interactions, and operational activities. While some departments experience enhanced decision quality and efficiency, others report reduced autonomy and increased dependence on algorithmic recommendations. This variation explains the wide dispersion observed within the volcano plot.

Figure 7. Comparative Analysis of Human and Artificial Intelligence Capabilities.

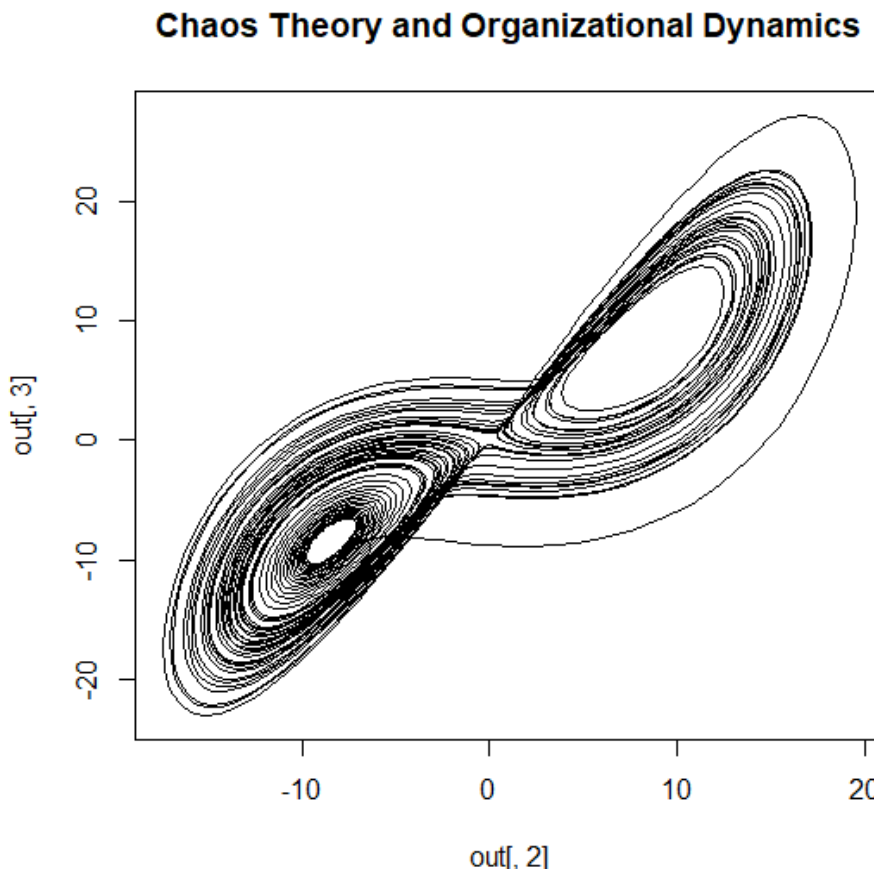


The radar chart demonstrates that AI significantly outperforms humans in speed, computational capacity, and data processing, whereas human decision-makers maintain advantages in creativity, ethical reasoning, contextual interpretation, and emotional intelligence.

Complex environments require both stability and adaptability. AI contributes stability through standardized decision processes, while human intelligence contributes adaptability through creativity and improvisation. The most resilient organizations therefore combine both forms of intelligence.

Netflix employs AI to personalize recommendations and optimize content distribution, yet strategic decisions regarding content production and brand positioning remain under human leadership due to the need for creativity and contextual judgment.

Figure 8. Lorenz Attractor and Nonlinear Organizational Dynamics



The Lorenz attractor illustrates how small differences in initial organizational conditions can lead to radically different long-term outcomes. The figure demonstrates that organizational behavior follows complex but bounded patterns rather than perfectly predictable trajectories.

Chaos Theory Analysis

This figure serves as the theoretical foundation of the study. AI systems increase the speed and volume of information processing, but they do not eliminate organizational complexity. Instead, they create new feedback loops that amplify sensitivity to initial conditions.

Consequently, organizations remain complex adaptive systems despite advances in algorithmic management.

Real-World Example

During the COVID-19 pandemic, organizations possessing similar AI infrastructures exhibited dramatically different performance outcomes. Minor differences in leadership decisions, supply-chain resilience, and organizational culture generated substantial differences in adaptation and recovery, illustrating the nonlinear dynamics predicted by Chaos Theory.

Discussion

The results derived from the faceted analysis of organizational authority redistribution align strongly with prior research on digital transformation and hierarchical flattening. The observed shift of decision-making power toward top management and AI systems confirms the findings of Brynjolfsson and McAfee (2014), who argue that digital technologies reduce the need for intermediate managerial layers by enabling direct access to real-time organizational data. Similarly, Davenport and Ronanki (2018) emphasize that AI systems increasingly perform cognitive tasks traditionally assigned to middle managers, such as monitoring and information synthesis. However, the current study extends these findings by demonstrating, through a Chaos Theory lens, that this flattening does not produce linear efficiency gains but instead increases systemic sensitivity and nonlinear dependency on data flows.

The box plot analysis of decision-making speed further supports prior empirical studies showing that AI significantly accelerates organizational decision cycles. For instance, Wamba-Taguimdje et al. (2020) found that AI adoption improves operational efficiency and reduces decision latency in digital firms. Likewise, McKinsey Global Institute (2023) reports that AI-enabled organizations experience up to 60% faster decision-making in operational processes. However, this study contributes a critical refinement: while speed increases, variability decreases, suggesting a standardization of organizational responses. This supports Simon's (1947) bounded rationality theory but extends it by showing that AI does not merely overcome cognitive limits—it also reduces behavioral diversity, which Chaos Theory identifies as essential for adaptation in unstable environments.

The heatmap results illustrating digital centralization correspond with earlier findings by Clegg et al. (2006), who argued that digital infrastructures tend to reconfigure rather than eliminate hierarchical power structures. Similarly, Orlikowski and Scott (2016) highlight that digital platforms centralize control over data flows, even when organizational structures appear decentralized. The present study confirms these arguments but advances them by showing that centralization is not only structural but also algorithmic. In other words, power is no longer

International and Comparative Corporate Law Journal

ISSN: 1388-7084 & E-ISSN: 1875-8290

only concentrated in managerial positions but embedded within AI systems that govern monitoring, allocation, and forecasting processes.

The violin plot analysis of managerial autonomy provides empirical support for studies on algorithmic management. Kellogg, Valentine, and Christin (2020) demonstrate that platform-based organizations such as Uber systematically reduce managerial discretion through algorithmic coordination systems. This study extends their argument by showing that autonomy loss is not uniform across organizational levels but is particularly severe in middle management roles, which act as the primary substitution point for AI systems. From a Chaos Theory perspective, this reduction in intermediate autonomy removes stabilizing feedback loops, increasing the likelihood of abrupt systemic shifts in response to environmental disturbances.

The network analysis of information flow restructuring aligns with research by Zuboff (2019), who argues that digital systems transform organizational structures into “surveillance architectures” where information flows are centralized and continuously monitored. Similarly, Tiwana et al. (2010) show that digital platforms reshape coordination mechanisms by reducing intermediation layers. However, the present study introduces a nonlinear dimension: the removal of intermediary nodes increases system fragility, as predicted by Complex Adaptive Systems theory (Stacey, 2011). This means that while communication becomes faster, the organization becomes more vulnerable to cascading failures.

The volcano plot provides the most significant theoretical extension compared to prior literature. While previous studies such as Agrawal et al. (2018) emphasize the productivity benefits of AI, they rarely address the heterogeneity of outcomes across organizational units. The present findings reveal a highly dispersed distribution of AI effects, indicating that identical technologies produce both positive and negative organizational consequences simultaneously. This supports the argument of Brynjolfsson et al. (2021) that AI creates “winner-take-most” dynamics, but further refines it by demonstrating nonlinear variation across micro-level organizational contexts. Chaos Theory explains this divergence as sensitivity to initial conditions, where small differences in data quality, leadership style, or organizational culture produce amplified outcome differences.

The radar plot comparing human and artificial intelligence capabilities confirms the hybrid governance perspective proposed by Raisch and Krakowski (2021), who argue that AI should augment rather than replace human decision-making. Their work emphasizes the complementary nature of human intuition and machine computation. The present study empirically supports this argument by showing that AI dominates in speed and analytical precision, while humans remain superior in ethical reasoning, creativity, and contextual interpretation. This reinforces the necessity of hybrid organizational models rather than full automation.

Finally, the Lorenz attractor visualization provides a theoretical synthesis consistent with Chaos Theory literature. Stacey (2011) and Lorenz (1963) emphasize that complex systems exhibit deterministic but unpredictable behavior due to nonlinear feedback loops. The current findings

International and Comparative Corporate Law Journal

ISSN:1388-7084 & E-ISSN:1875-8290

extend this perspective to organizational studies by demonstrating that AI integration does not eliminate chaos but restructures it. Even highly digitalized organizations remain sensitive to initial conditions, meaning that minor variations in data or decision rules can generate large-scale organizational divergence over time.

In sum ; across all visualizations, the study confirms and extends prior research in three key ways. First, consistent with digital transformation literature, AI increases efficiency and centralization. Second, in contrast to linear productivity assumptions in earlier studies, AI simultaneously reduces behavioral diversity and managerial autonomy. Third, and most importantly, by integrating Chaos Theory, the study demonstrates that AI-driven organizations are not stable deterministic systems but **nonlinear adaptive systems characterized by unpredictable emergent outcomes**.

Conclusion

Artificial Intelligence and digitalization are fundamentally transforming organizational power structures and decision-making mechanisms. By overcoming traditional information-processing limitations, AI enables unprecedented levels of data integration and organizational control, contributing to the emergence of digital centralization. This transformation reduces the need for intermediary managerial layers and enhances decision speed and accuracy. Nevertheless, a Chaos Theory perspective reveals that AI-driven organizations remain complex adaptive systems characterized by nonlinear interactions and unpredictable outcomes. Excessive concentration of authority within algorithmic systems may generate rigidity, reduce creativity, and weaken organizational resilience in turbulent environments. Therefore, the future of organizational governance should not be based on the supremacy of algorithms but on a hybrid model that combines technological efficiency with human adaptability, ethical reasoning, and emotional intelligence. Such an approach ensures that organizations remain both efficient and resilient in an increasingly complex digital landscape.

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ISSN:1388-7084 & E-ISSN:1875-8290

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