

In what ways might we expect to see AI effect people psychologically under the presumption that AI will expand into more and more elements and settings of our lives? Your response should be framed as a personal position statement about this growing ICT field in context with human psychology.

Watson

I think IBM has made a great accomplishment in developing a system that can utilize ICT to simulate a small portion of the human thought process. I am sure some will find it psychologically demeaning to loss to a machine but as a chess player who has lost many games to my computer I am not bothered at all by the concept of computers being better than humans at completing some task. Much like I do when I loss to the computer in a ABC news interview with Ki Mae Heussner the Jeopardy losers seemed to have found a way to also rationalize and justify their defeat by indicating that they knew many of the answers but were often defeated by the speed in which Watson would hit the buzzer to answer the questions. Although IBM has made a big leap in AI there are many aspects of the human existence such as rationalization, conversation and emotion that are leap years away for achieving the same human aspects with ICT.

Watson Computer Crushes Humans in Night Three of 'Jeopardy!' Challenge. IBM's Super-Computer Defeats All-Time 'Jeopardy!' Champs in Man vs. Machine Face-Off, Ki Mae Heussner, Feb. 17, 2011

<http://abcnews.go.com/Technology/jeopardy-ibm-computer-watson-wins-million-man-machine/story?id=12940205>

I believe that the growth of AI will have varied effects on the human psychology. Those who have jobs or personal needs that depend on fast data analysis will find comfort and reassurance in advanced AI as a tool to help them achieve success. Some business will definitely see competitive advantages in AI implementations and as the technology matures and diffuse into the culture there will eventually be cost effective business solutions for sale to the small businesses and enterprise corporations.

Others will find AI threatening as the comparison to human versus machine will continue. Paranoid delusion of machines taking over the world perpetuated by T.V and Hollywood science fiction shows such as the Matrix will continue and I am sure there will be some who may interpret this type of entertainment as scientific inevitability.

I am a big fan of SCI-FI movies and TV shows but in my opinion AI is a product of human advancements in the innovation and use of ICT technologies. Until computers start programming and building other computers I think the human race is safe from AI computer domination. The risk may be that occasionally bad programming and flawed algorithms developed by humans will cause AI systems to make faulty decisions that are relied on by humans and/or other ICT systems to implement critical task.

For example if a AI System is designed to defend earth from a speeding asteroid but incorrectly targets a returning space shuttle and destroys it that's not necessarily a rogue uncontrollable AI system as much as it is a faulty system design.

I read on a recent blog where one blogger stated about Watson "I'm not worried, I would reformat his hard disk, take out a few memory chips and install Windows NT, and then let's see how well Watson, performs". I thought this was a humorous example of how people familiar with how ICT works will always feel superior to modern technology. As AI ICT becomes more common and integrated into our everyday lives, more people will grow to be more accepting of the technology and the market will demand even more innovative and affordable use of AI.

Webster defines Artificial Intelligence as 1: a branch of computer science dealing with the simulation of intelligence behavior in computers. 2 : the capability of a machine to imitate intelligent human behavior

I think Watson may meet the official definition to be called AI. Watson does have a powerful search engine but instead of presenting all the hit that it finds it attempts to deliver only the right answer by simulating the human thought process via ICT confidentiality algorithm, statistical and analytical models and rules.

<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/artificial%20intelligence>

IBM Researcher Dr. Jon Lenchner stated in a recent articles that Watson learns by gathering information, but instead of neural connections, it uses algorithms to understand the natural language that information is written in. These algorithms give it a confidence in a Jeopardy! category and clue, that maps to a probabilistic estimate that the response is correct.

<http://ibmresearchnews.blogspot.com/2011/02/knowing-what-it-knows-selected-nuances.html>

<http://ibmresearchnews.blogspot.com/2011/02/watsons-wagering-strategies.html>