Diffracting AI & Robotics: Decolonial and Feminist Perspectives

In a striking way, at the very moment intelligent machines are supposed to become a reality, the question what it means to be human and what sociality entails seems to become the focal point in the call for a 'human centered' robotics and AI. While recent research more and more demonstrates that robotics and AI often perpetuate gender and racial biases along with social power relations, the question arises how bias and interests built into robots and programmed into AI, both intentionally and unintentionally, can be identified and deprogrammed. Engaging with these questions, decolonializing, feminist, queer, crip and other critical scholars have emphasized the need for a more just and inclusive future of AI and robotics.

The aim of this symposium is to bring together scholars from different fields of study by creating a space for truly multi-disciplinary engagements that promise to provide 'us' with different points of departures for relating responsibility, accountability, and social justice as well as 'our' history, present, and future with AI and intelligent machines differently. In doing so, the symposium will not only emphasize the crucial need for including manifold perspectives and reflections on the question who is allowed to be part of these discussions and developments, but also aim at opening up the space for concrete interventions.
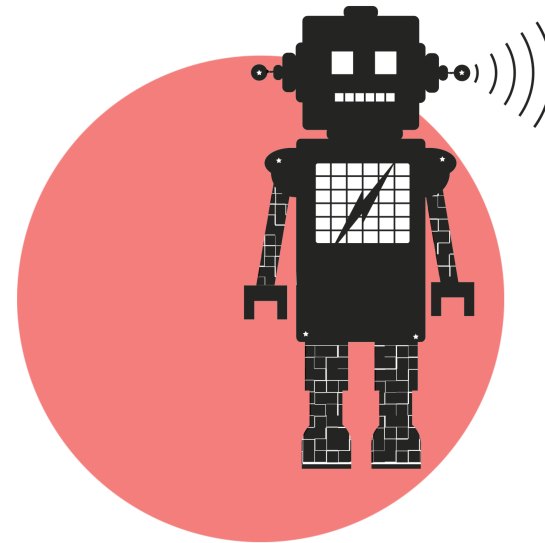

GRADE Center Gender

GOETHE UNIVERSITÄT
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Cornelia Goethe Centrum
für Frauenstudien und die Erforschung
der Geschlechterverhältnisse

Fachbereich
Gesellschaftswissenschaften 03

100 Jahre Soziologie
an der Goethe Universität

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DER UNIVERSITÄT

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Diffracting AI & Robotics

Decolonial and Feminist Perspectives

Symposium and Workshop | 11-12 October 2019

Renate von Metzler-Saal, Casino building, Campus Westend
Seminarhaus SH 5.101, Campus Westend

Organization:

Josef Barla (Goethe University)
Pat Treusch (TU Berlin)
Christoph Hubatschke (University of Vienna)

Friday, 11 October 2019

Renate von Metzler-Saal, Casino building, Campus Westend, Nina-Rubinstein-Weg 1
(open for public, no registration required)

09:00 – 09:15 Arrival

09:15 – 09:30 Welcome

09:30 – 11:15 Panel I: Feminist Interventions

Of Knitters & Critters: Assembling A Feminist Techno-Utopia
Pat Treusch, TU Berlin

Beyond the Frame: Design Methods with Radical Care
Daniela Rosner, University of Washington

Diffracting Machine Learning With Feminist Epistemology
Goda Klumbyte, Kassel University

11:15 – 11:45 Coffee break

11:45 – 13:00 Panel II: Diffracting Human-Machine-Interactions

Which Methods Contribute to Socially Fair and Social Theoretically Desirable Robots?
Corinna Bath, TU Braunschweig

From Trust to Vulnerability - Philosophical Perspectives on Social HRI
Glenda Hannibal, TU Vienna

13:00 – 14:15 Lunch break

14:15 – 16:00 Panel III: Undesigning Injustice, Queering Robotics

Making Critical Tech – Design Activism and AI
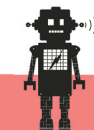Michelle Christensen & Florian Conradi, UdK Berlin / Weizenbaum Institute

Diffracting Sexbots. Decolonial and Feminist Perspectives on Sexrobots
Tanja Kubes, TU Munich

Future Love(s): Research Notes on Transformative Sex? Tech
Krizia Puig, University of California, Santa Cruz

16:00 – 16:30 Coffee break

16:30 – 18:00 Keynote Lecture

Robotic Flesh: The Racial Erotics of the Real
Mitali Thakor, Wesleyan University
Discussant: Josef Barla, Goethe University Frankfurt

Saturday, 12 October 2019

Seminarhaus SH 5.101, Campus Westend, Max-Horkheimer-Straße 4

10:00 – 14:00 Workshop „Diffracting AI and Robotics"

The workshops shall spark a dialog between early carrier scholars from different disciplines critically exploring questions of de/coloniality, social justice, response-ability, dis/ability, and techno-biopower, to name but a few, as well as potential challenges for decolonializing, feminist, queer, crip, and other critical scholars in engaging critically with intelligent machines, code, and algorithms.