

# The role of disability, religion and belief in ethics of Al

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#### Overview

- Ethics committee membership
- Disability models
  - Role of Al
- Religion and belief
  - Role of Al
- Ethics structure (legislation)
- Questions we can raise

## Who is an academic?

- Left leaning
- Labour voting
- No faith / religious belief or belong to the 'right' religion
- Believe the same thing about BAME
- Dare not say anything different!

# Who are the members of Ethics Committees?

- Academics!
- The membership is homogenous
- Similar views (if different, don't say it)
- No ToR for ethics committees or frameworks
- Legal issues led vs. genuine debate



# What guides ethics?

- Data protection
- Privacy
- Legislation
  - Who is responsible for monitoring
  - What is the responsibility of media do they communicate responsibly and realistically?
  - Can AI help and would this lead to replacing humans?
- Equality of access
- Realistic expectations and limitations

# Medical Model of Disabilities (Local Authority websites)

- People are disabled by their impairments or differences.
- These impairments or differences should be 'fixed' or changed by medical and other treatments, even when the impairment or difference does not cause pain or illness.
- Looks at what is 'wrong' with the person and not what the person needs/context.
- Creates low expectations and leads to people losing independence, choice and control in their own lives.



#### Social Model of Disability (Local **Authority** websites)

- Disabled people developed the social model of disability because the traditional medical model did not explain their personal experience of disability or help to develop more inclusive ways of living.
- Disability is caused by the way society is organised, rather than by a person's impairment or difference.
- It looks at ways of removing barriers that restrict life choices for disabled people.
- When barriers are removed, disabled people can be independent and equal in society, with choice and control over their own lives.

# How does AI help those with Disabilities?

#### Examples of AI removing barriers

- Vision
  - Google Lens
    - Mainstream product, ask for object and text recognition using camera
  - Be My Al
    - Extension to Be My Eyes where 60% of items are identified by Al
- Hearing
  - Ava/ RogerVoice
    - Al based captioning and translation to transcribe group conversations in real time, text-to-speech including correcting regular words from friends and family
  - Signapse
    - Al based real time signing software

#### Communication

- Speech recognition
- Google
  - Project Euphonia/Relate AI used to improve speech recognition models for eg. speech disabilities like cerebral palsy or tricky English accents
- Alexa / Siri / Google
- Google Lens using AI for visual search

## Other learning tools

- ChatGPT
  - Adaptation recommendations
- Grammarly
  - Helping with details
- Alexa / Google
  - Prompts, timers, radio

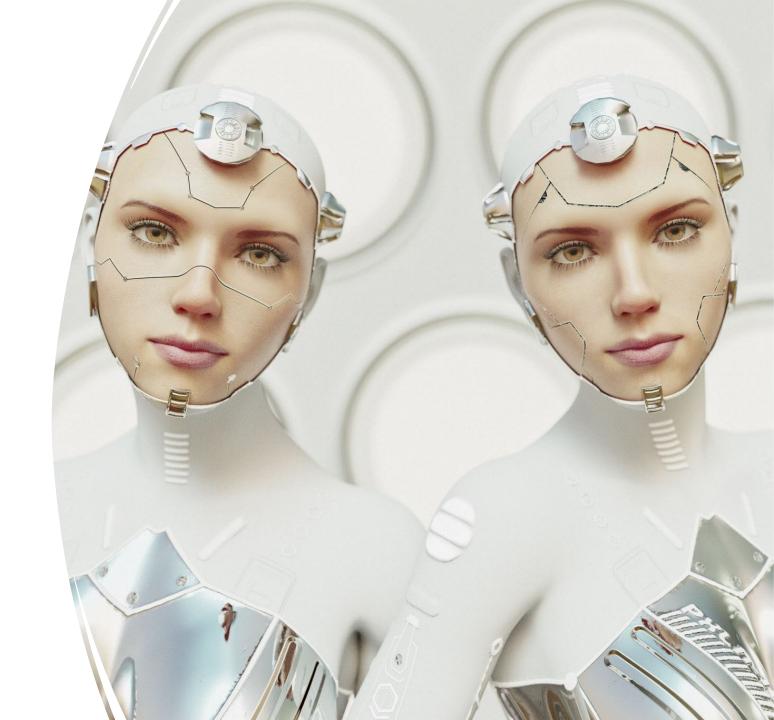


#### How does AI exclude disabled users (Part 1)

- Fin Tech / Digital Finance data based on disabled users. eg.
  - Memory issues and carer control
  - WCAG compliance
- Recruitment
  - Personality tests
  - Facial disabilities
  - Accessibility of tests
  - Diversity of data

# How does Al exclude disabled users (Part 2)

- Generation of visual images of disabled
  - Glamourized images eg. cybernetics vs. cochlear implants



### Bias vs. Discrimination

- Bias is built unconsciously or consciously from experience (human) or data (AI)
- Discrimination is what results from bias



# How has Al impacted religion (examples)

- Delivers sermons
- Delivers religious teachings
- Performs rituals
- Takes confessions
- Can provide companionship as a responsive statue



## How does AI cause problems / discriminate against religion and belief

- How the soul is perceived
- The role of Gods replaced
- Religious teachings are stepped on



### Some definitions

- Dis false and misleading information with intent to deceive
- Mis false and misleading information with/without intent to deceive
- Deepfake is false and misleading information or image (with/without intent to deceive)



How Al impacts on political belief Example: Al fake news / elections

- Influences your views with with mis/dis information / deep fakes
- Intersectionality (with disabled users)
  - Those who cannot visually see the difference
  - Those who are less 'streetwise' online
- There are tools to help navigate
  - Eg. www.ask-silver.com



#### Drones in War

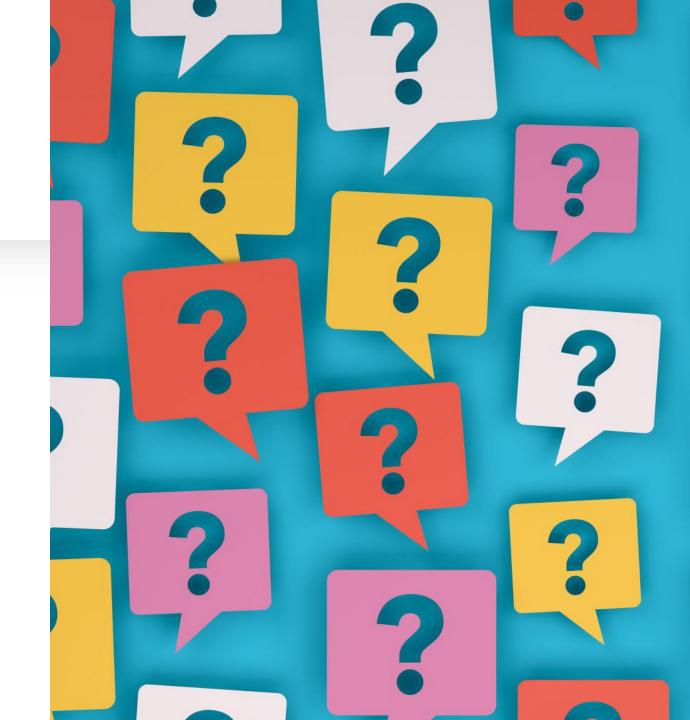
- The Al informed drones in war
  - Decision making
  - Creation
  - Power/agency we give AI



# Questions from religious perspective (Christianity)

#### "Love one another"

- How does Al impact on our relationships?
- What is our relationship with AI?
- Criteria for relationships (embodiment)
  - Relationships (placeholder for authentic relationship)
  - Speak to and hear the other communication (permission to use)
  - Aid the other agency how much agency do we want to give / have?
  - Do it gladly can AI have emotions? It can recognize and analyse



# Example: AI generated music

- Music can be a relationship between collaborations
  - Relationship between the instrument and the musician
  - Musician to musician
- What is Al's role?
  - Al doesn't work in isolation (rarely)
  - Al works with repository of huge number of artists



#### Al as Teachers

- What makes teachers important?
  - Emotional intelligence
  - Empathy
- Al has as much or more knowledge / information than teachers

## Other faith based questions

- Programming something that hasn't lived or not alive creation
- We are building for people and other living things - stewardship



# Truth - importance

- Truth is described as a way of life in many religions
- Truth is a value in societies as a moral compass
- · Aims of deceit
  - Financial gain
  - Winning a war
- Values of a society can be embedded in truth



#### Ethics - disability

- 23% of the working population in the UK is not in work
- 17% of us will gain a disability during our working lives
- 72% of productivity goes up when reasonable adjustments are made
- AI can amplify human ability
- AI can learn and get better



# Legislation: Disability

- Equality Act 2010
- Public Sector Bodies Accessibility Regulation 2018
- Down Syndrome Act 2022
- European Equality Act 2024



#### Legislation: Al

- EU AI Act 2024
- UK a Private members bill went to House of Lords in March 2024 – is currently at 3<sup>rd</sup> reading



## Current state of ethics

- Legal model
- Risk driven
- We are stuck here





#### Frameworks

- Ethics
- Human Rights
- Law



## Faith and belief

- opportunity to deeply explore the role of faith communities in Al stewardship
- an area where collective ethical reflection and community involvement are crucial



#### Ethical Frameworks: 4 basic categories

- We should do good
- Minimise harm
- Respect human autonomy
- Be just or fair



- Data governance where does your data go?
- Is the data used to train AI?
- Do they meet standards of information security?
- How do you address bias?
- How do you make Al transparent and responsible?

#### Questions

- Are current accessibility standards sufficient for AI?
- How does our legislation have to change to include AI?
- What do we involve our communities in thinking about AI?
- How do ethics, rights and legislation connect?
- What does AI have to do to be more inclusive?
- Is an ethical framework sufficient?



#### Summary

- Ethics committees
- Disability and AI
- Religion and belief and AI
- Legislation and ethics
- Questions

