

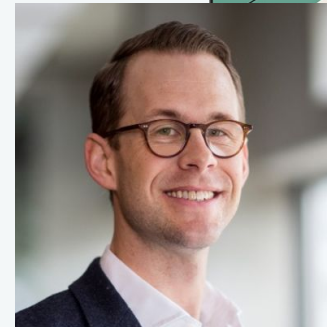


# Technological Influences in Daily Life

Koey Chan, Jasmine Chow

# This is Technology Ethics: An Introduction – by Sven Nyholm

- Written by a LMU professor of Ethics of Artificial Intelligence
- Book covers introductions to ethical theories, many ethical issues in various aspects of technology



# Should we rely on technology to make decisions? How much should we allow technology to influence our lives?

- Book mentions a couple human computer ethical issues -
  - Social media
  - Behavior changing technologies
  - Robots
  - Artificial Intelligence



Yahoo News



[MAGA Launches Bonkers Hunt to 'Prove' Biden Is a Robot Clone](#)



19 hours ago

# Loss of Personal Autonomy

## Social Media

- Algorithms
  - Designed to keep our attention hooked to the screen
  - We may blame ourselves for having no self control
- Social comparison: influences how we see and perceive everything
  - Shapes our values through unrealistic portrayals of life
  - Threat to self-autonomy



# Technology & Personal Autonomy

## Behavior Changing Technologies:

Technologies that are aimed to change human behavior in hopes to monitor or promote positive behavior

## Example: Smartwatch and exercise tracking apps











- the user can track exercise activity and motivate them to exercise more;
- on the other hand, the company can also influence how they want the user to behave



# Technology & Personal Autonomy

**Gamification:** Tracking apps with ranking/leaderboards may motivate the individual through comparing and competing against one another

- Over reliance on technology, treating normal daily activities like a game
- Undermines personal autonomy
- Reduced enjoyment and possible increase in anxiety

Challenge		
2	 Kanato Goto	1,008 km
3	 RAFA 🏊‍♂️ 🚶‍♂️ 🚶‍♂️	936 km
4	 Robert Bacoșcă	914 km
5	 Parwinder Singh	871 km
6	 Hugo Farias	859 km
7	 Aaron Robinson	851 km
8	 Michael DeGeorge	822 km
9	 Pete Kostelnick	809 km
10	 Lê Hằng	795 km
...	...	...
1,663	 Saitama OnePunchMan	316 km
Invite Friends		

**Technology can influence our autonomy and decisions, but what about when we let the autonomy make the decisions?**

**If we allow machines to take control, how much authority should we give it?**

# Machines as Moral Agents

- Moral agent: something or someone that is able to take an action that affects others
- A machine that is a moral agent is generally in the class of “autonomous” machines- able to operate independently of human control to perform a task.
- Ex. self-driving cars, autonomous military weapons





# Decisions A Machine Can Make

Or rather, decisions we allow machines to make-

There exist algorithms to decide whether you get a job interview, whether a bank approves your mortgage, etc.

As a result, companies distance themselves from the responsibility of the outcomes made by their algorithm.

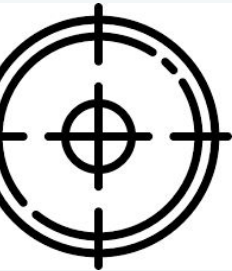


# The Other Side of the Debate

Ronald Arkin: computer science and ethics researcher at Georgia Tech

- Argues that machines that have reasoning but lack human emotion will act more ethically than humans, especially in war.

His example: “[Ethically programmed machines] would not rape or pillage villages taken over during wartime.”



# Ethics



## Utilitarianism

- If the technology can increase the overall happiness for the greatest number of people, it would still be morally good.
- If widespread negative effects, threat to wellbeing



## Hedonism

- Overstimulating our minds with social media; pleasure in the short run
  - Psychological long run sufferings may outweigh the short term pleasures

# Ethics



## Kantian Ethics

- Intention in using algorithms is to make good moral judgements free of human emotion



## Egoism

- Further one's own interests with any means possible- if we believe that a moral machine makes the best decisions for us, it is in our interest to use it

# Thanks!



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Kant