Dear Leandro Minku,

I am writing in regard to your article entitled “Will A.I. ever understand human emotions?” Given my previous circumstances, I find that I have very strong opinions on this use of technology and the fickleness of it. The idea of placing our psychological care in the hands of robots who have no true way of interpreting our emotional responses no matter how well programed they are is very unsettling. I beg you to ask yourself if this a job that a machine can truly do better than a human can.

Robots are meant to follow codes, but humans have choice. By taking someone’s ability to choose, by stripping away their humanity, they are made a robot. Without emotion people become mechanic: going through the motions that will have no meaning. I know people that are no longer really human. They are being controlled by trauma, they are getting turned into a type of robot that thinks it has control, that thinks it has emotion. These people are truly just controlled by codes and instructions, the basics of life, where consciousness is just the computation of facts. If we would not want these certain people to act as our therapists, people who struggle to understand basic emotions, than we certainly don’t want a hunk of metal to do that same job. And if those robots misdiagnose a person, those consequences could be dire. Humans can’t be fixed as easily as machines and we need humans to do that complicated duty rather than the robots.

Even if A.I. ever understands emotions, it cannot feel them. Deep learning robots are programed to analyze human emotions in minute detail, but they can never feel them, they can only have the illusion of emotion, just as A.I. can make us have the illusion of control. You wrote about a robot that can make deep connections with people in your article as well. I followed up on it, but the only details I found about what it will be said it would provide “emotionally compelling experiences". The experience they refer to is like a themed movie ride, you can see the representation of what others feel but you can never truly have first hand insight. This is an empty way to live. If we let our world be run by numbers alone, we are nothing more than a few variables in a robots grand scheme. We no longer rule our world. We only have the illusion of control.

-Alex Murphy

“Robocop”