

Week 2

The readings for week two opened my eyes to the idea of what AI is programmed to do and what we as humans fear that it will do. This phenomenon is something on which many people have different opinions but what stood out to me was when the author stated “Human dignity isn't likely to be compromised by the mere fact that our achievements can be matched or outdone” (Zerilli 19-20). Based on this, it seems as though society is stuck on the idea that AI will one day compromise human dignity and maybe even see us without any value. We see hundreds of articles such as “*Could artificial intelligence really wipe out humanity*” or “*Is This the Start of an AI Takeover?*” shaping people's viewpoint and I strongly believe that there is an alternative way to look at the problem. It is important to realize that human dignity is not only determined by what we can achieve but more of a broad concept that includes human experiences, moral and ethical values, and self-worth, all of which cannot be understood by AI. This is because, at the end of the day, AI is a tool that we as humans develop based on a specific set of instructions within a specific set of problem spaces to apply it. The outrage that groundbreaking technologies like this will pose a threat to us can be seen throughout history whether that be with the invention of the computer to the first aircraft. Humans eventually learned to separate the capabilities of the tool from the capabilities of the human. The author elegantly says “Even if machine learning systems start classifying objects more reliably than humans (and perhaps from vast distances, too), why should this diminish the worth of a human life? Airplanes fly, and we don't think any less of birds” (Zerelli 17-18). The key takeaway here is that AI is not a replacement for human beings but a tool that can be used to augment human capabilities. While it is true that new advanced AI can reach certain achievements that match or surpass human capability, it is up to us to define the problem space where the AI operates and a myriad of other factors. Along with this, the more we can innovate upon machine learning models and find ways for AI to enhance our quality of life, the more we can learn to live harmoniously with it. At the end of the day, you are using AI in your daily life whether you notice it or not. Either from targeted advertisements on your favourite social media website or the curated list of products you may want to buy from Amazon. You nonetheless have control over the actions that you take given this information from the tool we call Artificial Intelligence.