

Artificial Consciousness in American Literature and Culture

I would like to present a paper which investigates the relationship between artificial consciousness and narrative of artificial consciousness in American literature and culture by analyzing a novel, a film and a tv series to draw an overall picture by analyzing how and where these works place the artificial consciousness in their storyline, why they choose such a subject, what kind of impacts it might have on their narrative within an intermedial but posthumanism framework. The novel is *Galatea 2.2* from Richard Powers. This novel is a contemporary reworking of the Pygmalion myth¹ in a modern way, including A.I. It is also a pseudo-autobiographical because the writer and the narrator share the same name. The story is about the narrator who returns to his alma mater, mentioned as U, meets a computer scientist Philip Lentz and they start an experiment together on a computer that can compete with a master student, who studies literature, using artificial intelligence. The film is a *Ex Machina*, directed by Alex Garland, and starring Domhnall Gleeson, Alicia Vikander, Sonoya Mizuno, Oscar Isaac. It is the film vision of A.I. robots and humans who make them. A coder, Caleb (Domhnall Gleeson) who earns a visit to Nathan (Oscar Isaac) the C.E.O. of the company that he is working for to assess if a robot, Ava (Alicia Vikander) has consciousness and is able to think. Although Ava has a robotic body, she has human-looking face, and it is beautiful enough to capture Caleb's attention. *Ex Machina* explores the vision of creating A.I. through physical embodiment and material experiences. The series I have been working on is *Westworld* airing on HBO. This is another form of media to be analyzed within artificial consciousness and posthumanism framework. “The posthuman can be read as intricately woven into the narratives at the heart of *Westworld* offering a redefinition of what it means to be “human and also, in turn, what it means to be non-human and/or merchandised”(Goody and Mackay, 10).

Mehmet Ali Yavuz

University of Stuttgart

Mehmet Ali YAVUZ

Masters of English Studies in University of Stuttgart

Areas of study : The philosophical dimension of fictional reflection on AI: the problem of freedom, consciousness, agentivity, autonomy

Representations of Artificial Consciousness in American Literature and Culture

Representations of Qualia in fiction on Artificial Intelligence