



NAMAL UNIVERSITY MIANWALI

DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE

Assignment

Session / Class: 2021-25

Course Code: SS-112

Instructor's Name: Komal Zafar

Semester: 8th

Course Title: Introduction to Psychology

Total Marks: 10

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NIM-BSCS-2021-24

STEP 1: Visit the TED Talks website and search for a talk on the subject matter of psychology. Watch one of the talk that interests you, as long as it is a minimum of 8 minutes in length. At the top of your response, include the title of the TED Talk, the name of the presenter, along with a link to the video.

Title of the Ted Talk:

What Makes Us Human in the Age of AI? A Psychologist and a Technologist Answer

Presenters:

Brian S. Lowery & Kylan Gibbs

Video Link:

<https://youtu.be/Rcm9u9CdK10?si=hYRquVkjdEdeYPT8>

STEP 2: In an essay of between 200-400 words, respond to the following:

Give a summary of the TED talk, emphasizing the speaker's main points.

What did you find most interesting about the talk, and what will you most likely remember from the talk?

What other questions would you have for this presenter if you could have a conversation with them? What else would you like to know about the topic?

Read the biographical information and do some basic background research on the presenter.

Summary:

In the TED talk titled "What Makes Us Human in the Age of AI? A Psychologist and a Technologist Answer," social psychologist Brian S. Lowery and technologist Kylan Gibbs explore the evolving relationship between humanity and technology, particularly AI. The speakers emphasize several key points about the essence of being human amidst technological advancements.

Lowery begins by expressing concern that as immersive technologies like AI and virtual reality (VR) become prevalent, individuals may drift toward isolated social experiences, inhabiting unique, singular worlds. In this context, the loss of shared experiences—historically fostered by collective media consumption—raises questions about the future of human connections. Gibbs elaborates on this, sharing his personal experiences interacting with AI, noting its initially realistic nature but ultimately predictable responses. This predictability underscores the inherent spontaneity and richness of human interactions that AI cannot replicate.

Both speakers highlight empathy's role in human relationships, stemming from shared, often difficult experiences. Gibbs points out that our capacity for empathy deepens through resonance with others' pain, emphasizing the dual facets of human interaction: the technical predictability of AI and the emotional unpredictability of human life.

Interesting Part:

The most intriguing aspect of the talk was the idea that technology might create an illusion of fulfilling social needs, potentially leading to greater isolation and less genuine human connection. I will likely remember the speakers' discussion about how increasing interactions with AI could desensitize individuals to the richness of human communication.

Background on the Presenters

Brian S. Lowery is a social psychologist known for his research on social identity and the dynamics of human interaction. His work often examines how race, culture, and identity impact social experiences and perceptions.

Kylan Gibbs is a technologist focused on the immersion of AI in social environments, especially in gaming and interactive technologies. His interest lies in how technology can create more engaging and socially relevant experiences.

Questions for the Presenter

If given the chance, I would ask Lowery:

1. What specific strategies do you propose for individuals to enhance their real-life interactions in an increasingly digital world?
2. How can we design technology that promotes empathy rather than detracts from it?

For Gibbs, I would inquire:

1. What future developments in AI do you believe might improve its ability to understand and replicate human emotion?

2. How do you envision the relationship between AI and human agency evolving over the next decade?