

Part A (Card 1) - Animal Welfare



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Where do we draw the line between personal gain and the value of all creatures' lives?

In the intricate tapestry of ethical dilemmas, we grapple with the fine line between personal benefit and the intrinsic value of all creatures' lives. This exploration of our moral compass and the interplay between empathy and self-interest prompts introspection, challenges beliefs, and inspires change. It fosters empathy, compassion, and an appreciation for life's interconnectedness.

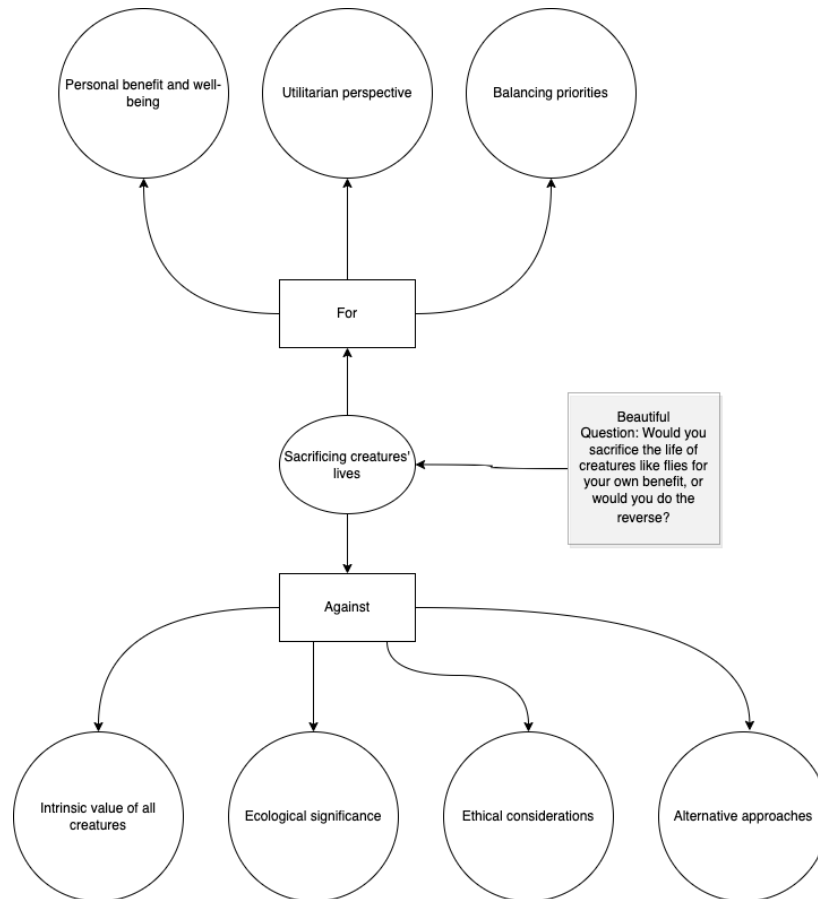
What do we gain if animal ecosystems are destroyed? The loss of species disrupts natural processes, impeding plant growth and worsening climate change, leading to polluted air (National History Museum, 2022). These consequences directly impact humanity. To address this challenge, we seek ways to sustain populations and habitats while benefiting humans. Can we strike a balance, ensuring no species is negligible for our planet's lifelong survival?

Ashworth, J. (2022, January 17). *Without animals, plants' ability to move with climate change halves*. Natural History Museum. <https://www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/news/2022/january/without-animals-plants-ability-move-with-climate-change-halves.html#:~:text=The%20loss%20of%20mammal%20and,up%20with%20changing%20global%20temperatures>.

- Has been debated by students from cohorts in primary and high school, with them also questioning whether the animals/creatures have a life of their own or not.
- Asked myself the same phenomenon, which piqued my interest in the topic considerably. Also, pondered it in relation to others' interests, 'Would this be something that may apply to all people or just some?'
- Scholars, researchers, conservationists, and environmentalists have examined sustaining animals and habitats while considering humans and their well-being.

Beautiful Question: *Would you sacrifice the life of creatures like flies for your own benefit?*

Part B (Card 1) – Contextual Journey



Speculative Research 1: A Thought Experiment - Would you sacrifice the life of creatures like flies for your own benefit, or would you do the reverse?

As it seems, the ethical considerations that regard the sacrifice of creatures' lives for personal benefit and wellbeing, as well as the utilitarian perspectives and balancing of priorities, remain ambiguous. In such a scenario, individuals may be left grappling with the moral implications of their actions which should be like the challenges faced in the digital privacy realm. Individuals may witness a cognitive dissonance between their desires for personal gain and the value of all creatures' lives. This may further lead to individuals preferring to deny the unpleasant truths and seek solace in convenient lies. Consequently, people may just turn to alternative frameworks and ethical systems that can allow them to justify their choices, to bridge the gap in terms of their role as individuals within a society.

In addition, the act of sacrificing creatures' lives carries significant consequences in terms of the intrinsic value of all creatures, their ecological significance, and the ethical considerations involved. If humans fail to recognize the importance of preserving and respecting all forms of life, it can lead to irreparable damage to the ecosystems while potentially disrupting the delicate balance of nature. This can further mean that governments and individuals risk perpetuating a system that devalues the very essence of what life constitutes.

Instead, alternative approaches that are rooted in compassion and sustainable practices can be explored. If these alternative approaches are disregarded, governments risk further erosion of public trust and a deepening divide between societal values and their actions. To offer a path forward that aligns with moral responsibilities while ensuring the long-term well-being of creatures on our planet, embracing principles of environmental stewardship, conservation, and ethical treatment of animals is paramount.

Part A (Card 2) – Human & AI Interaction



Image Credits: Taken from
'<https://www.cumanagement.com/articles/2018/09/humans-versus-ai>'

How do we strike a balance between the benefits of widespread adoption and utilisation of artificial intelligence (AI) and the potential risks of overreliance, ensuring that human well-being and the value of our collective experiences are not compromised?

In the grand scheme of things, striking a balance between the benefits of widespread adoption and utilisation of artificial intelligence and the potential risk of overreliance is a mesmerising consideration in today's digital world. This is a challenge that has importance within the exploration of ethos alongside the intervening between having complete dominance and a human-machine collaboration form factor. This exploration prompts questions that surround automation, artificial intelligence, robotics, and the evolving role of technology in our lives. It can further the development of humans as they are urged to reflect on issues such as ethics, job displacement, social dynamics, privacy, and the potential for collaboration.

However, if the balance between the adoption of artificial intelligence in society is disrupted, it can result in numerous consequences. What do we gain from this? It can lead to a loss of human authority, as AI systems gradually take over the decision-making processes. The potential risks of AI like privacy infringements, biases, and job displacement poses significant challenges to the flourishing of humans. To combat this issue, we should strive to strike a balance, ensuring that AI can serve human interests without compromising on values, rights, and collective experiences. Are we able to find ways to harness the power of AI while preserving the power of humanity, ethics, and the holistic well-being of society?

- The provided image allows us to ponder humans with AI as 'bodies' which can coexist together within a dedicated environment, essentially upholding the concept of human-AI collaboration.
- Through the questioning of 'what-ifs', which can help to unlock more components of the world to be explored.
- Research paper forums, such as the Harvard Business Review and MIT Sloan Management Review that were used in 'Introduction to Information Systems (31265)', have examined the boundaries between humans and AI. These papers raise the fact that AI can be drawn to facilitate processes but not completely take over humanity.

Beautiful Question: *What if we can facilitate the advancement of AI alongside the potential expense of human well-being?*

Part B (Card 2) – Contextual Journey

What if we can facilitate the advancement of AI alongside the potential expense of human well-being?

What if there is a way to make this possible for a very reasonable price?

What if there are government restrictions on what can or cannot be done?

What if there are people who dislike how things are done?

Speculative Research 2: What if? – What if we can facilitate the advancement of AI alongside the potential expense of human well-being?

AI can provide humans with benefits as it enhances automation and has the potential to integrate a next-generation disaster response. It never stops functioning while also eliminating the necessity for humans to perform tedious tasks. (Interesting Engineering, 2023) However, the implementation of AI does incur high costs along with the fact that it relies on pre-fed data and past experiences. It can also lead to unemployment and the questioning of ethics as it grows exponentially. (Simpli Learn, 2023)

The aforementioned factors create a conflict of interest and thus, a problem space. As the future looms and innovation occurs, humans would need to adopt AI to improve efficiency. What if there is a way to make this possible for a very reasonable price? For this method to be successful, pertinent factors that relate to the economic and people side of things would have to be considered.

What if there are stringent government restrictions that deem what can or cannot be done? For example, there may be certain countries where there is government censorship and that may jeopardise how elements like AI are implemented. This may be specific to countries like China where governments can use AI to enforce laws (epic.org, 2023) that mandate the blocking of Google Services and people must go about using VPNs instead.

What if there are people who dislike how things are done about AI? Mass communication is an integral part of this, along with various societies taking their time to figure out the way they wanted to adopt a new technology (Medium, 2023). This may allow humans to come to a consensus on an agreed set of metrics for what they want AI to achieve. What are the types of things that AI may be used for? For example, in the USA, there are 84% of people worry that AI will be used for criminal activity, with 83% saying that it may produce false or misleading information. About 75% of those surveyed worry that AI will produce biased content targeting marginalised groups. (USA Today, 2023)

The implementation of AI, as with any new emerging technology, will always be a risky process. It is paramount to define a clear set of principles before enacting them so that they will do the least harm to governments along with their societies. Humans should ultimately work together with AI rather than allow AI to take over.

Part B (Card 2) – Contextual Journey

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