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Reading 4: Thoughts on *Towards a Poetics of A.I.*

For Reading 4, we read *Towards a Poetics of Artificial Superintelligence- Symbolic language can help us grasp the nature and power of what is coming* by Nora N. Khan. In this piece she discusses the dawn of the Artificial Super Intelligence or .A.S.I, which is just an evolved part of A.I, where the robot would need humans less and less, more so for data entry only. Khan writes, "An ASI would be motivated by interpretations of the world within cognitive frameworks that we can't access." Khan writes that we do not really know much about these robots but they could have a multitude of personality traits. She quotes poet Jackie Wang next by stating, "*We strain to imagine foreignness, but we don't get very far from what we know.*"

I found that statement quite profound. Its really true. We humans, as a society are always manifesting sci fi concepts, ideas, movies, robots but we do seem to have the hardest time creating aliens in a fresh image. My favorite films are the ones where they barely or never make an appearance in the film. Do we think these creatures *need* human like features to succeed? Is it blissful ignorance to be able to ignore the potential just as we do not think through all the data we give existing A.I? The author urges us to think deeply about the implications of A.S.I so we can more clearly manifest it before it manifests us.

Khan also quotes an article by Ross Andersen entitled *Humanity's Deep Future* that discusses the problem with A.I is our human instinct to anthropormize anything and everything. Humans have always done this with animals in Disney films, kitschy home decor, robots

themselves in movies such as *Star Wars,* the list goes on. The good and bad about that is that it builds an empathy and a sentimentality towards these things. We are tempted to hold onto things longer or to give more freedoms to these things, akin to when we are drawn in by puppy dog eyes.

I appreciated both the authors and their philosopher friend Nick Bostrom's unique use of language to approach a topic that is often times cloudy and hard to reveal. I really appreciated their use of metaphors. It seems as though the A.I mode of sovereign has already been explored by programmers with designs of cars that weigh the effects of car crashes by vying for the least amount of deaths in an end result even if it means taking out the individual they are responsible for in the moment. Maybe they aren't responsible? Maybe AI is just meant as putty to fill in the holes of a foundation humans cannot fill on their own.