

# Reading Response Mar/04

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Even though the biases, beliefs and cliches exist in human minds while judging other people, there is almost every time we say “Doubts about it”. But when you introduce such biases or beliefs or prejudices then computer has nothing, no emotion but to give answer in yes and no. And people using these algorithms have now found an abstraction and they will believe what the “black box” will say. This paper was much like the last paper as it used physiognomy to tell the sexual orientation of the people. I feel the only change this time the author did not defend it but gave a totally different narration to the motive of writing the paper as showing the “breach of privacy” is very simple and will exist in future. That was very limping reasoning in my opinion. He created an arsenal (the algorithm) and saying that motive was to show that it can be used for war (the sexual orientation detection).

Wearing makeup or wearing glasses and wearing comfortable clothes has more to do with the usage than sexual orientation. The science is absent, but prejudices are masked as science here I believe. They are more style choices than the actual science. I also do believe that the way they compared faces was wrong. If you use the techniques, they deployed then most of the randomness will appear if applied in a specific region or place entirely. In North and South Korea, the masculinity of male is quite differently perceived than in rest of the world. I feel the algorithm will fail as it does employ a lot of cliches well known to be a specific gender or sexual orientation.

This paper also talked a lot about the facial features and sexuality and try to support their assumption with psychology and short data collected with people, but I feel having a more masculine face shape for women can also be attributed to various hormonal changes in them over the years. That does not mean that they are gay. Having less facial hair is considered a sign of neatness in the west while in the East it is considered more rugged, so I feel very simple examples can right away give me the reason to doubt the algorithm all together, because traits, preferences, and psychological processes are more than just a variable in an algorithm.

While the ethical problem here does belong the very fact on how the sexual orientation was predicted using facial features, but it also lies in the very fact the government is ready to use it as well. Even though as a user I am sold the use of social media, dating sites as a service, government is using security cams for our security, but in the hindsight, they are collecting data. And they are going to use it.

