

In this article Nora Khan is attempting to have us truly imagine and accept a world with ASI. A world that we are inevitably headed towards. She uses a funny quote from poet Jackie Wang's essay; which she talks about her frustration in trying to figure out why society has decided to guess an alien figure as being similar to ours. Similar with very little differences, such as enlarged features, and less appendages. How can we expect to know what aliens look like, if they are existing by something we can't even comprehend. She states, "We strain to imagine foreignness, but we don't get very far from what we know." In response to this she describes her own vision of an alien, one that is very complex to say the least. She says it's impossibly huge and tiny at the same time, communicates in smells and telepathic songs, every night it dies and in the morning it is resurrected. These are just a few, she has a point though. It's this exact change in mindset, that she had for what an alien's features will be, that Nora claims that we need in regards to AI. "An imaginative paradigm shift. Think of us all in preparation, in training, for what is to come." The world of ASI is so new and out of our mental capacity that we won't know what to expect; we have an idea of how AI will begin but it's true capacity is beyond our imagination and comprehension.

Nora brings up the notion of fear of AI. All too often AI/ASI are portrayed in fearsome ways, as anthropomorphic characters in a movie, for example, that turn on us and even lead to the end of humankind. There a philosopher's work that she mentions, Nick Bostrom, he uses metaphors to help the readers truly capture the sense of what he's talking about. His most important metaphor, according to Nora, "when it comes to ASI, humanity is like a child, in a room with no adults, cradling an undetonated bomb. Elsewhere, he describes our intelligence, in relation to ASI, as analogous to what the intelligence of an ant feels like to us." These are the kind of thinking that gives a lot of people fear of advancing with ASI. The main mistake Nick believes we are doing in regards to AI is anthropomorphizing it. By doing this, he argues, that, "encourages unfounded expectations about the growth trajectory of a seed AI and about the psychology, motivations and capabilities of a mature superintelligence." I agree with this as well, we shouldn't give it a human figure if it will never be able to act with empathy for example. We will be psychologically setting ourselves up to be disappointed. He gives some more reasonable metaphors for what AI/ASI should be considered instead such as: hurricane, architect, sovereign, star system, frontline, search party, agent, swarm, and scaffolding. According to Nick by using better ways and language to think of ASI we are better preparing ourselves for what is to come.