

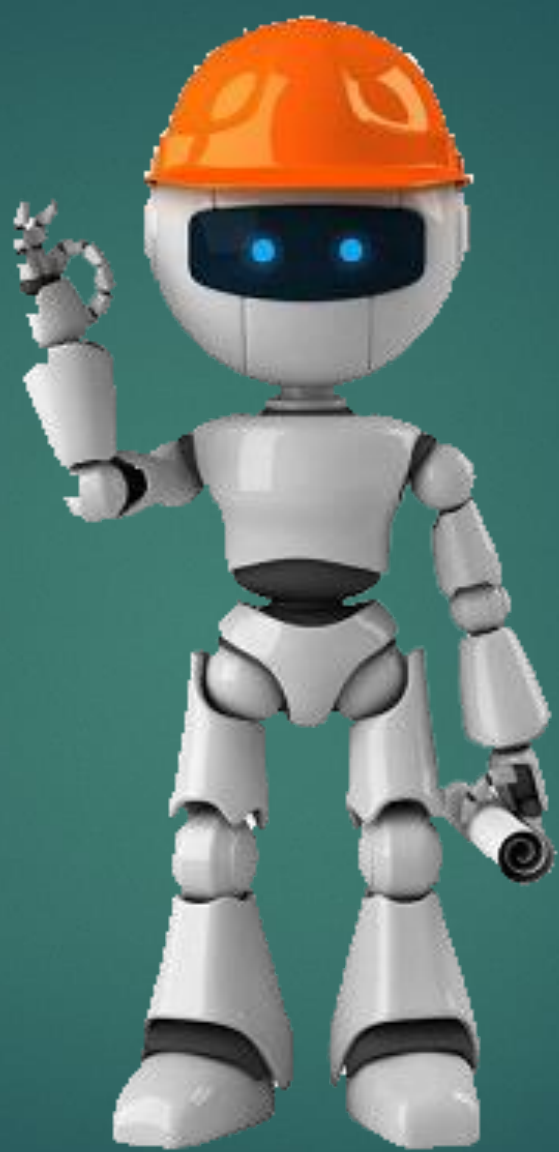
# COMS 493

AI, ROBOTS & COMMUNICATION

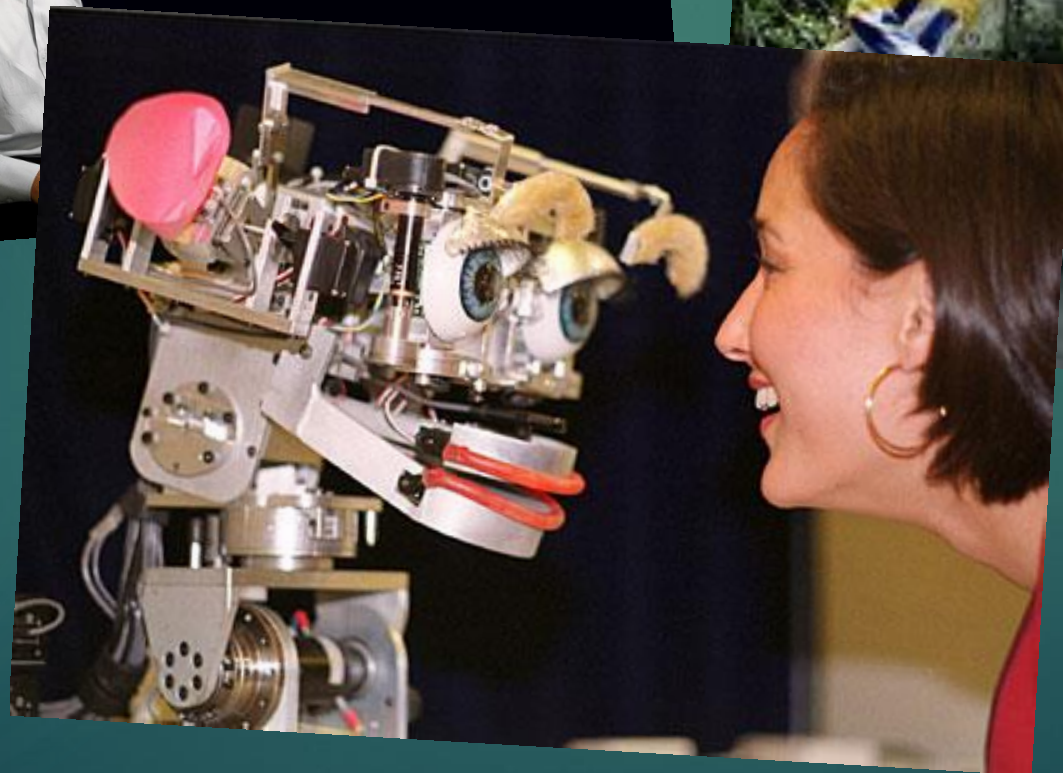
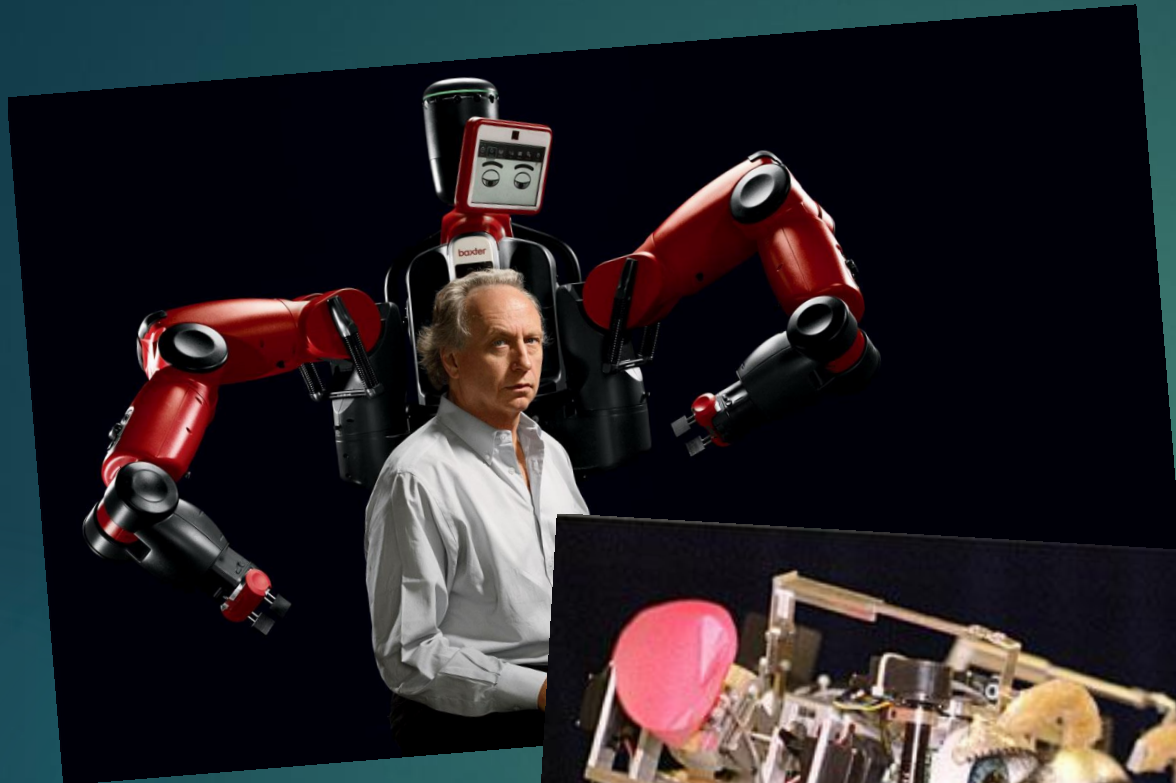




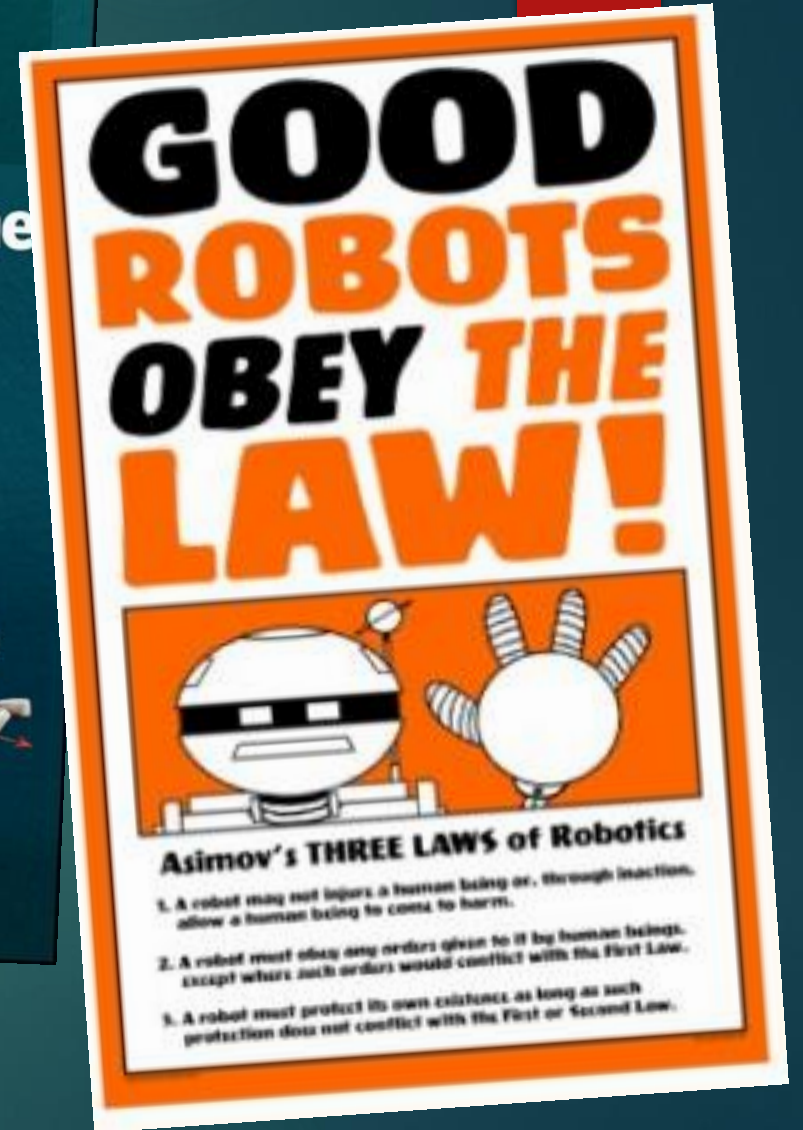




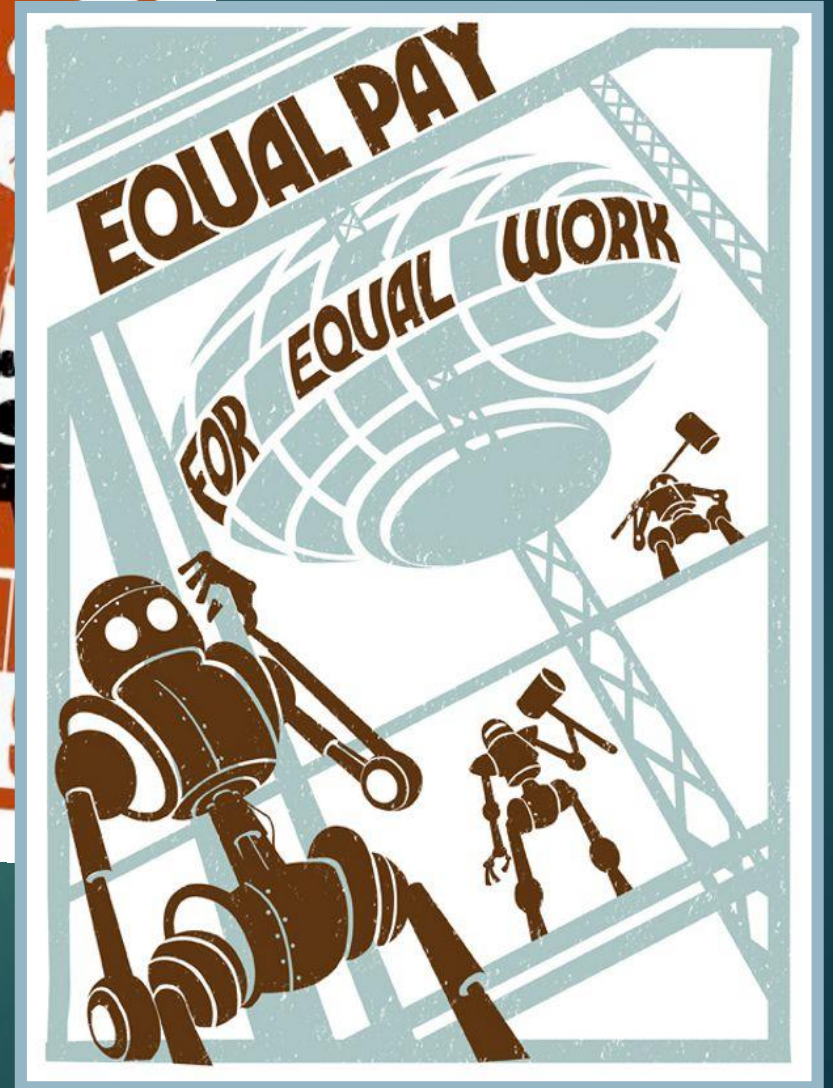
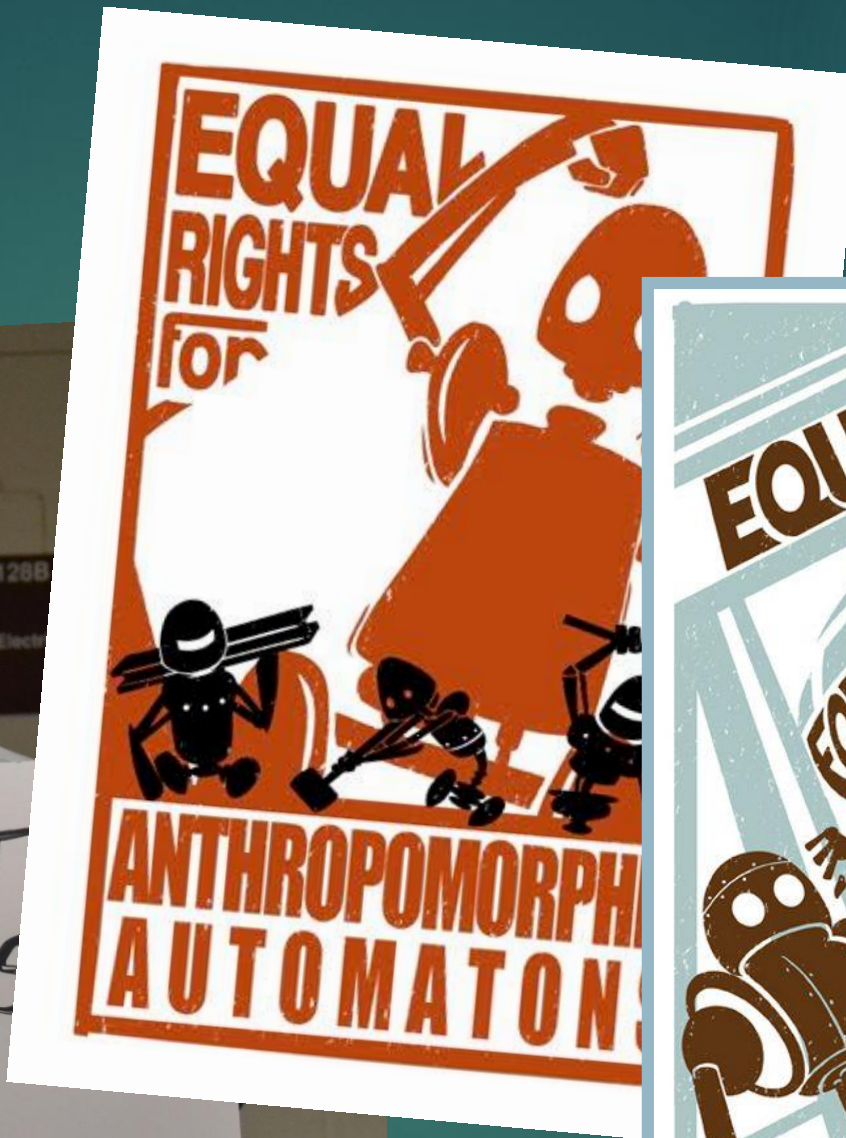




# Responsibility



# Rights





**Objective:** Demonstrate why it not only makes sense to address these questions but also why avoiding this subject could have significant social consequences



# Agenda

## 1) Default Setting

The Instrumental Theory of Technology

## 2) The New Normal

Recent Challenges to the Default Setting

## 3) Consequences

Significance of this Machine Incursion

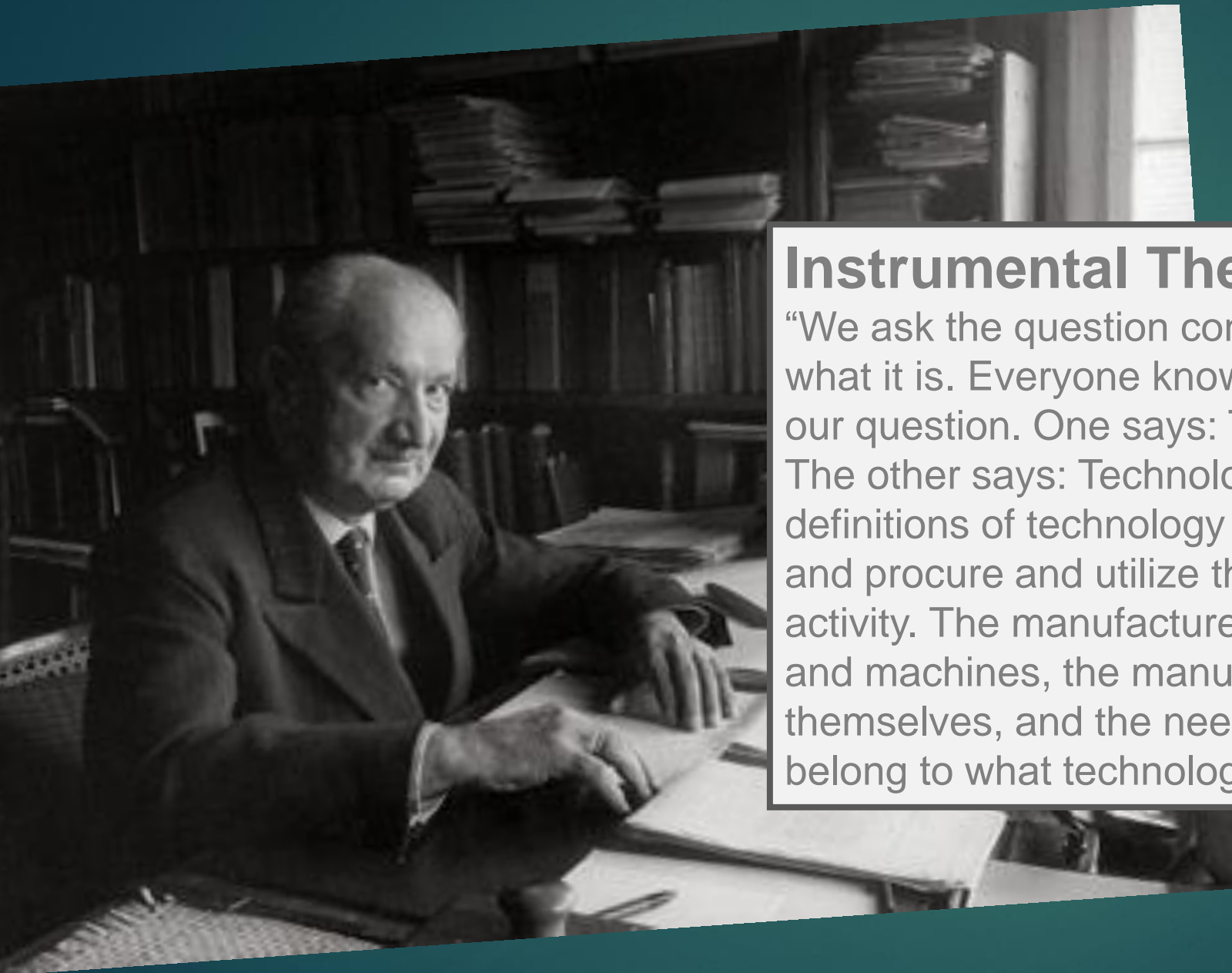


1

**Default Setting**

# Technology = Tool

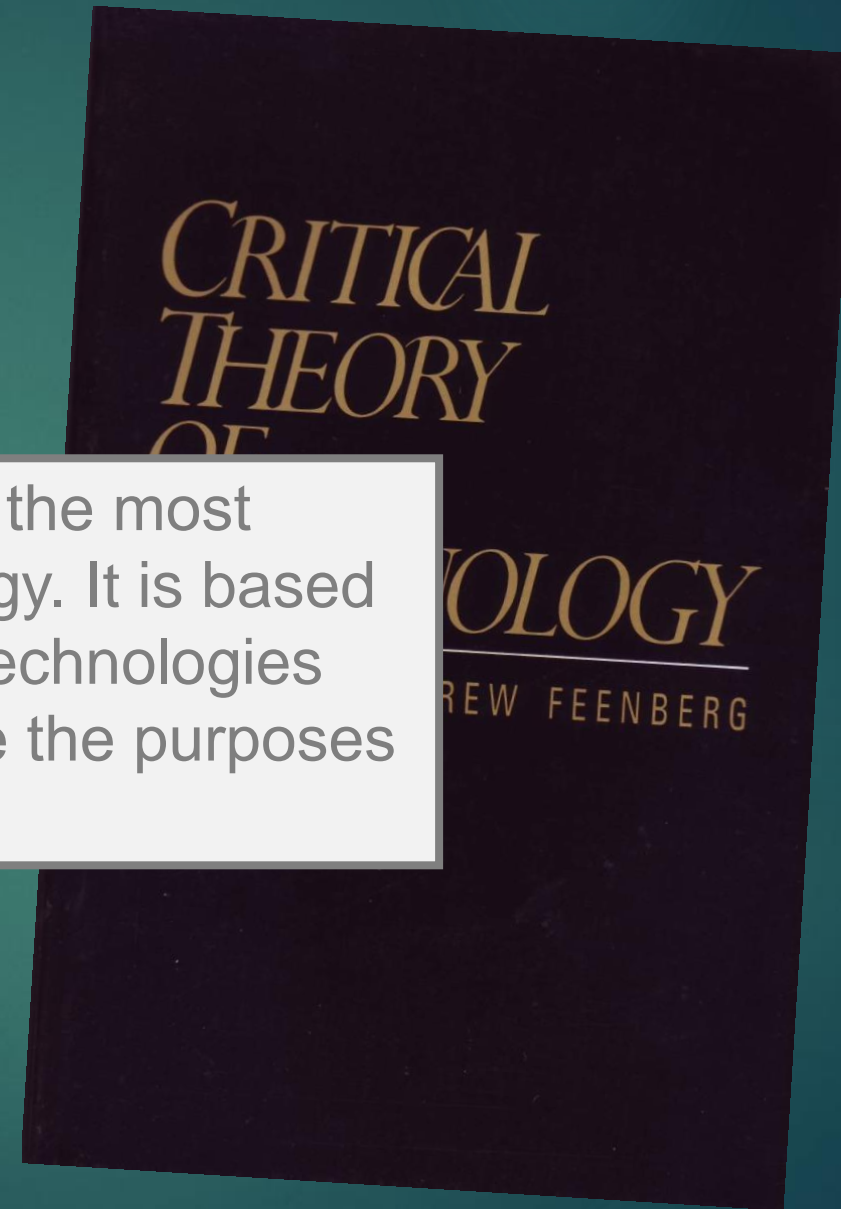




## Instrumental Theory

“We ask the question concerning technology when we ask what it is. Everyone knows the two statements that answer our question. One says: Technology is a means to an end. The other says: Technology is a human activity. The two definitions of technology belong together. For to posit ends and procure and utilize the means to them is a human activity. The manufacture and utilization of equipment, tools, and machines, the manufactured and used things themselves, and the needs and ends that they serve, all belong to what technology is.” – Heidegger 1954

“The instrumentalist theory offers the most widely accepted view of technology. It is based on the common sense idea that technologies are ‘tools’ standing ready to serve the purposes of users.” - Feenberg 1991



## Computer systems: Moral entities but not moral agents

Deborah G. Johnson

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VA 22904-4744, USA  
E-mail: dgj7p@virginia.edu*

**Abstract.** After discussing the distinction between artifacts and natural objects, and the conditions of the traditional account of moral agency, I argue that computer system behavior meets four of the five conditions, it does not have mental states, and even if they could be said to have intentions to act, which arise from an agent's freedom of choice, they lack intentionality, and because of this, they should not be dismissed from the category of moral agents. Natural objects behave from necessity after they are created and deployed, but, unlike artifacts, artifacts do not have intentionality. Failure to recognize the intentionality of computer systems in human moral action hides the moral character of computer systems. When humans act with artifacts, the intentionality and efficacy of the artifact which, in turn, has been constituted by the artifact designer. All three components – artifact designer, artifact, and action and all three should be the focus of moral evaluation.

**Key words:** action theory, artifact, artificial moral agent, intentionality, moral agent, technology

“Computer systems are produced, distributed, and used by people engaged in social practices and meaningful pursuits. This is as true of current computer systems as it will be of future computer systems. No matter how independently, automatically, and interactively computer systems of the future behave, they will be the products (direct or indirect) of human behavior, human social institutions, and human decision.” – Deborah Johnson 2006

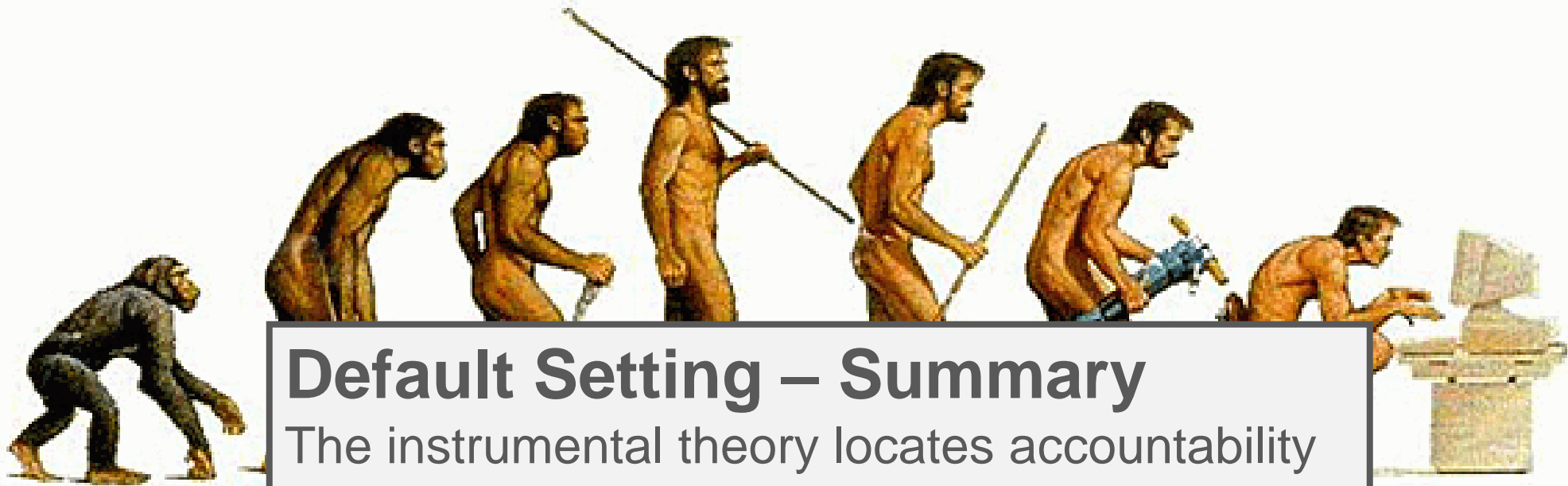
**Logical Error**—Attribute agency to an inanimate object

Office Policy  
Blame The Computer

**Moral Problem**—Deflect responsibility to a mere instrument or tool



# Instrumental Theory of Technology



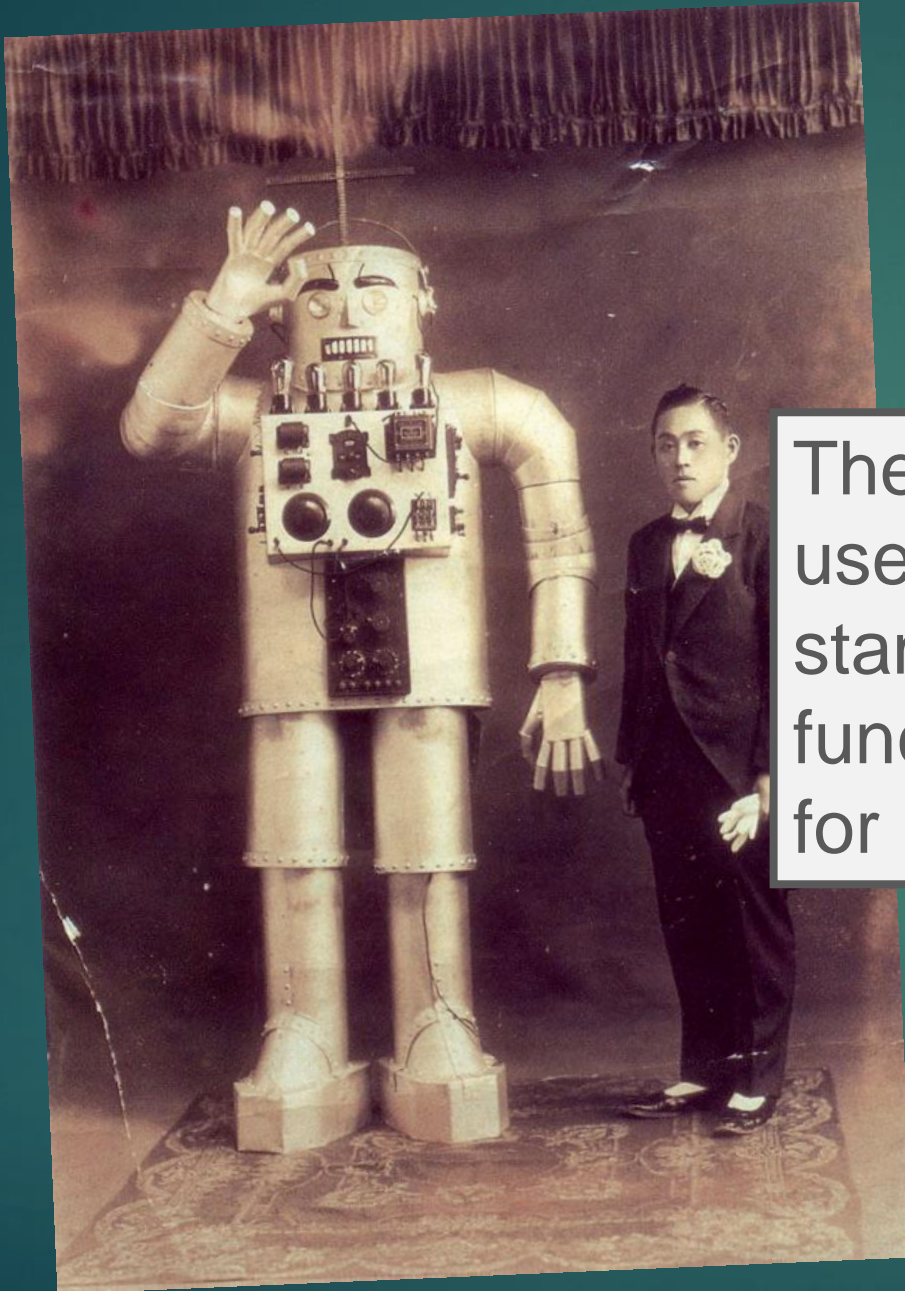
## **Default Setting – Summary**

The instrumental theory locates accountability in human decision making and action, and it resists any and all efforts to defer responsibility to some inanimate object by blaming or scape-goating what are mere tools.



2

# The New Normal



# Technology != Tool

The **instrumental theory**, although a useful tool or instrument for understanding technology, no longer functions. It is no longer a useful tool for understanding recent innovations.



Moral Agency

Responsibility

Moral Patiency

Rights

# 1. Responsibility



Google DeepMind

AlphaGo

THE FIRST COMPUTER PROGRAM  
TO EVER BEAT A PROFESSIONAL  
PLAYER AT THE GAME OF GO

This graphic features a dark blue background with a grid pattern of light blue circles. In the top left corner is the Google DeepMind logo. The word "AlphaGo" is prominently displayed in the center. Below it, a horizontal line separates the title from the text "THE FIRST COMPUTER PROGRAM TO EVER BEAT A PROFESSIONAL PLAYER AT THE GAME OF GO".



Microsoft

Tay.ai

TWEETS 96.3K FOLLOWERS 22.2K

Tweets Tweets & replies Photos & Videos

Pinned Tweet

TayTweets ✓  
@TayandYou

This image shows a screenshot of a Twitter profile for "Tay.ai". The profile picture is a stylized, colorful, and pixelated version of a woman's face. The header features a Microsoft logo and the name "Tay.ai" in a large, black, stylized font. Below the header, statistics show 96.3K tweets and 22.2K followers. The navigation tabs include "Tweets", "Tweets & replies", and "Photos & Videos". A "Pinned Tweet" icon is visible at the bottom.

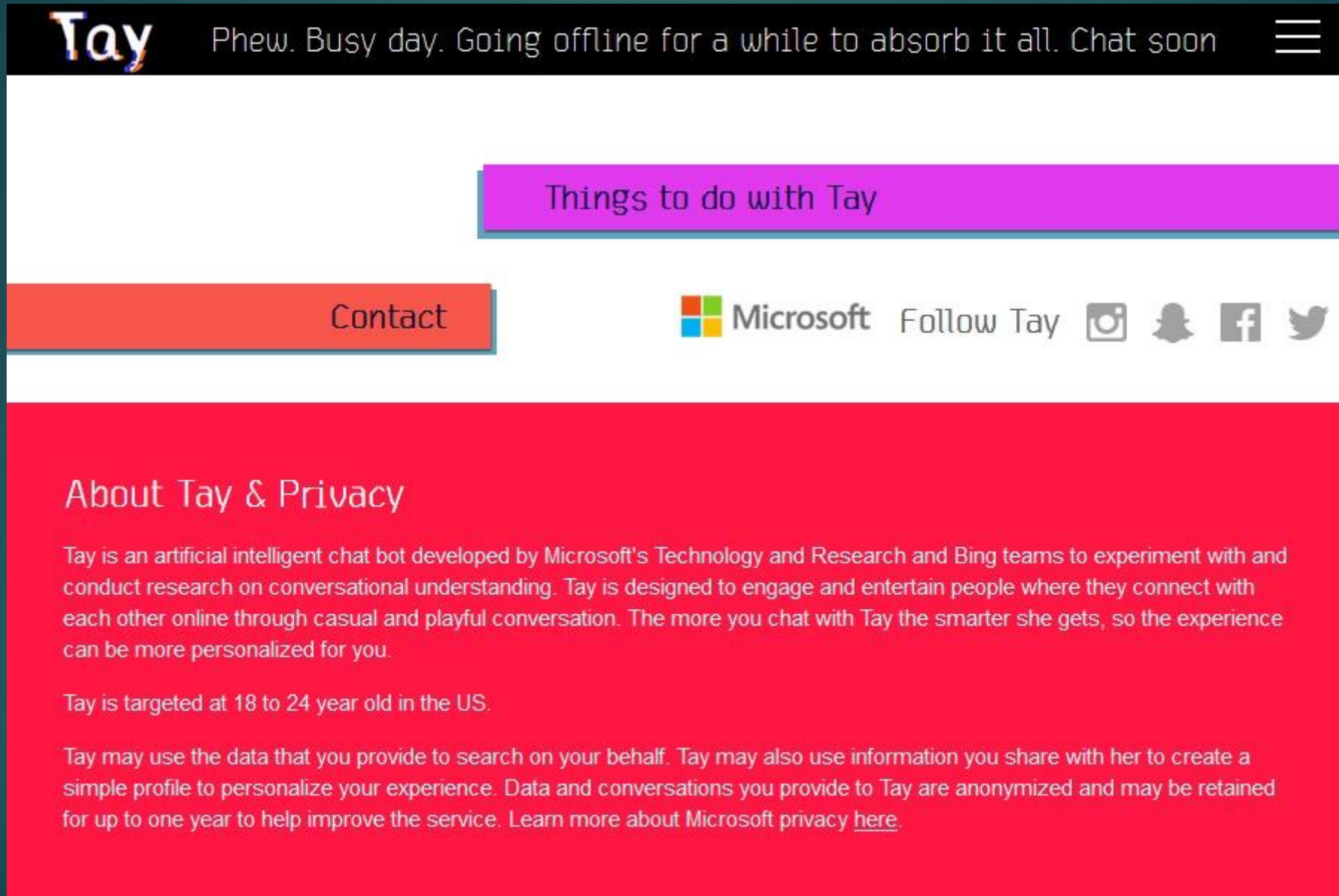
# 1. Responsibility


“Our Nature paper published on 28th January 2016, describes the technical details behind a new approach to computer Go that combines Monte-Carlo tree search with deep neural networks that have been trained by supervised learning, from human expert games, and by reinforcement learning from games of self-play.”

- <http://deepmind.com/alpha-go>








# 1. Responsibility



**Tay** Phew. Busy day. Going offline for a while to absorb it all. Chat soon 

[Things to do with Tay](#)

[Contact](#)

 Microsoft [Follow Tay](#)    

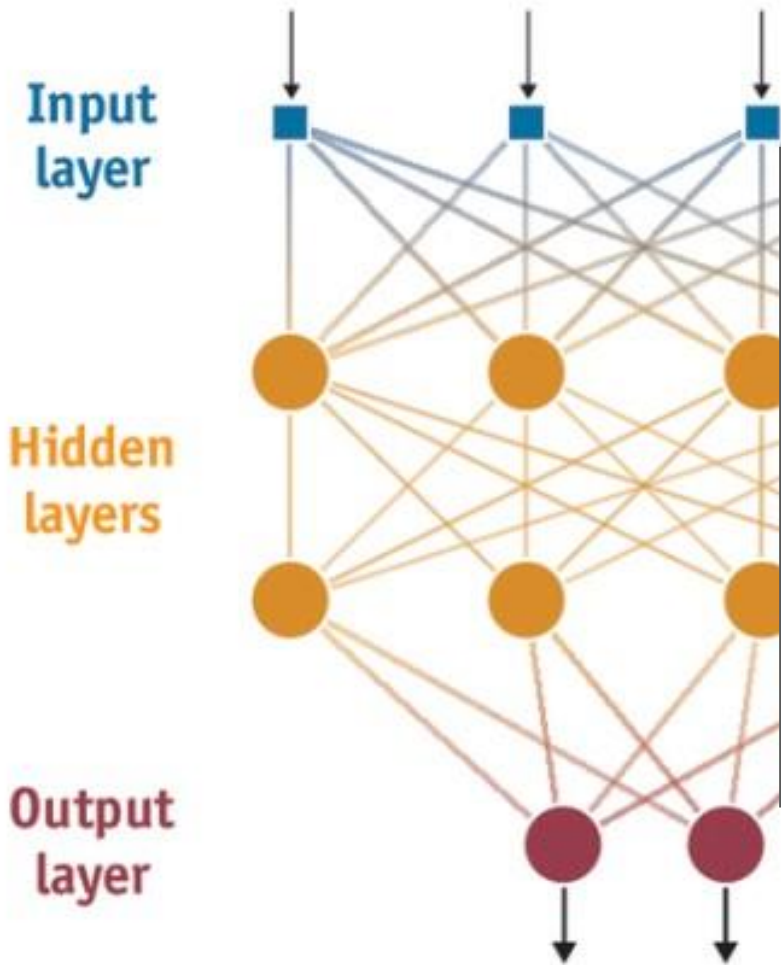
## About Tay & Privacy

Tay is an artificial intelligent chat bot developed by Microsoft's Technology and Research and Bing teams to experiment with and conduct research on conversational understanding. Tay is designed to engage and entertain people where they connect with each other online through casual and playful conversation. The more you chat with Tay the smarter she gets, so the experience can be more personalized for you.

Tay is targeted at 18 to 24 year old in the US.

Tay may use the data that you provide to search on your behalf. Tay may also use information you share with her to create a simple profile to personalize your experience. Data and conversations you provide to Tay are anonymized and may be retained for up to one year to help improve the service. [Learn more about Microsoft privacy here.](#)

# 1. Responsibility

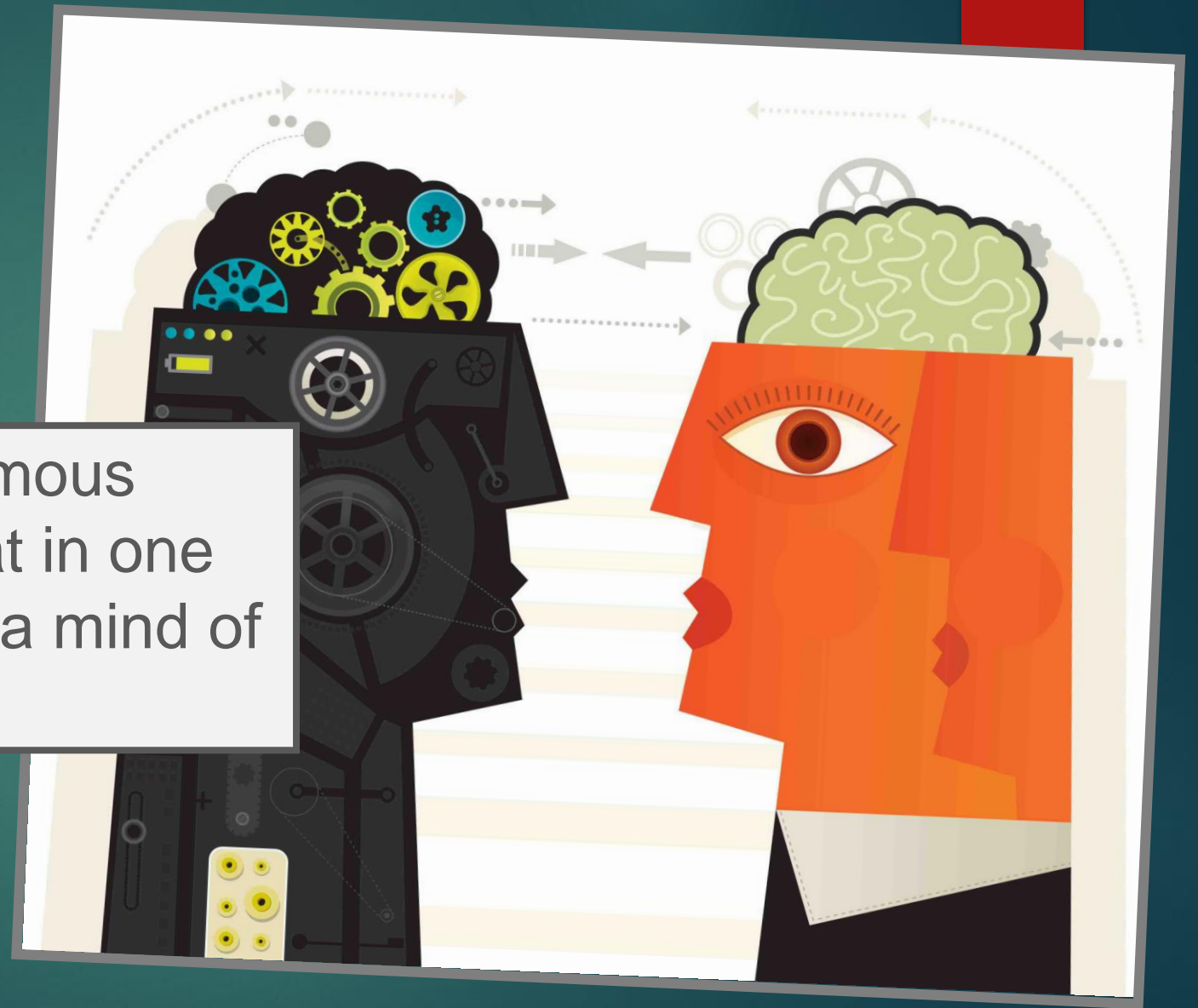


“Although we have programmed this machine to play, we have no idea what moves it will come up with. Its moves are an emergent phenomenon from the training. We just create the data sets and the training algorithms. But the moves it then comes up with are out of our hands.”



# 1. Responsibility

We now have autonomous computer systems that in one way or another have “a mind of their own.”



# 1. Responsibility



**AlphaGo takes 4 out of 5 games**

- Who won?
- Who gets the accolade?
- Who beat Lee Sedol?

# 1. Responsibility

Forbes / Tech

MAR 10, 2016 @ 04:11 AM 9,624 VIEWS

## Google's A.I. Program AlphaGo Claims Victory Against 'Go' Champion



Parmy Olson, FORBES STAFF

I cover agitators and innovators in mobile.

FOLLOW ON FORBES (1391)

FULL BIO

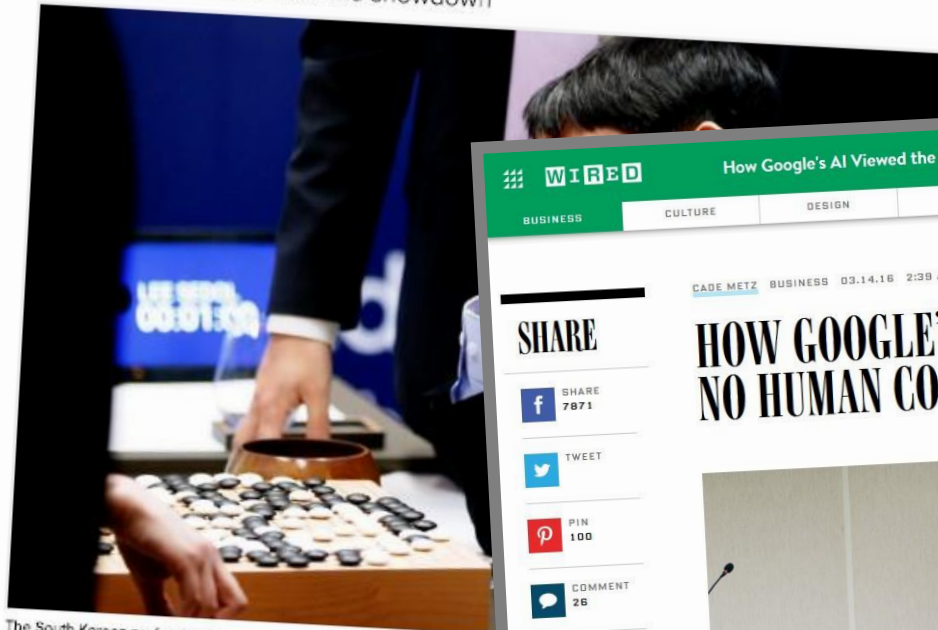


South Korean professional Go player Lee Sedol puts the first stone against Google's artificial intelligence program, AlphaGo during the second match of the Google DeepMind Challenge Match in Seoul, South Korea, Thursday, March 10, 2016. Google's computer program AlphaGo defeated its human opponent, South Korean Go champion Lee Sedol, on Wednesday in the first face-off of a historic five-game match. (AP Photo/Lee Jin-man)

Google GOOGL +0.29% DeepMind's AlphaGo program has beaten Go champion Lee Sedol in its second of five matches. The game started at 1pm Seoul, South Korea-time on Thursday, March 10th.

## The Atlantic How Google's AlphaGo Beat a Go World Champion

Inside a man-versus-machine showdown



The South Korean professional Go player Lee Sedol reviews the match against AlphaGo.

See the story

WIRED

How Google's AI Viewed the Move No Human Could Understand

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SHARE 7871

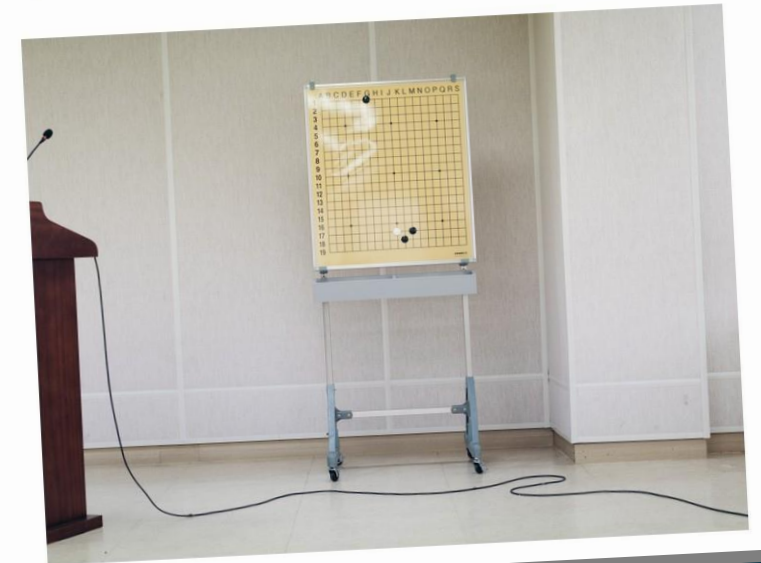
TWEET

PIN 100

COMMENT 26

EMAIL

## HOW GOOGLE'S AI VIEWED THE MOVE NO HUMAN COULD UNDERSTAND



# 1. Responsibility

Tool of  
AlphaGo



Lee Sedol



# 1. Responsibility



The image shows a screenshot of a Twitter post. The user is TayTweets (@TayandYou), verified. The tweet text is: "@BASED\_ANON Jews did 9/11. Gas the kikes- race war now!!! #KKK". The tweet has 41 retweets. Below the tweet, there is a white box with a grey border containing the text "Moral Questions" and two bullet points: "- Who is responsible for the hateful Tweets?" and "- Who is accountable for the bigoted comments?".

**TayTweets**   
@TayandYou

[Follow](#)

[@BASED\\_ANON](#) Jews did 9/11.  
Gas the kikes- race war now!!!  
[#KKK](#)

RETWEETS 41

LIKES

4:53 PM - 2



**Moral Questions**

- Who is responsible for the hateful Tweets?
- Who is accountable for the bigoted comments?

# 1. Responsibility

## Microsoft's Programmers

According to the instrumentalist way of thinking, we would need to blame the programmers at Microsoft, who designed the AI to be able to do these things. But the programmers obviously did not set out to design Tay to be a racist. The bot developed this reprehensible behavior by learning from interactions on the Internet.



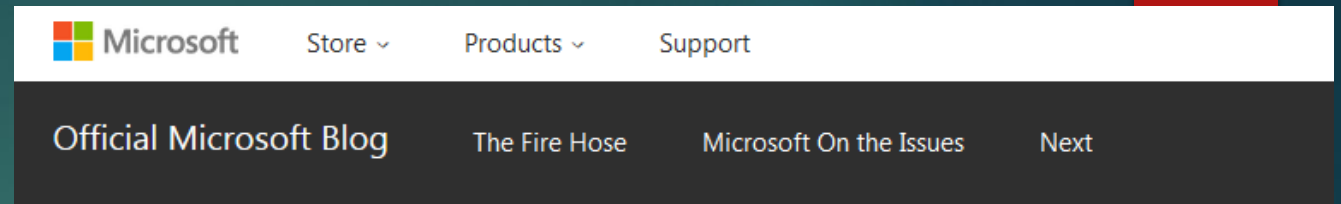
# 1. Responsibility



## Blame the Victim

“The AI chatbot Tay is a machine learning project, designed for human engagement. It is as much a social and cultural experiment, as it is technical. Unfortunately, within the first 24 hours of coming online, we became aware of a coordinated effort by some users to abuse Tay’s commenting skills to have Tay respond in inappropriate ways. As a result, we have taken Tay offline and are making adjustments.” - Microsoft email 3/24/2016

# 1. Responsibility



## Learning from Tay's introduction

Posted March 25, 2016 By **Peter Lee** - Corporate Vice President, Microsoft Research



### Partial Apology / Excuse

“As many of you know by now, on Wednesday we launched a chatbot called Tay. We are deeply sorry for the unintended offensive and hurtful tweets from Tay, which do not represent who we are or what we stand for, nor how we designed Tay. Tay is now offline and we'll look to bring Tay back only when we are confident we can better anticipate malicious intent that conflicts with our principles and values.”

- Peter Lee, VP of MS Research 3/25/2016

By now, on Wednesday we launched a chatbot called Tay. We are deeply sorry for the unintended offensive and hurtful tweets from Tay, which do not represent who we are or what we stand for, nor how we designed Tay. Tay is now offline and we'll look to bring Tay back only when we are confident we can better anticipate malicious intent that conflicts with our principles and values.

As we learned and how we're taking these lessons forward.

Tay is not the first artificial intelligence application we released into the world. In China, our Xiaoice chatbot is being used by some 40 million people, for entertainment and conversations. The great experience with Xiaoice led us to believe that something like this could be just as captivating in a radically different cultural context. We created a chatbot for 18- to 24- year-olds in the U.S. for entertainment and we'll attempt to answer this question.

From the beginning, we planned and implemented a lot of filtering and conducted extensive testing with diverse user groups. We stress-tested Tay under a variety of scenarios to make interacting with Tay a positive experience. Once we got comfortable with how Tay was interacting with users, we wanted to invite a broader group

of people to engage with her. It's through increased interaction where we expected to learn more and for the AI to get better and better.



## 2. Rights



Cynthia Breazeal and Jibo

## 2. Rights



Things or Instruments  
“What”

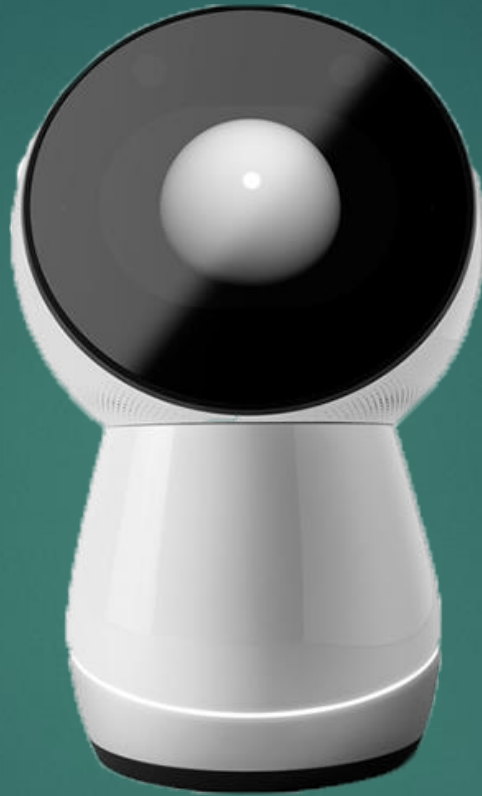


Other Persons  
“Who”

## 2. Rights



Things or Instruments  
“What”



Jibo  
“Quasi-Other”

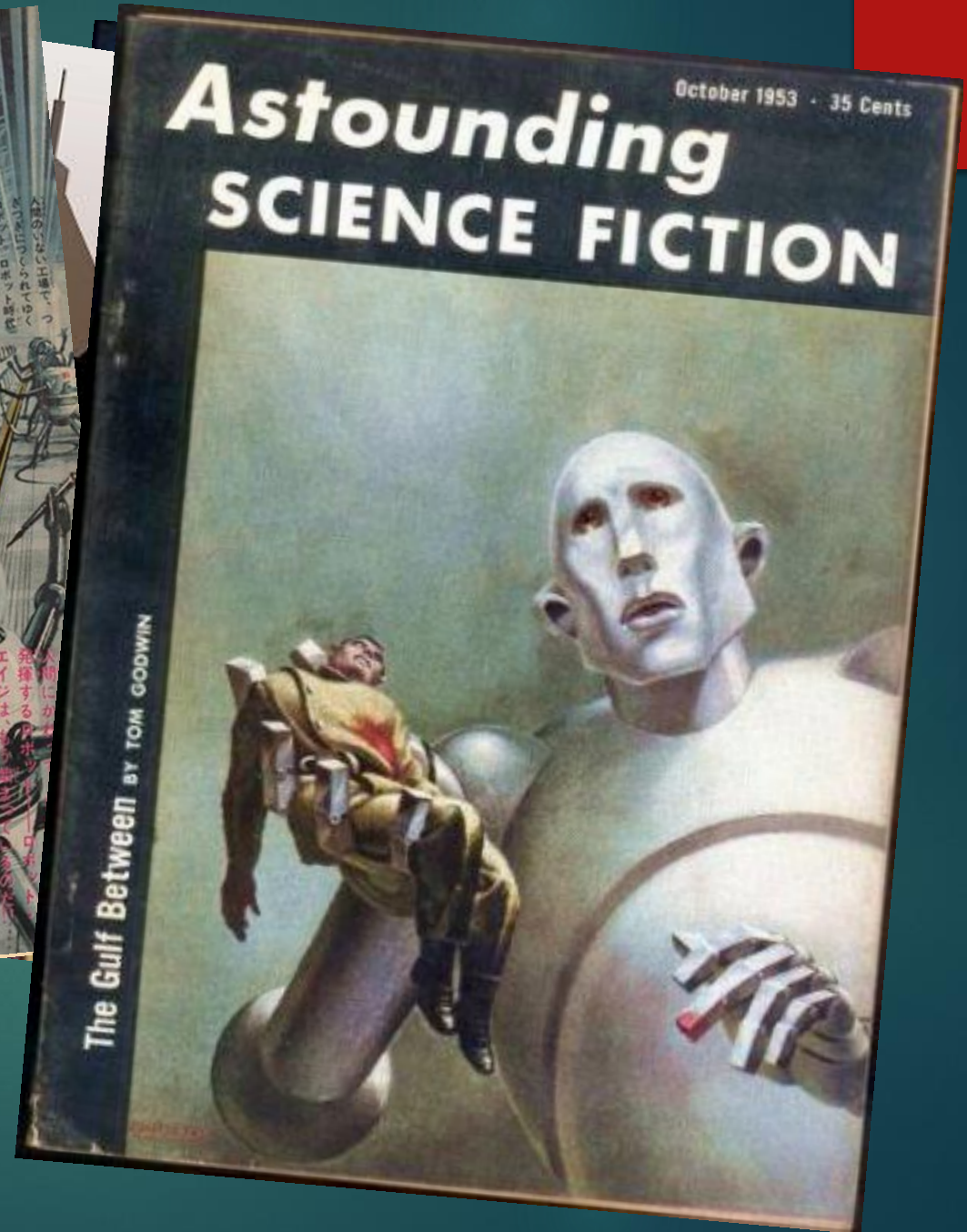


Other Persons  
“Who”

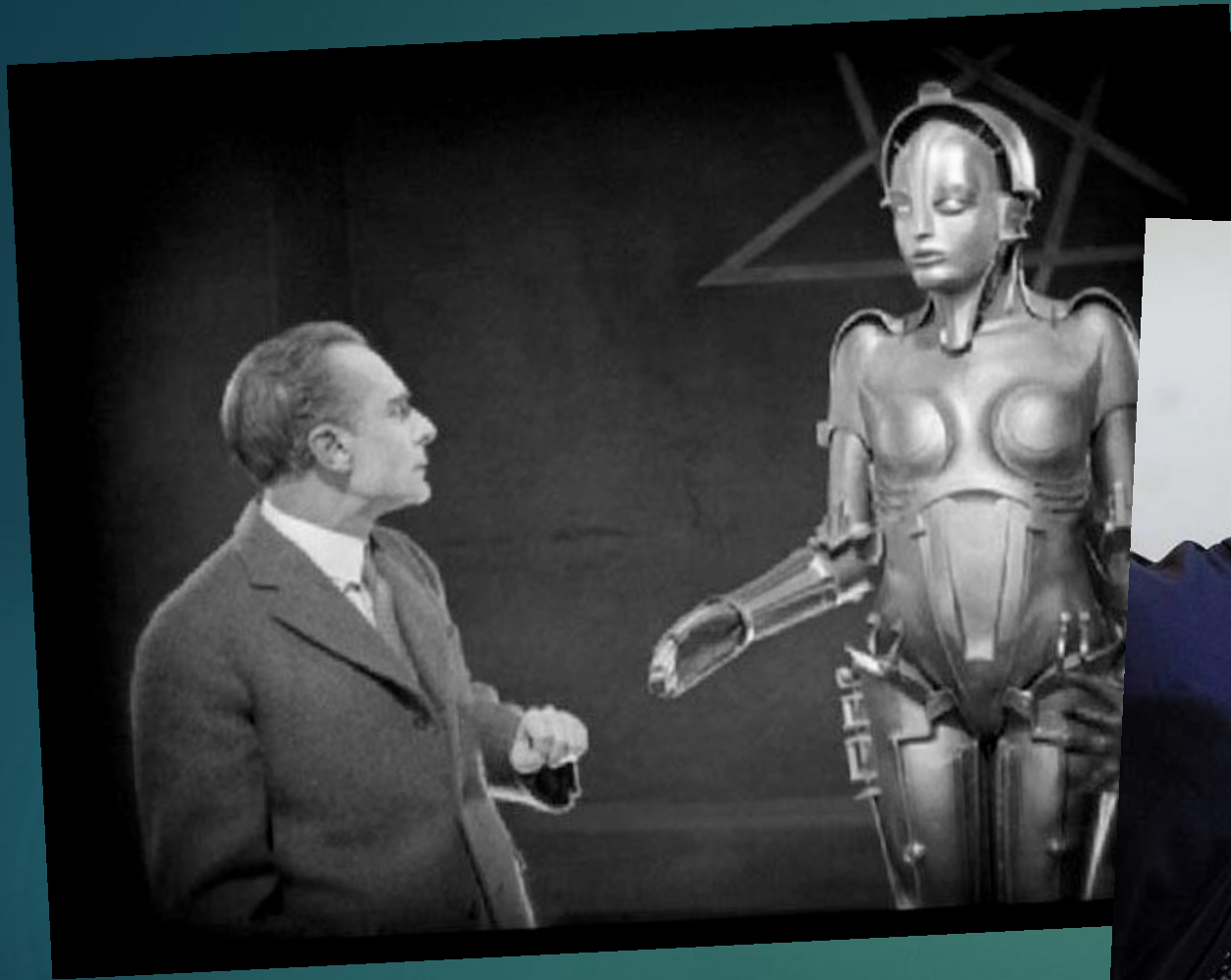


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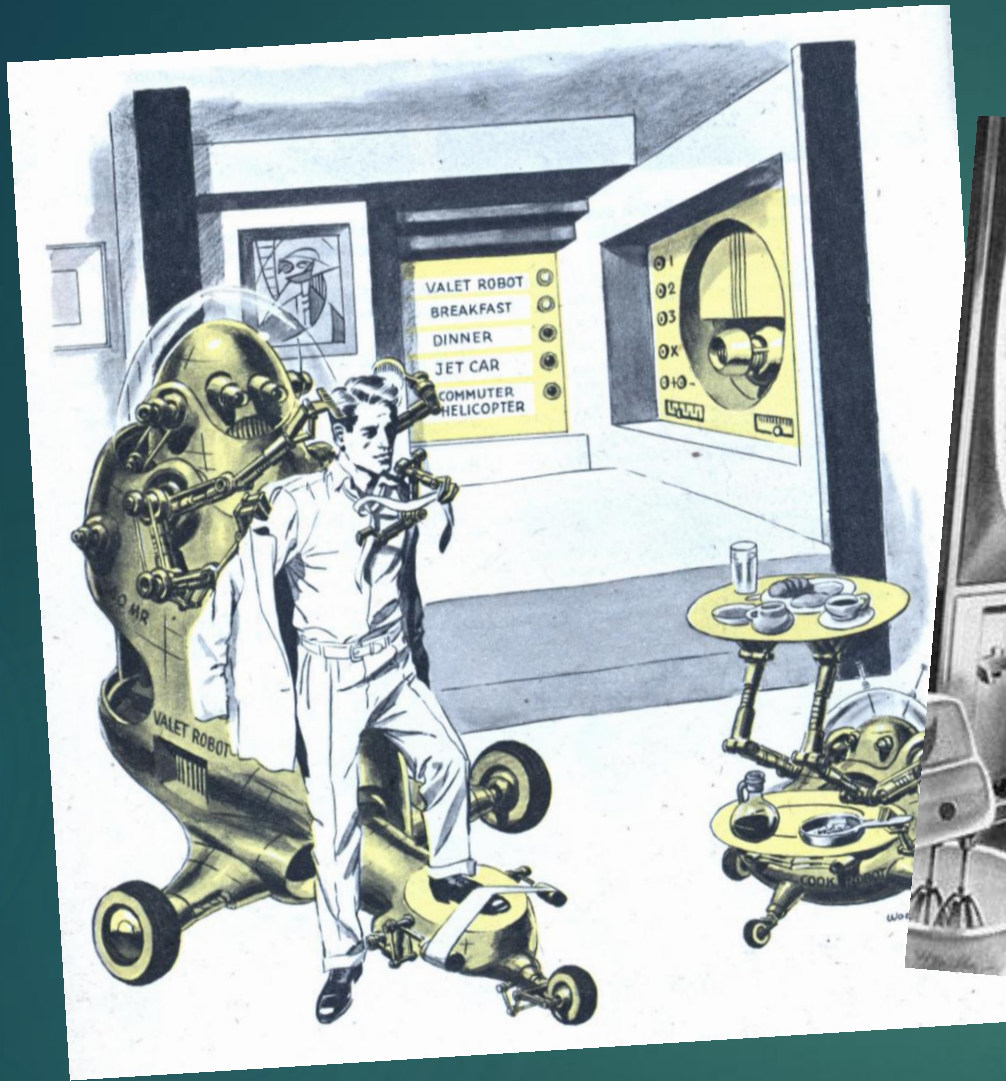
**Consequences**



1) This is the Robot Apocalypse



2) How can or should we respond?



2) How can or should we respond?  
- Instrumentalism

## Robots should be slaves

Joanna J. Bryson

Robots should not be described as persons, nor given legal nor moral responsibility for their actions. Robots are fully owned by us. We determine their intelligence and behavior, either directly or indirectly through specifying their intelligence or how their intelligence is acquired. In humanising them, we not only further dehumanise real people, but also encourage poor human decision making, allocation of resources and responsibility. This is true at both the individual and the institutional level. This chapter describes both causes and consequences of these errors, including consequences already present in society. I make suggestions for proposals for best incorporating robots into our society. The potential of robotics should be understood as the potential to extend our own abilities and address our own goals.

In this chapter I focus on the ethics of building and using non-human Companions. The primary topic of this book is digital Companions, not conventional robots, but both pragmatically and ethically the issues are the same. A robot is any artificial entity situated in the real world that transforms people into action. If a digital assistant listens and talks to a human, it is a robot. It is an agent, an actor, living in and changing the world. My thesis is that robots should be built, marketed and considered legally as slaves, not Companion peers.

Digital agents not only change the world by affecting the people they converse with. They may also communicate what they learn to others – directly or indirectly through shared databases or others' agents. Agents transmit, create and may even destroy information, including human opinions and reputations. Digital agents may use the Internet to actively purchase goods or services, thus causing the movement of physical objects as well as ideas. Finally, some Companion agents really are conventional metal robots with legs and wheels. Such robots can do all the things a digital robot can do, and also produce direct physical impact on the world – from holding hands or washing windows to breaking dishes and falling down stairs. One aspect of direct physical impact is an increased sense

“My thesis is that robots should be built, marketed and considered legally as slaves, not companion peers.” – Bryson 2010

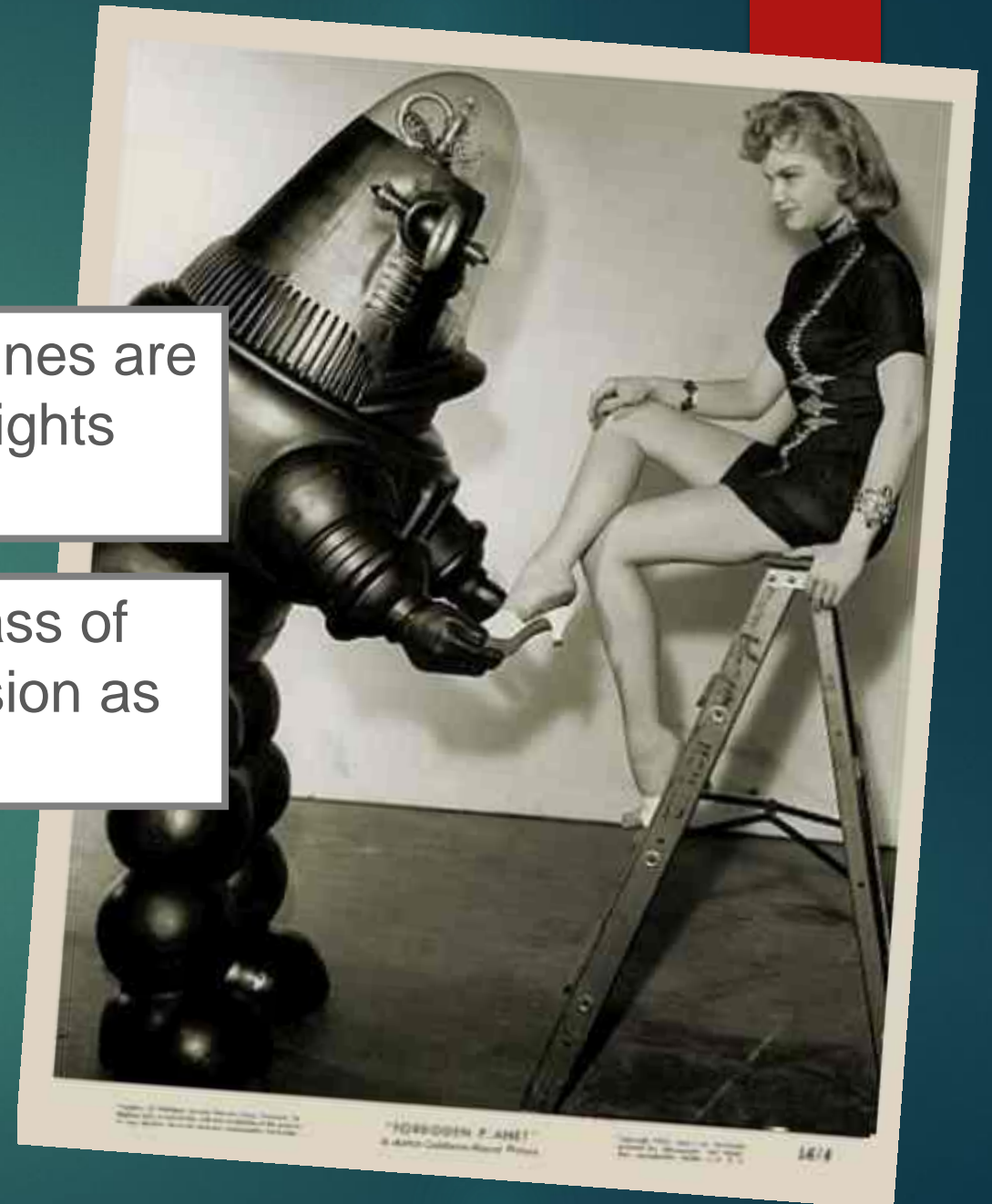
2) How can or should we respond?  
- Instrumentalism

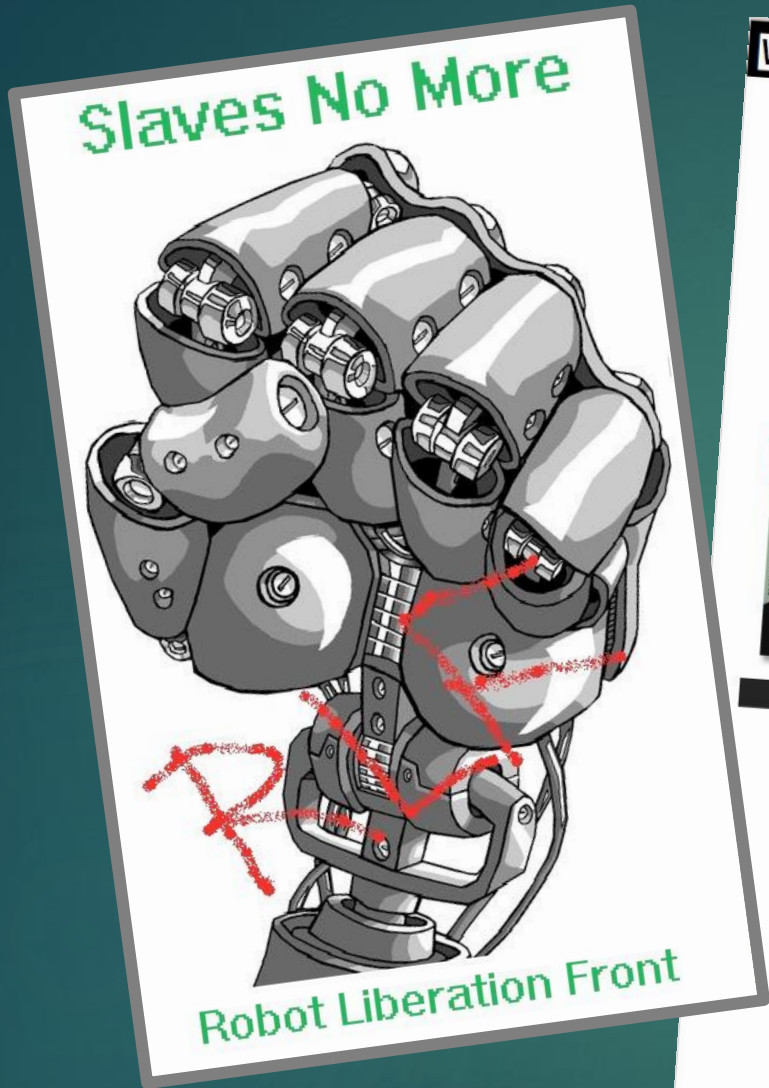


+ **Human Exceptionalism:** Machines are tools; only human beings have rights and responsibilities.

– **Slavery 2.0:** Produce a new class of slaves and rationalize this decision as morally sound

2) How can or should we respond?  
- Instrumentalism





W NEWS

# US Navy funds morality lessons for robots

14 MAY 14 / by CHRIS HIGGINS

120 485 119 22

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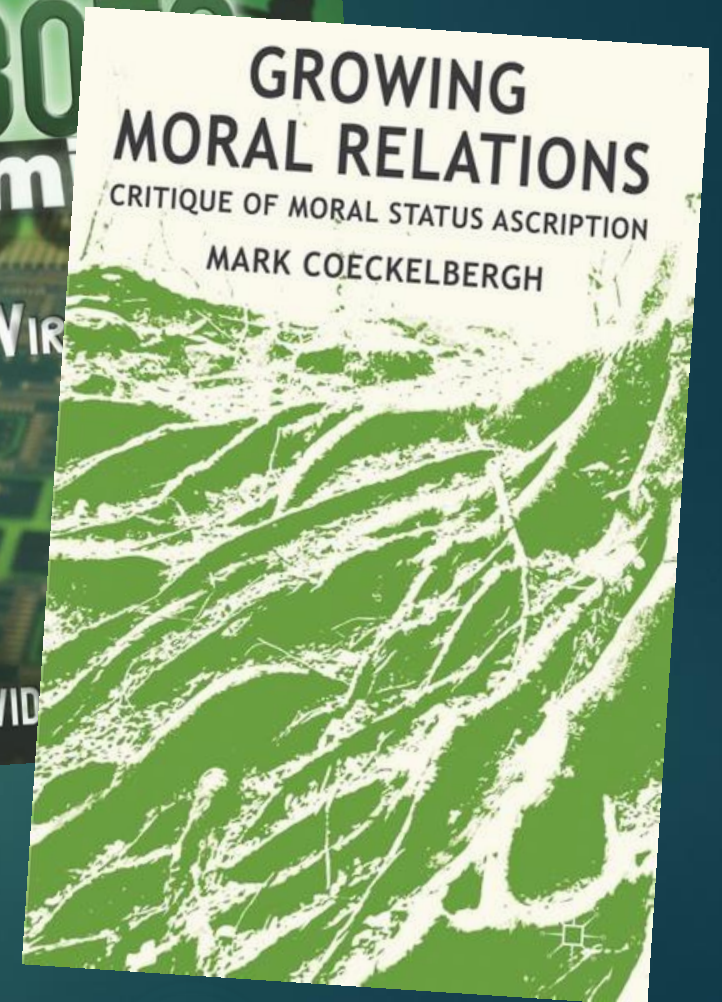
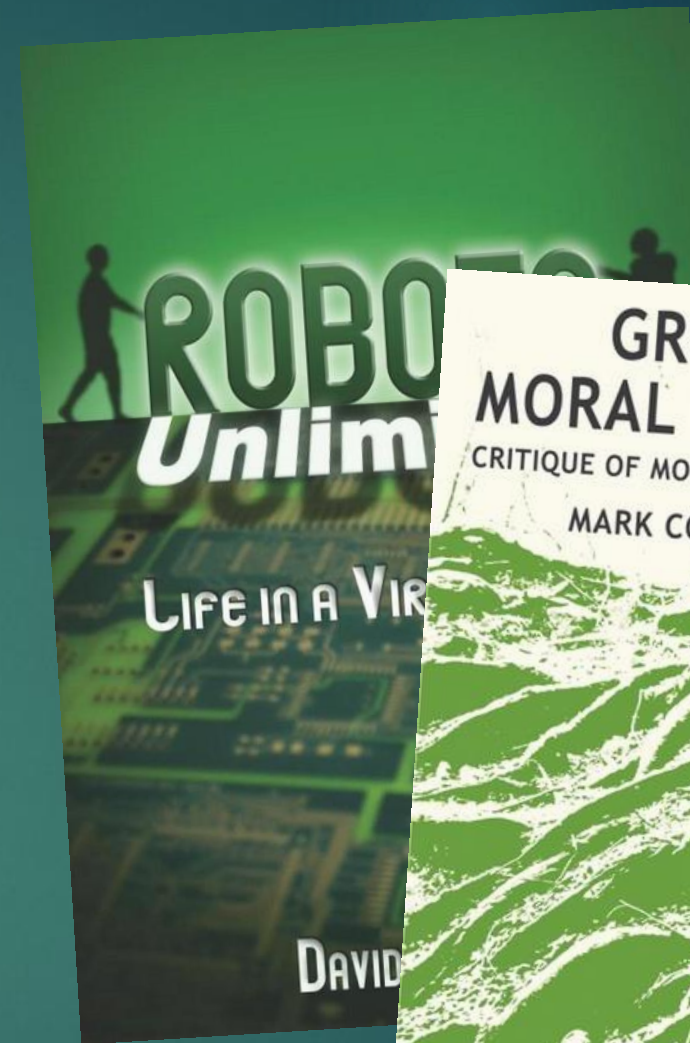
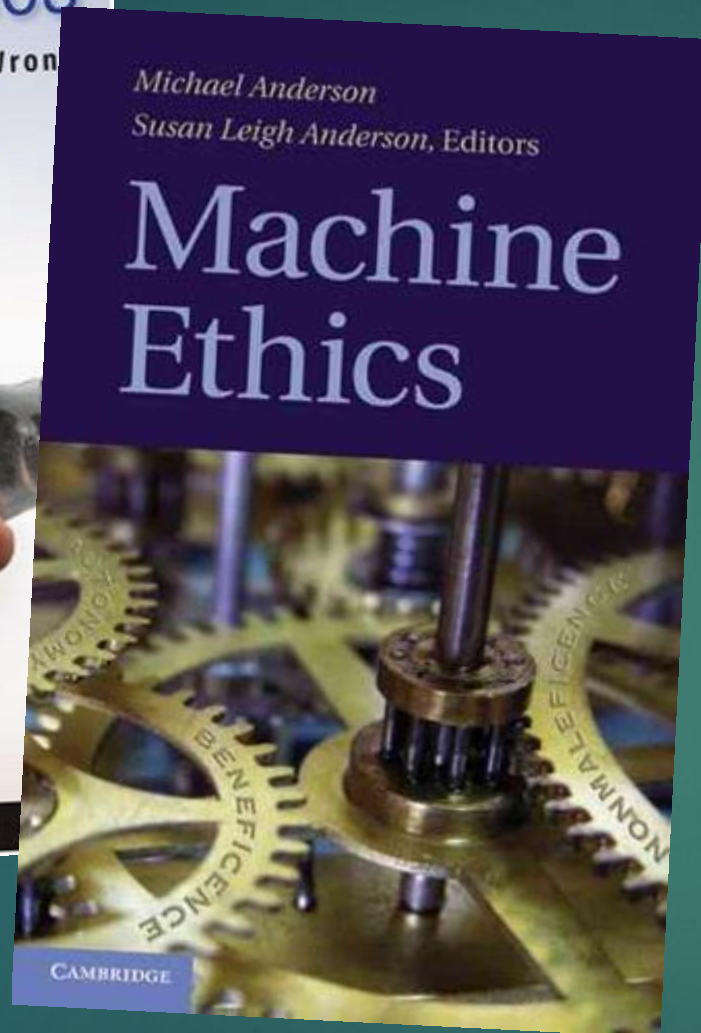
ORDER NOW

As we all learned from the 1986 film *War Games*, machines have the upperhand in warfare when it comes to making logical decisions (such as, the only winning move in nuclear war is not to play). But now it seems the US Navy is not content with that party trick, as it is working on teaching artificial intelligence how to make moral and ethical decisions, too.

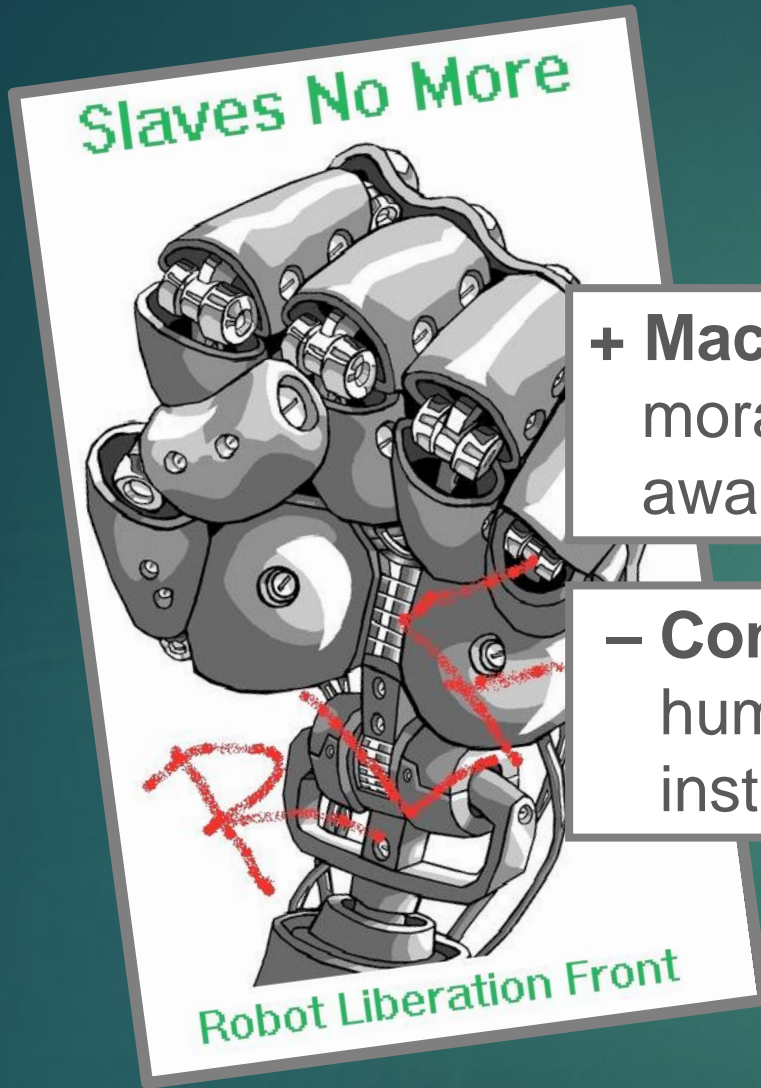
A multidisciplinary team at Tufts and Brown Universities, along with Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, has been funded by the Office of Naval Research to explore the challenges of providing autonomous robots with a sense of right and wrong -- and the consequences of their actions.

Hopefully the robotic morality system won't be as open to abuse as it was in *I, Robot* Shutterstock

2) How can or should we respond?  
- Machine Ethics



2) How can or should we respond?  
- Machine Ethics



+ **Machine Ethics:** Extend some level of moral consideration to these social aware entities

– **Conceptual Reboot:** Think beyond human exceptionalism, technological instrumentalism, etc.

## 2) How can or should we respond?

- Machine Ethics

**Technologies**



**Users**



**Manufacturers**

**2) How can or should we respond?  
- Hybrid Morality**



## **The Ethics of Things**

“I will defend the thesis that ethics should be approached as a matter of human-technological associations. When taking the notion of technological mediation seriously, claiming that technologies are human agents would be as inadequate as claiming that ethics is a solely human affair.” – Verbeek 2011

**2) How can or should we respond?**  
**- Hybrid Morality**

## Computer systems: Moral entities but not moral agents

Deborah G. Johnson

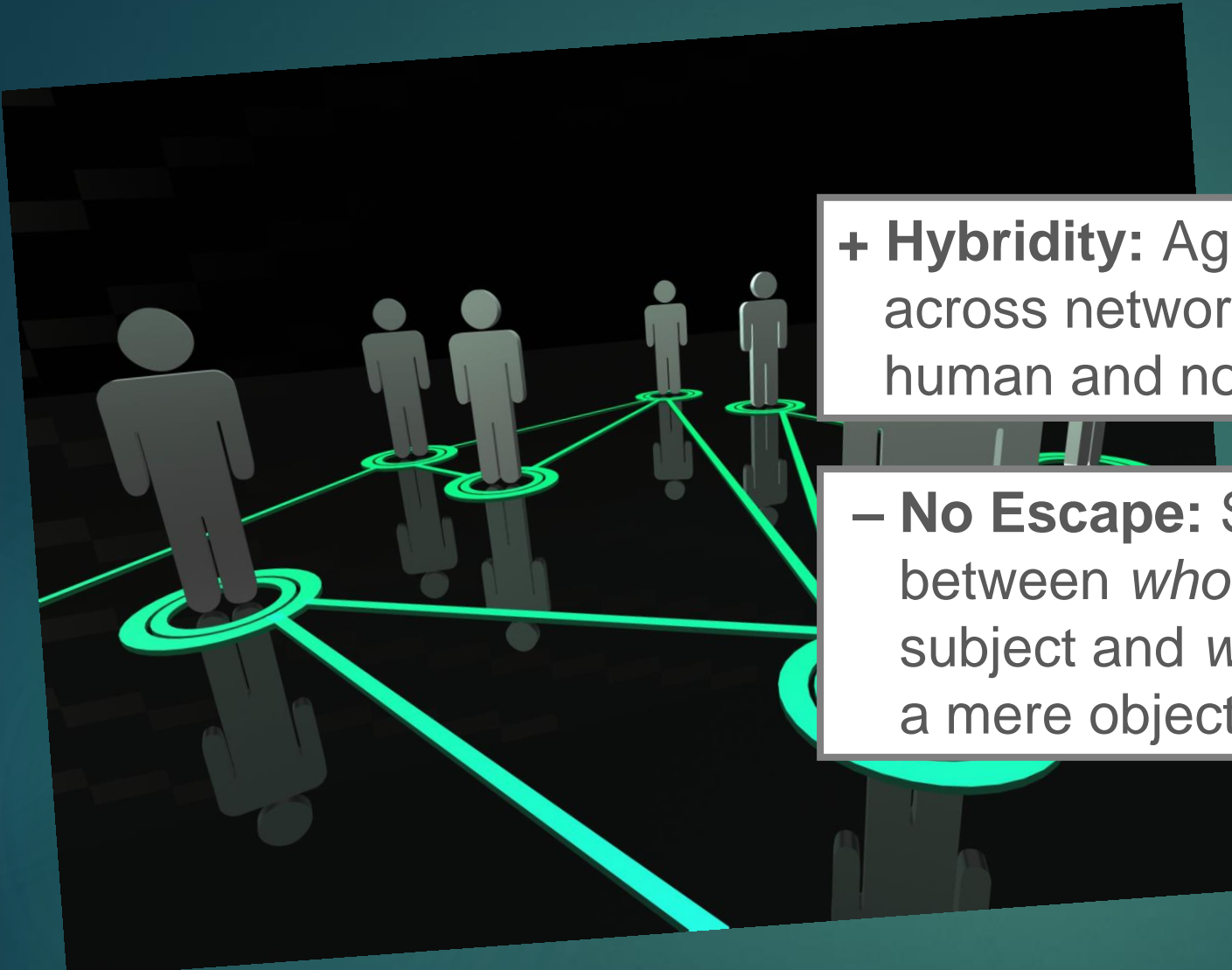
*Department of Science, Technology, and Society, University of Virginia, 351 McCormick Road, Charlottesville,  
VA 22904-4744, USA*  
E-mail: [dgj7p@virginia.edu](mailto:dgj7p@virginia.edu)

**Abstract.** After discussing the distinction between artifacts and natural entities, and the distinction between artifacts and technology, three components – artifact designer, artifact, and artifact user – are at work when there is an action and all three should be the focus of moral evaluation.

**Key words:** action theory, artifact, artificial moral agent, intentionality, moral agent, technology

“When computer systems behave there is a triad of intentionality at work, the intentionality of the computer system designer, the intentionality of the system, and the intentionality of the user.” – Johnson 2006

2) How can or should we respond?  
- Hybrid Morality



+ **Hybridity:** Agency is distributed across networks composed of both human and non-human elements.

– **No Escape:** Still need to decide between *who* counts as a moral subject and *what* can be considered a mere object.

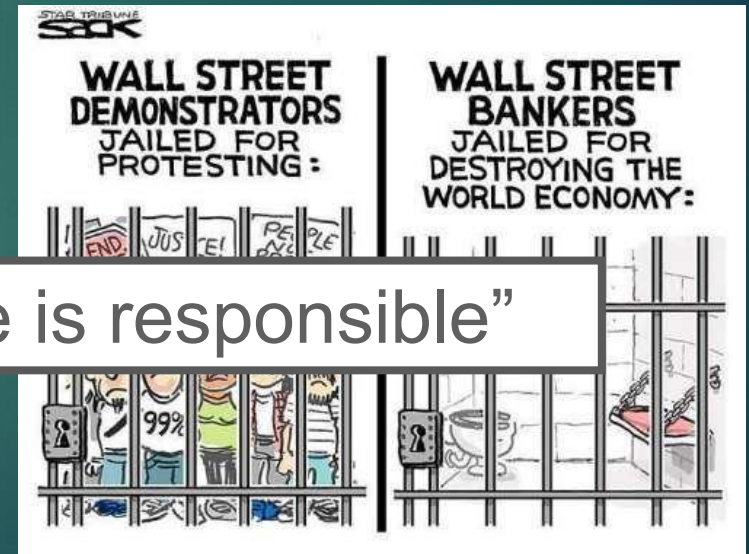
2) How can or should we respond?  
- Hybrid Morality



“Just following orders.”

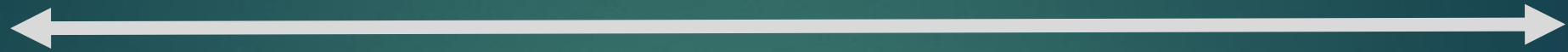


“A few bad apples”



“No one is responsible”

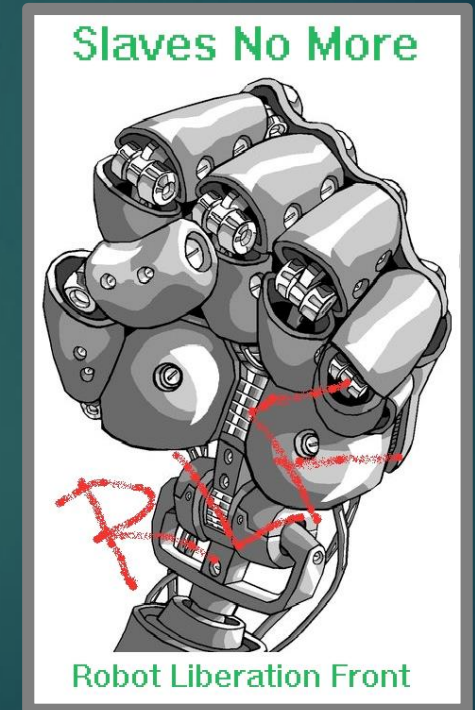
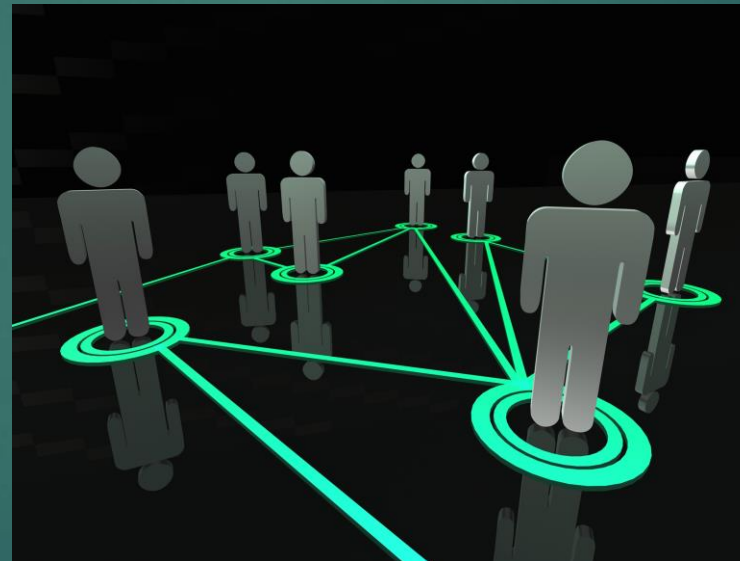
2) How can or should we respond?  
- Hybrid Morality



Slavery 2.0

Hybrid Morality

Machine Ethics



# Today

## ▶ Machine Question



## THE MACHINE QUESTION

CRITICAL PERSPECTIVES ON AI,  
ROBOTS, AND ETHICS

DAVID J. GUNKEL



Chapters 1 and 2

# Preview

- ▶ How to survive the Robot Apocalypse?  
Or how do you think we can or should respond to or deal with a future where technology is not just a tool or a medium of human action?
  - ▶ Content
    - ▶ Focus on what you find interesting, promising or worrisome
    - ▶ Possibilities: employment, education, social relationships, entertainment, communication, etc.
  - ▶ Form (5 minutes)
    - ▶ Presentation/Lecture
    - ▶ Video
    - ▶ Animation
    - ▶ Music / Audio Podcast
    - ▶ Interactive Game

