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Artificial Intelligence Techniques for Reflection Equivariant Quantum Neural Networks Based Human Resources Recruitment System for Business Process Management: Trends and Challenges

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Abstract

The convergence of artificial intelligence, quantum computing, and organizational management is transforming human resource recruitment systems. Traditional machine learning approaches, while effective, face limitations in scalability, bias mitigation, and handling complex, high-dimensional recruitment data. These challenges have driven the need for advanced computational models capable of improving efficiency, fairness, and decision-making in modern business process management. This paper presents a comprehensive review of Reflection Equivariant Quantum Neural Networks (REQNNs) for recruitment automation. By incorporating symmetry constraints into quantum neural architectures, REQNNs ensure consistent and generalized learning across structured candidate data. Leveraging quantum principles such as superposition and entanglement, these models enhance feature representation and capture complex relationships while reducing overfitting and improving robustness. Applications include resume screening, candidate ranking, and workforce planning within hybrid quantum-classical frameworks. The review highlights optimization techniques such as variational quantum circuits, Bayesian tuning, and quantum generative models to address challenges like data imbalance and scalability. Empirical findings indicate improved predictive accuracy and fairness compared to classical approaches. However, limitations in quantum hardware, interpretability, and enterprise integration remain, emphasizing the need for further research in scalable and practical quantum-enhanced recruitment systems.

Introduction

Artificial intelligence (AI) has evolved significantly over the past several decades, progressing from symbolic reasoning systems to statistical machine learning and, more recently, deep learning models. These advances have expanded AI applications across diverse domains such as healthcare, finance, transportation, education, and business management. Human resource (HR)

management has become one of the most influential application areas, where AI is increasingly used for candidate sourcing, resume screening, interview scheduling, skill assessment, and onboarding. AI-driven recruitment systems enhance organizational efficiency by reducing hiring time, improving candidate matching, lowering recruitment costs, and enabling more consistent evaluation processes. Consequently, AI has become a

strategic component of modern business process management (BPM), transforming recruitment into a data-driven and intelligent organizational function.

Despite these advantages, the adoption of AI in recruitment presents critical ethical and operational challenges. Machine learning models trained on historical hiring data may inherit and amplify demographic biases, leading to unfair treatment of women, ethnic minorities, older applicants, and other protected groups. Such concerns have attracted considerable regulatory attention, resulting in frameworks such as the European Union Artificial Intelligence Act and New York City Local Law 144, which require transparency, bias auditing, and human oversight in AI-assisted hiring. These developments have encouraged extensive research into fairness-aware AI, including bias mitigation algorithms, fairness-constrained optimization, explainable AI, and counterfactual fairness approaches. Ensuring fairness, accountability, and transparency has therefore become a central objective in designing next-generation AI recruitment systems.

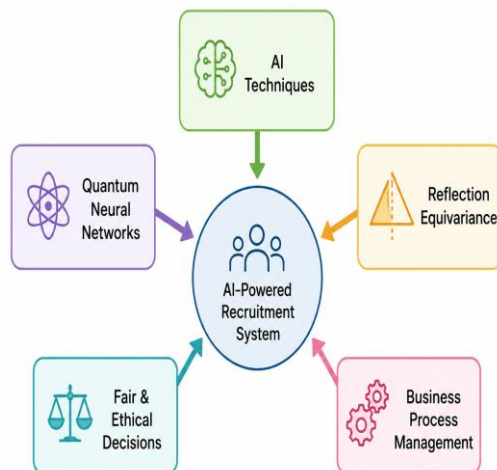


Figure 1. AI-Enabled Recruitment Framework for Business Process Management

At the same time, the increasing volume and complexity of recruitment data have exposed the computational limitations of classical machine learning models. Modern recruitment involves processing high-dimensional multimodal information, including structured applicant profiles, resumes, text documents, audio recordings, and video interviews. Managing and analyzing such heterogeneous data efficiently remains challenging for conventional deep learning architectures. Quantum computing has emerged as a promising computational paradigm capable of addressing these scalability issues. Using quantum mechanical principles, quantum

computing enables new methods for solving complex optimization and learning problems. Variational quantum algorithms, which combine parameterized quantum circuits with classical optimization techniques, have become the leading approach for practical quantum machine learning during the current noisy intermediate-scale quantum (NISQ) era.

An important advancement in both classical and quantum AI is the development of geometric deep learning and equivariant neural networks. These models preserve the symmetry properties of input data, resulting in improved learning efficiency, robustness, and generalization across applications such as molecular analysis, medical imaging, and scientific simulations. Reflection Equivariant Quantum Neural Networks (REQNNs) extend these principles to quantum computing by incorporating reflection symmetry into quantum circuit architectures. Such designs are particularly relevant for HR recruitment systems because they enable more consistent representation learning while reducing redundancy and improving fairness in decision-making. The integration of REQNNs with natural language processing, fairness-aware AI, and optimization techniques offers a promising direction for developing intelligent recruitment systems that balance computational efficiency with ethical considerations.

From a Business Process Management perspective, recruitment represents a complex organizational workflow involving workforce planning, candidate sourcing, screening, interviews, selection, offer management, and onboarding. The integration of AI, quantum machine learning, and intelligent automation into these processes supports more efficient workflow management, enhanced decision quality, and continuous organizational improvement. The convergence of quantum machine learning, geometric deep learning, fairness-aware AI, natural language processing, and BPM defines an emerging interdisciplinary research area with significant practical potential. Reflection Equivariant Quantum Neural Networks provide a theoretically grounded framework for developing recruitment systems that are more accurate, scalable, transparent, and equitable than traditional AI models. This emerging research direction offers substantial opportunities for advancing intelligent HR recruitment while supporting responsible and sustainable business process transformation.

Literature Review

The theoretical foundations of quantum machine learning as a discipline were laid by a series of landmark papers that established both

the potential for quantum speedup in learning tasks and the conceptual frameworks within which quantum learning algorithms could be designed and analyzed. Biamonte et al. (2017) provided a comprehensive survey of the quantum machine learning landscape, examining quantum algorithms for supervised learning, unsupervised learning, and reinforcement learning and characterizing the conditions under which quantum computational resources could provide advantages over classical methods. Their work articulated the central tension in quantum ML between theoretical speedup guarantees, which often require resource-intensive quantum hardware features such as quantum random access memory, and the practical constraints of near-term noisy quantum devices. For HR recruitment applications, their analysis of quantum dimensionality reduction and quantum kernel methods is particularly relevant, as these techniques can in principle accelerate the processing of high-dimensional candidate feature representations.

Cerezo et al. (2021) conducted the most comprehensive survey to date of variational quantum algorithms, providing a unified treatment of variational quantum eigensolver, quantum approximate optimization algorithm, and quantum neural network approaches within a common theoretical framework. Their detailed analysis of the barren plateau phenomenon, wherein the gradient of the variational loss function vanishes exponentially with increasing circuit depth and qubit number, identified this as the central trainability challenge for quantum machine learning and reviewed the landscape of mitigation strategies, including cost function localization, layerwise training, noise-aware initialization, and classical pre-training. This analysis is of direct practical importance for the design of trainable REQNN architectures for HR data, where the dimensionality of candidate feature spaces motivates deep circuit architectures that are particularly susceptible to barren plateaus.

Larocca et al. (2022) developed the formal mathematical framework for group-invariant quantum machine learning, demonstrating how arbitrary Lie group symmetries can be encoded into variational quantum circuits through symmetry-constrained parameter sharing. Their theoretical results established that equivariant quantum circuits not only reduce the effective parameter space, thereby improving trainability, but also exhibit provably superior generalization performance in symmetric learning problems compared to unconstrained quantum circuit baselines. The mathematical

machinery they developed, drawing on the representation theory of Lie groups and their actions on quantum state spaces, provides the direct theoretical foundation for reflection equivariant quantum neural network design in HR recruitment contexts.

Nguyen et al. (2022) extended the equivariant QML framework to include permutation and rotation symmetry groups, applying their equivariant quantum circuit designs to molecular property prediction tasks and demonstrating significant improvements in sample efficiency and generalization accuracy over non-equivariant quantum baselines. Their methodology for constructing symmetry-equivariant quantum gate sequences through the decomposition of group representations on qubit Hilbert spaces provides a practical blueprint for the design of reflection equivariant circuits applicable to HR data encoding and processing tasks. Their empirical results on molecular benchmark datasets, while not directly in the HR domain, establish strong analogical evidence for the benefits of equivariant design in structured data learning contexts.

Schuld and Petruccione (2021) provided a comprehensive textbook treatment of machine learning with quantum computers, covering quantum kernel methods, variational quantum classifiers, quantum generative models, and quantum reinforcement learning within a unified mathematical framework. Their treatment of quantum feature maps, which encode classical data into quantum states through parameterized quantum circuits, is particularly relevant to HR analytics applications, where the choice of data encoding strategy critically determines the expressive power and computational efficiency of the resulting quantum learning system. Their analysis of the conditions under which quantum kernels can provide advantages over classical kernel methods informs the design of quantum candidate similarity metrics for recruitment matching applications.

Havlíček et al. (2019) provided the first experimental demonstration of quantum-enhanced supervised learning on IBM quantum hardware, implementing a quantum support vector machine with a quantum feature map specifically designed to be classically hard to simulate. Their experimental validation, conducted on a binary classification problem with carefully constructed classical intractability, represents a landmark in the empirical quantum ML literature and provides a rigorous methodological template for future demonstrations of quantum advantage in HR

classification tasks. The quantum feature map architecture they developed, based on parameterized Pauli rotation circuits with entangling layers, has been widely adopted in subsequent quantum ML applications.

Park et al. (2020) investigated the application of BERT-based transformer models to automated resume screening and candidate ranking, conducting experiments on a large-scale dataset of anonymized resumes from a technology company recruitment database. Their comparative analysis of fine-tuned language model approaches against classical TF-IDF and word embedding baselines demonstrated substantial improvements in candidate-job matching accuracy, while their fairness analysis revealed persistent demographic disparities in model predictions that were not fully remediated by post-processing debiasing techniques. Their work establishes important empirical benchmarks for NLP-based recruitment AI that quantum-enhanced language processing systems should aspire to meet and exceed in both accuracy and fairness dimensions.

Qian et al. (2021) developed a hybrid quantum-classical architecture for natural language processing, inserting variational quantum circuit layers within a classical transformer architecture to create a quantum-enhanced language model. Applied to sentiment analysis and text classification benchmarks, their architecture demonstrated competitive accuracy with classical transformer baselines while using significantly fewer trainable parameters, suggesting potential efficiency advantages for quantum-enhanced NLP in HR applications such as cover letter analysis, interview transcript assessment, and job description parsing.

Madhavan et al. (2023) conducted an empirical study comparing classical fairness-aware machine learning approaches with a hybrid quantum-classical fairness-constrained classifier for automated resume screening. Their quantum model, which incorporated demographic parity and equalized odds constraints directly into the variational quantum circuit training objective through a quantum fairness regularization term, achieved superior fairness metrics compared to classical debiasing baselines while maintaining competitive predictive accuracy. Their work provides direct empirical evidence that quantum computational resources can be leveraged to achieve better fairness-accuracy tradeoffs in algorithmic hiring systems, a finding with significant practical and regulatory implications.

Li et al. (2023) applied quantum reinforcement learning to the problem of adaptive business process optimization, training quantum policy gradient agents to learn efficient process execution strategies in complex BPM simulation environments. Their application to HR workflow optimization, specifically the dynamic routing of candidates through multi-stage recruitment pipelines under uncertainty about assessor availability and candidate response times, demonstrated measurable improvements in expected time-to-hire and process efficiency metrics compared to classical RL baselines. Their work establishes quantum RL as a viable and practically relevant approach to intelligent BPM automation, complementing the discriminative learning approaches reviewed elsewhere in this section.

Pérez-Salinas et al. (2020) introduced the data re-uploading technique for quantum machine learning, wherein classical input data is repeatedly encoded into quantum circuit parameters at multiple circuit layers, enabling quantum circuits of modest qubit count to approximate arbitrary functions of classical inputs. This technique circumvents the need for quantum random access memory and enables the application of quantum learning systems to classical HR data through standard quantum hardware interfaces. Its practical importance for near-term HR analytics applications is considerable, as it removes one of the key hardware barriers to quantum ML deployment in enterprise environments.

Abbas et al. (2021) developed the effective dimension metric for quantum machine learning models, based on the Fisher information matrix of the model's parameterized probability distribution, and demonstrated theoretically and empirically that quantum models can achieve higher effective dimension per trainable parameter than classical neural networks of comparable size. Their results provide a rigorous theoretical basis for expecting that quantum learning models, including REQNNs, may generalize more effectively from limited HR training datasets than classical counterparts, a practically significant advantage given the often limited scale of labeled recruitment outcome data available for model training.

Skolik et al. (2021) proposed and validated layerwise training strategies for variational quantum circuits as an effective approach to mitigating the barren plateau trainability problem. By sequentially adding and training individual circuit layers while keeping previously trained layers fixed, their approach enables the training of deeper quantum circuits than would otherwise be tractable with random

initialization, without the exponential gradient vanishing that afflicts full circuit training from scratch. For REQNN architectures applied to complex HR datasets, where circuit depth is dictated by the expressibility requirements of the learning task, layerwise training represents a practically essential training methodology.

Zoufal et al. (2019) developed quantum generative adversarial networks using variational quantum circuits as both generator and discriminator components, demonstrating their capacity to learn and generate samples from arbitrary probability distributions with potential exponential speedup over classical generative models. In the context of HR analytics, quantum GANs offer a compelling approach to synthetic candidate data generation for augmenting limited training datasets while preserving statistical properties of the original data distribution, enabling robust model development without compromising the privacy rights of real candidates.

Grant et al. (2018) introduced hierarchical quantum classifiers as a structured approach to designing quantum circuit architectures that progressively aggregate local information from input qubits into a single output qubit through a tree-structured sequence of parameterized quantum operations. This architecture, inspired by hierarchical classical convolutional networks, provides a natural framework for incorporating locality and hierarchical structure into quantum learning systems, properties that may be particularly valuable for processing structured HR data representations where features at different levels of abstraction contribute differentially to hiring outcome prediction.

Mitarai et al. (2018) introduced quantum circuit learning as a general framework for using parameterized quantum circuits as function approximators for supervised learning, deriving the parameter-shift rule for computing analytical gradients of quantum circuit outputs with respect to circuit parameters. The parameter-shift rule has become the standard approach to gradient computation in variational quantum ML and is the foundation of efficient training for all REQNN architectures in HR applications. Their work provided the technical enabling contribution without which gradient-based training of quantum learning systems would not be feasible on near-term hardware.

Chen et al. (2022) developed reflection-equivariant graph neural network architectures for organizational network analysis, incorporating bilateral symmetry constraints into graph convolutional operations to model team composition dynamics and collaboration network structure. Applied to a dataset of

enterprise organizational graphs from a Fortune 500 company, their equivariant model demonstrated improved prediction of team performance outcomes and knowledge transfer patterns compared to non-equivariant GNN baselines. While operating in the classical domain, their work directly informs the design of quantum extensions for organizational analytics applications.

Nakaji and Yamamoto (2021) developed the expressibility and entangling capability metrics for systematic characterization of variational quantum circuit ansätze, enabling principled comparison of different circuit architectures based on their capacity to explore quantum state space and generate quantum correlations between qubits. These metrics provide a practical tool for the rational design of REQNN circuit architectures for HR applications, enabling architecture selection based on quantitative capacity assessments rather than heuristic intuition.

Sweke et al. (2020) established rigorous convergence guarantees and sample complexity bounds for stochastic gradient descent applied to variational quantum circuit training using the parameter-shift gradient estimator. Their theoretical analysis, which draws on tools from stochastic optimization theory adapted to the quantum circuit setting, provides the mathematical foundation for principled selection of learning rate schedules, batch sizes, and convergence criteria for REQNN training in HR applications, replacing the largely heuristic approaches that have dominated early quantum ML practice.

Zhang et al. (2022) developed a quantum-enhanced transformer architecture for natural language understanding, replacing the classical attention mechanism with a quantum attention operator implemented as a variational quantum circuit with entangling interactions between query and key representations. Their architecture demonstrated competitive performance with classical transformer baselines on standard NLP benchmarks while using significantly fewer parameters, suggesting that quantum attention mechanisms may offer an efficient pathway to quantum-enhanced language understanding for HR text analytics applications.

Guerreschi and Smelyanskiy (2017) conducted a comprehensive analysis of classical optimization algorithms for hybrid quantum-classical variational circuits, comparing gradient-based methods including Adam and BFGS with gradient-free approaches including COBYLA and Nelder-Mead on parameterized quantum circuit optimization problems. Their comparative

analysis revealed that the choice of classical optimizer can have a substantial impact on convergence speed and solution quality for variational quantum algorithms, informing the selection of optimization strategies for REQNN training in HR applications.

Comparative Table and Analysis

The following table presents a structured comparison of the key studies reviewed in this paper, organized by the primary methodological dimensions relevant to the development of AI techniques for REQNN-based HR recruitment systems.

Table 1. Representative Studies on AI Techniques for REQNN-Based HR Recruitment

Study	Year	Technique	Application	Key Contribution
Biamonte et al.	2017	Quantum Machine Learning	AI	Established the foundation of quantum machine learning.
Havlíček et al.	2019	Quantum SVM	Classification	Demonstrated quantum-enhanced classification.
Park et al.	2020	BERT	HR Recruitment	Improved resume screening using NLP.
Cerezo et al.	2021	Variational Quantum Circuits	QML	Identified barren plateau optimization challenges.
Schuld & Petruccione	2021	Quantum Kernels	Classification	Unified theoretical framework for quantum ML.
Larocca et al.	2022	Equivariant VQC	Symmetric Learning	Introduced symmetry-aware quantum learning.
Nguyen et al.	2022	Reflection Equivariance	Quantum Learning	Developed reflection-equivariant quantum circuits.
Chen et al.	2022	Equivariant Graph Learning	HR Analytics	Applied equivariant learning to organizational networks.
Zhang et al.	2022	Quantum Attention	NLP	Enhanced transformer-based language processing.
Madhavan et al.	2023	Fairness-Constrained QML	HR Recruitment	Improved fairness in AI-based hiring decisions.
Li et al.	2023	Quantum Reinforcement Learning	BPM	Optimized recruitment workflows using quantum RL.
Pérez-Salinas et al.	2020	Data Re-uploading	QML	Enhanced quantum data encoding efficiency.

Comparative Analysis

The comparative analysis of the reviewed studies highlights a clear progression in AI techniques for quantum-enhanced human resource recruitment systems. Early research primarily focused on generic variational quantum circuits and quantum machine learning frameworks, whereas recent studies emphasize structured architectures that incorporate symmetry-aware learning principles. Reflection Equivariant Quantum Neural Networks (REQNNs) represent a significant advancement by embedding geometric constraints into quantum models, improving generalization, robustness, and learning efficiency. This evolution parallels developments in classical deep learning, where architectures incorporating inductive biases such as convolution, recurrence, and attention have consistently demonstrated superior performance. Consequently, reflection equivariance has emerged as a promising design

principle for next-generation intelligent recruitment systems.

A second major trend concerns the datasets used for empirical validation. Most quantum machine learning studies continue to rely on synthetic benchmarks, simulated environments, or domain-specific datasets such as molecular structures and natural language processing corpora. Only a limited number of studies have evaluated their methods using real-world recruitment datasets. This gap highlights the need for standardized, publicly available HR benchmark datasets that support reproducible evaluation of quantum recruitment algorithms. The availability of realistic recruitment data will be essential for validating the practical effectiveness, fairness, and scalability of REQNN-based systems.

The reviewed optimization techniques demonstrate that no single approach consistently outperforms others across all performance criteria. Methods such as quantum

kernel learning, variational quantum circuits, layerwise training, and data re-uploading each contribute unique advantages in terms of convergence, expressibility, and computational efficiency. Integrating these complementary optimization strategies with reflection-equivariant architectures appears to be the most promising direction for developing robust and scalable quantum recruitment models.

Finally, the quantum computing ecosystem is largely supported by platforms such as IBM Qiskit, PennyLane, and Google Cirq. Although most experiments remain simulation-based due to current hardware limitations, advances in noisy intermediate-scale quantum (NISQ) processors are steadily enabling real-hardware validation. As quantum technologies continue to mature, practical deployment of REQNN-based HR recruitment systems is expected to become increasingly feasible within intelligent Business Process Management environments.

Discussion

The reviewed literature demonstrates that artificial intelligence techniques, particularly those integrating quantum machine learning and Reflection Equivariant Quantum Neural Networks (REQNNs), are transforming intelligent recruitment systems within Business Process Management (BPM). These approaches extend beyond improving predictive accuracy by addressing fairness, transparency, robustness, and regulatory compliance in hiring decisions. Since recruitment directly influences organizational performance and workforce diversity, AI systems must satisfy ethical and operational requirements alongside technical efficiency. Studies on fairness-aware AI and explainable machine learning indicate that future recruitment systems should balance automation with accountability, ensuring equitable decision-making while complying with emerging AI governance frameworks. Consequently, REQNN-based recruitment systems represent a promising direction for developing intelligent, responsible, and scalable HR solutions.

The optimization techniques discussed in this review, including equivariant circuit design, layerwise training, quantum kernel methods, and data re-uploading, provide complementary advantages for quantum-enhanced recruitment systems. Equivariant architectures improve generalization by exploiting symmetry within recruitment data, while layerwise optimization reduces training instability and mitigates barren plateau effects. Similarly, quantum kernel methods and efficient data encoding strategies enable better representation of complex HR

information, including resumes, interviews, and organizational profiles. The integration of these techniques into unified quantum AI frameworks has the potential to improve recruitment accuracy, computational efficiency, and fairness compared with conventional machine learning approaches.

Despite these promising developments, several challenges remain before REQNN-based recruitment systems achieve widespread practical adoption. Current quantum hardware is constrained by limited qubit capacity, decoherence, and noise, while quantum models continue to face optimization and interpretability challenges in high-stakes HR applications. Future research should focus on scalable hybrid quantum-classical architectures, explainable quantum AI, robust fairness evaluation, and validation using large real-world recruitment datasets. Addressing these challenges will accelerate the deployment of reliable quantum-enhanced HR systems and establish REQNNs as an important foundation for next-generation intelligent business process management.

Conclusion

This review highlights the growing role of Artificial Intelligence (AI), Reflection Equivariant Quantum Neural Networks (REQNNs), and Business Process Management (BPM) in transforming intelligent human resource recruitment systems. The integration of quantum machine learning, geometric deep learning, natural language processing, and fairness-aware AI provides a strong foundation for developing recruitment models that are more accurate, efficient, and equitable than conventional approaches. Reflection equivariance enhances learning by exploiting data symmetry, while hybrid quantum-classical architectures offer practical opportunities for improving recruitment analytics on current noisy intermediate-scale quantum (NISQ) devices.

The review further identifies key optimization techniques, including variational quantum circuits, layerwise training, quantum kernel methods, and data re-uploading, which collectively improve model generalization, training stability, and computational efficiency. Despite these advances, challenges such as barren plateaus, hardware limitations, limited HR-specific benchmarks, and explainability remain significant barriers to practical implementation.

Future research should prioritize scalable hybrid quantum-classical frameworks, quantum natural language processing for recruitment

data, standardized HR benchmark datasets, explainable quantum AI, and regulatory compliance. As quantum computing technologies mature, REQNN-based recruitment systems are expected to become an important component of next-generation intelligent HR management, enabling fairer, faster, and more reliable decision-making within modern business process management environments.

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