# Smart Home Ambient Intelligence: a new limit for our freedom?

ethical concerns about voice assistants

Stefano Brandoli

Politecnico di Milano

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## Presentation Outline

Smart Home Ambient Intelligence: a new limit for our freedom? ethical concerns about voice assistants

### Introduction

Technological Mediation Definitions

Case Study: Google Home - Google Assistant Actions Applied mediations limiting our freedom Ethical concerns arising from loss of freedom

Possible Remedies

Conclusions



## Technological Mediation

While fulfilling their function, technologies do much more: they give shape to what we do and how we experience the world. And in doing so they contribute actively to the ways we live our lives (Verbeek 2011)

- Technologies are not neutral intermediaries
- Technologies play an actively mediating role
- Artifacts are bearers of morality (Latour 1992)
- Morality is a matter of human-technology associations
- Two perspectives of mediation:
  - Perception
  - Action: I will focus on human freedom

## **Definitions**

## Ambient Intelligence

**Ambient Intelligence** is an approach that combines two major technologies: Ubiquitous Computing and Intelligent User Interfaces (Brey 2005)

## Voice Assistant

A **voice assistant** is a digital assistant that uses voice recognition, natural language processing and speech synthesis to provide aid to users through phones and voice recognition applications (whatis.techtarget.com 2017)

## Freedom

**Ambient Intelligence** is an approach that combines two major technologies: Ubiquitous Computing and Intelligent User Interfaces.

Case Study: Google Home - Google Assistant Actions

# Google Assistant Actions

# Script

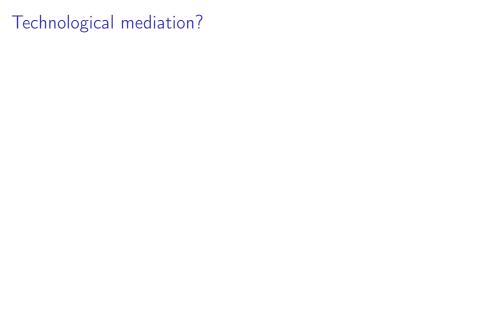


# Behaviour Steering

# Moral laziness

# Technocracy

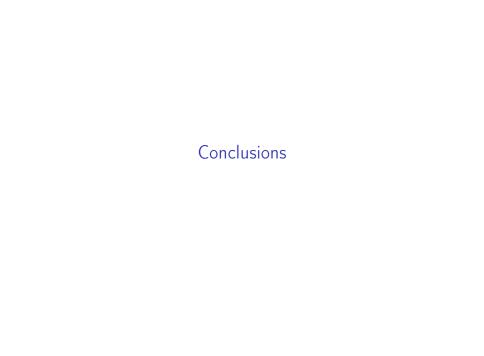
# Technocracy





Possible Remedies

## Possible Remedies



## Conclusions

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