AI Snake Oil - Chapter 1

AI Snake Oil Definition: AI that does not and cannot work as advertised.

- What is better at producing value right now, predictive or generative AI? Which has potential to produce better value in the future?

- Are chatbots conducive to misuse? Is it truthful to say that these tools are unreliable?

- Will case law eventually catch-up regulation with AI development? Are technical and regulatory initiatives sufficient to ameliorate most harms and amplify the benefits?

- Did generative AI expose a long-standing weakness, or blind spot, in our education systems prompting the creation of new and more comprehensive strategies for education?

- What kind of attitude or approach should we have towards AI growing pains? Individually? Societally?

- Does predictive AI often not work at all? If so, is it because of a fundamental flaw?

- Is it possible that predictive AI could be beneficial but that it is often executed poorly because of unrealistic goals, insufficient oversight, planning, and ethical investigation/mitigation?

- Is AI often a convenient scapegoat and magnifier for ethical issues people have? ie. Madison Square Gardens, AI used to screen banned customers... could the same thing have been done with human security guards?

- Is it that predictive AI does not or cannot work as advertised from a technical perspective? Or that it does not or cannot work as advertised from an ethical perspective?

- Is AI hype a problem? How harmful is hype perpetuated by the combination of flawed research and media?

- Are there any quick ways to identify whether a certain AI product either doesn't work, is overhyped, or works exactly as intended but misused?

- What topics in the book are you most interested in learning more about? Why?