LECTURE SUMMARY
14 FEBRUARY - Maitha

Genie and Snehil's Discussion:

VEHICLES 4:

- More complex behaviours than vehicles 3. How human-like behaviour can be simulated through sensors and motors of the vehicle 4.
- **Brian:** brings up an interesting point regarding this behaviour: No one stops immediately after a race, we gradually slow down into a halt.
- **Yiyang:** brings another interesting example: we enjoy sunshine when the sun is not as strong.
- Why do we follow particular behaviours? What are the values and why do they suit the description of the theory in the chapter? Since we are talking about sensors and motors, we see how such inputs and values influence movement.
- **Sarah:** makes a point on unchanging values. Choosing the same cuisine over and over again.
- **Adina:** points out human interest in talking to or approaching someone but not wanting to be direct at first. *(I really liked this point, I feel like it was easily overlooked in the discussion but it was a very interesting way to see it)*
- **Professor:** points out how the passage of time plays a significant role in some interactions. At what point does an attraction turn into repulsion and vice versa. (hungry vs. full, hot vs. cold, curious vs. knowledgeable).

NO WOMAN BORN:

** I personally really loved this reading. It stayed on my mind the whole week and I couldn't help but write down a few quotes in my journal from how taken aback I was by the philosophical aspect of it.*

- The ethicality to make a person a robot. Is it ethical to resurrect a human into a robot? Did Deidre agree to be resurrected?
- **Sarah:** prefers not to be resurrected simply because of human specific traits that cannot be duplicated or voiced. Articles on men buying AI girlfriends (abuse?). You rob their self agencies. https://futurism.com/chatbot-abuse
- Preservation of humans to be revived in the future. Mammoth style in the ice age possibly?
- **Philip:** thinks that the willingness to be resurrected does not concern oneself because the resurrected being is a completely new being. Resurrection is of little interest to us as current humans. (The robot's choice?)
- **Badr:** likes the super-human enhancements to the human body. Stronger, more enhanced beings.
- **Ehtisham:** Tony Stark's humour and humanity (personality speaking) is there. Why does the physicality of a human have any importance? *(quite an intriguing idea, in a way very similar to the way John Harris viewed Deidre, the same essence with different physicality, very much in tune with the point Yeji makes next.)*

- **Yeji:** Self is defined through the passage of time because our consciousness and physical appearance changes through time. A paused version of ourselves at that moment, a representation of yourself at the moment of resurrection.
- **Yiyang:** links identity politics to robotic resurrection. *(I'm very intrigued, woah, my head is running a thousand miles a minute, yet the question feels very disconnected from identity politics)*.
- Memory processing is what keeps us human.

STAR TREK: THE MEASURE OF A MAN:

- Are robots the property of their creators? Who has the authority to turn off life?
- **Brian:** connects the question of authority to children and whether parents can control their children. When does state intervention come into play to deem these parents incapable of the responsibility their authority brings?

"Children are the stacking of genes."

- **Hassan:** Sentience is defined by INTELLIGENCE, SELF AWARENESS, and CONSCIOUSNESS.
- If consciousness is the property of the soul, then how will machines ever feel that?
- Elon Musk is developing chips that enhance brain power. Creating a power imbalance between people, would we take the chance to enhance our brains? Is knowing more things really positive for us? How sensitive are we when it comes to being selective of the media we consume. Selectiveness of Knowledge?
- **Hassan:** Vaccines compared to Neurolink? What do we allow inside our bodies?
- Do athletes that have prosthetics have any advantage over normal humans? Do prosthetics create different persons?
- The pleasure of learning, our desires, in comparison to being preprogrammed with knowledge.
- Who has the upper hand? Do people with enhancements by any chance are hierarchically greater than normal humans?
- Memory restoration and their accuracy between enhanced humans and normal humans.

WILL ROBOTS REPLACE ANIMAL TESTING IN THE FUTURE?

Brian's Presentation: Different Attitudes towards Robots across cultures

- **Culture and Context:** the differences between the images culturally specific Search Engines bring up. Google (International/Western) robots are humanoids or human-like robots. Whereas the Korean search engine seems to be connected to marketing and shopping culture as well as a children's specific robot advertisement. Animals, little dogs.
- *Not about designing robots for cultures, but rather designing robots to be sensitive and adaptable to cultural values and practises.* (Monk Robot from last week's presentation, entertainment robots in the East).

Cultural adaptation is not a robot specific problem.

- Ramen taste differences and halal stickers that change based on the cultural context of the area.
- How does culture affect people's attitudes towards robots? This question raises even more questions related to defining culture, defining contexts and appearances, and knowing the audiences of these robots. No direct conclusions can be made to such correlations.
- **Humanlike-ness:** different populations prefer different robot aesthetics. Americans prefer robots that are practical and can be used as tools whereas Koreans are more receptive to robots being an addition to our social life.
- Do we think humans are special? Are robots unwelcome in humanity?
- Uncanny Valley: a threshold in terms of human likeness, where once we pass that threshold we become distraught by the extreme likeness between robots and humans.
- **Low context vs. High context languages:** (verbal vs. nonverbal respectively). Arabs respond better to dialects used by robots. Mirroring brings comfort and conformity to humans.
- **Belief systems:** and how they affect robot acceptance: Confucian **social norms tie to gender norms** as well, service and gender relations, industry.
- A soul is not humanlike-ness; these are Animist beliefs.
- Human exceptionalism: humans are unique on this planet, ownership over nature.

Can robots form their own culture? What might a robot culture look like?

Should robots be genderless when we explore humanlike robots?

- The voices used by robots are human based. (see Siri and Alexa).
- Ageing and adaptability is a human trait that needs self beliefs, how can that be implemented in robots?
- Adapting a robot to all existing cultures in the world, does it create its own culture? A culture of all cultures? Minority cultures, how do we ensure robots accommodate those cultures.
- Treating robots like human beings will come with time as robots are to be integrated into cultural adaptations. Cultural adaptations are mainly focused on enabling trust and acceptance to robots in these cultures. Once again conformity and mirroring takes the lead in acceptance.
- The human desire to survive and pass on our genes, why are robots born in the first place? Robots are created from the human desire to fulfil a shortcoming we have.

Self anecdote on robots in my culture: More often than not, I have seen robots discarded after the initial interest and curiosity they spark. A lot of robots that have been introduced to prompt visitors of an institution to leave their remarks have become decor-like in the space. They have either broken down and not been resurfaced, or the necessary steps that should be taken to preserve them are overlooked. Adults also seem to disregard the robots as toys and a false front/facade to the space to assert dominance in the field or a reflection of the company's financial wealth.