

Robots on the Ropes

In “Will AI Ever Understand Human Emotions,” Leandro L. Minku says that it could be difficult for robots to understand human emotion because they haven't had the experience of being an actually human. Artificial intelligence is a very complicated concept to comprehend. Having the capability to give a machine the ability to think or process things, not only on the same level, but even above our basic level of intelligence is phenomenal. Having this capability comes with consequences, and doesn't necessarily mean that machines should be allowed to obtain this type of intelligence. When I hear of artificial intelligence I think of disconnected, unreal, and bland. I believe that the ability to think and feel as humans do should be limited to only humans. No matter how advanced robots get, they will still only be a metal replication of a human, comprehending only 1s and 0s.

Robots have come a long way over the years. Minku cites an experiment that used A.I. to identify criminals based on facial algorithms. However, possibly it was more; maybe, as Minku says “...the A.I. managed to find hidden emotions in those photos.” There is the possibility that the A.I. given to the robots are enhancing themselves to not only determine who is and isn't a criminal by using only a picture but also read the emotions coming from the pictures. Regardless, whether or not robots can read emotions doesn't make them human.

Robots lack the capacity to understand the way humans process things. As previously stated, robots can read emotions, but as Minku said “reading is not the same as understanding.” Robots that can read emotions, but cannot understand them are the

type of robots that need to be out on extremely dangerous missions where reading emotions is only needed to see if someone is a threat or not. Robots that can't understand the emotions emitted by humans could be very unsafe. The idea of giving a robot the chance to think and act on its own is a scary proposition. Having to use robotic parts to keep myself alive isn't what I would have wanted for myself, but I still have part of my humanity intact. I know right from wrong, I can remember my childhood and seeing my son for the first time. These are the things that only come from the human part of me. These are the things that a robot cannot comprehend.

In the end all that can be said is that humans are humans and robots are robots for a reason. Giving a machine the limitless mind of a human could cause catastrophe. Being a human is a privilege that needs to be valued and should not be experimented with.