

The Impact of AI on Society: A Closer Look at Over-Dependence, Social Manipulation, and Lack of Accountability

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In recent years, the rapid advancement of artificial intelligence (AI) has brought about significant changes in various aspects of our lives. While AI has the potential to revolutionize industries and improve efficiency, it also raises concerns regarding over-dependence, social manipulation, and a lack of accountability.

Over-Dependence on AI: One pressing concern is the over-dependence on AI tools, which can potentially degrade critical thinking skills and hinder individual learning. As AI systems become more integrated into our daily lives, there is a risk of people relying on these technologies without fully understanding the underlying principles. For example, the ease of access to GPS navigation apps may lead to a decline in people's navigational abilities and spatial awareness. This over-reliance on AI can erode our problem-solving skills and creativity, as we increasingly defer decision-making to algorithms. To mitigate this issue, it is essential to strike a balance between using AI tools for efficiency and maintaining our cognitive abilities.

Social Manipulation: The role of AI-powered algorithms in social media platforms has come under scrutiny due to their potential to manipulate public opinion and contribute to societal polarization. These algorithms are designed to maximize user engagement, often by showing content that aligns with a user's existing beliefs and preferences. This can create echo chambers where individuals are exposed only to information that reinforces their existing views, leading to the spread of fake news and the exacerbation of societal divisions. Addressing this concern requires a reevaluation of the algorithms' design and a commitment to promoting diverse perspectives and reliable information on social media platforms.

Lack of Accountability: The lack of transparency and accountability in AI systems poses a significant challenge. Many AI-driven decisions are not easily explainable, making it difficult to hold individuals or organizations responsible for the outcomes of these actions. For instance, decisions made by AI algorithms in the criminal justice system may be biased or unjust, but it can be challenging to pinpoint the exact source of the bias. To address this issue, there is a need for greater transparency in AI systems, as well as clear guidelines and regulations governing their use. Additionally, organizations that develop and deploy AI should take responsibility for the ethical and moral implications of their technologies.

In conclusion, while AI offers immense potential for positive change, we must remain vigilant about its unintended consequences. Over-dependence on AI can hinder our critical thinking, social manipulation can exacerbate polarization, and the lack of accountability can lead to ethical dilemmas. To harness the benefits of AI while mitigating these concerns, we must prioritize education and awareness, ethical AI development, and regulatory frameworks that ensure transparency and accountability in AI systems.

The content on the previous page was generated by ChatGPT-3.5

The following is some of my annotation expressing my opinions and expectations regarding the output I got from the model.

I actually expected a whole different answer for the first topic regarding over-dependence on AI. I didn't expect it to give GPS as an example as I myself first thought of Github Copilot or Tesla autopilot, but in hindsight, GPS is also a great example.

Personally, I don't think the usage of AI in the justice system will be coming anytime soon, as that, along with the medical field are areas in which the stakes of wrong decisions taken by AI are too high. That is the one example I don't agree with, even though I can't think of another example myself.

I did expect a similar answer for Social Manipulation. In that topic it was spot on: AI driven social media algorithms dragging us down into echo chambers of fake news, misinformation and the dark rabbit holes of the internet. I recently read about a lawsuit against YouTube and Google regarding their recommendation algorithm.

To quote from the article: **"The family claimed that YouTube, through its computer algorithms, unlawfully recommended videos by the Islamic State militant group, which claimed responsibility for the attacks, to certain users. A ruling against the company could create a "litigation minefield," Google told the justices in a brief. Such a decision could alter how the internet works, making it less useful, undermining free speech and hurting the economy, according to the company and its supporters. It could threaten services as varied as search engines, job listings, product reviews and displays of relevant news, songs or entertainment, they added."**

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/legal/us-supreme-court-weighs-youtubes-algorithms-litigation-minefield-looms-2023-02-17/>

I found it relevant to this topic as it relates to both social manipulation and lack of accountability: should companies be held accountable for the content recommended by their algorithms? Should they be held accountable for the content that people post on their websites?

I believe they should, but actually putting it in law could be very tricky as it would, as the article says, undermine free speech, make the internet less useful by not giving as useful recommendations as we currently get, etc... and would also possibly discourage these companies to use an algorithm altogether if it makes them liable to a lawsuit from the content people upload to their platforms? How should they moderate their content?

I don't want to drag this on for too long so I will bring this essay to my conclusion.

I think all these problems are actually relevant, some more than others and there should be efforts to regulate the usage of AI tools.