Cyber Security and Artificial Intelligence The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Religion: Reconciling a New Relationship with God

> Melissa A. Rendsburg July 5, 2019 • United Nations and Global Policy Studies • Rutgers University

Presentation Overview

The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Religion: Reconciling a New Relationship with God

I hope to accomplish the following goals with this presentation:

(1) Though there is fear surrounding the idea that AI will take over the world and replace humanity, this will not be the case.

It is the responsibility of the engineers who are creating autonomous machines to ensure that robots can complement and assist humans in becoming better versions of themselves;

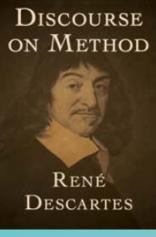
- (2) Artificial intelligence will challenge and change religion as we know it. Through technological advancements, the concept of the Divine will be completely transformed;
- (3) Humans will no longer turn to God to answer questions that are set forth in the Hebrew Bible, the New Testament, the Qur'an, or other sacred texts.

Instead, humans will ask these questions through science, as they delve deeper into what cannot be known without the input and expertise of AI.

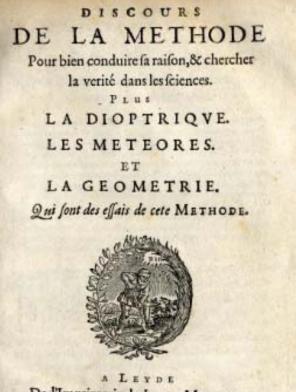
French Mathematician, Scientist, and co-founder of modern Philosophy

René Descartes (1596-1650) *cogito, ergo sum* "I Think, Therefore I Am"

- I Think, Therefore I Am
- cogito, ergo sum, is the Latin proposition posited by the French mathematician, scientist, and one of the founders of modern philosophy, René Descartes.
- The phrase makes its initial appearance in Descartes writings, *Discourse on the Method of Rightly Conducting the Reason, and Seeking Truth in the Science* (1637).





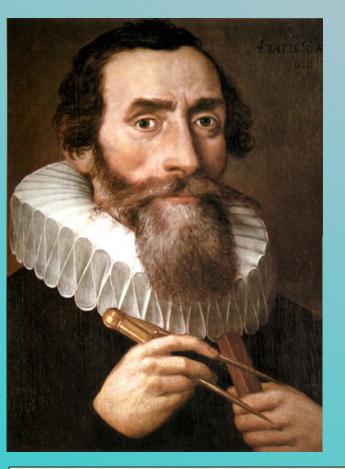


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Discours de la Méthode (1637)



René Descartes (1596-1650)



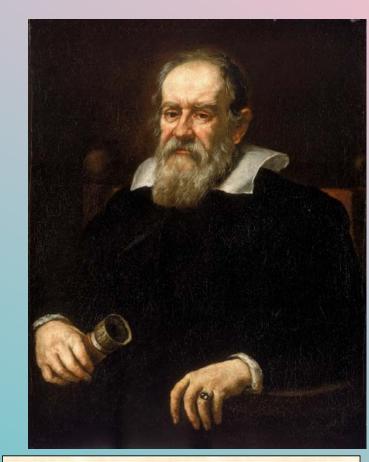
Johannes Kepler (1571–1630) portrait by an unknown artist, 1610

Scientists and Inventors

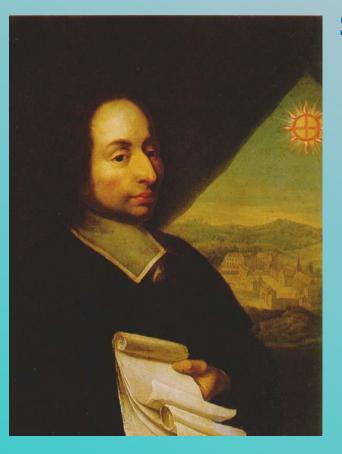
I do not feel obliged to believe that the same God who has endowed us with sense, reason, and intellect has intended us to forgo their use. – Galileo



René Descartes (1596-1650)



Galileo Galilei (1564–1642) portrait by Justus Sustermans, 1636

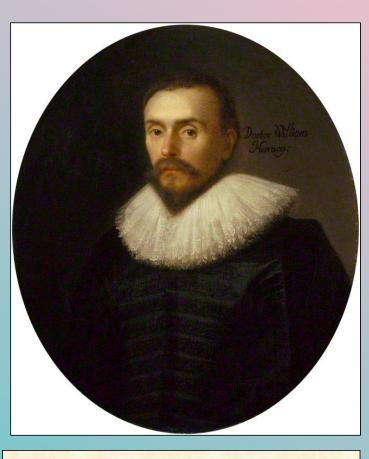


Scientists and Inventors



Religion should be used to study the spiritual world, while science should be used to study the physical world.

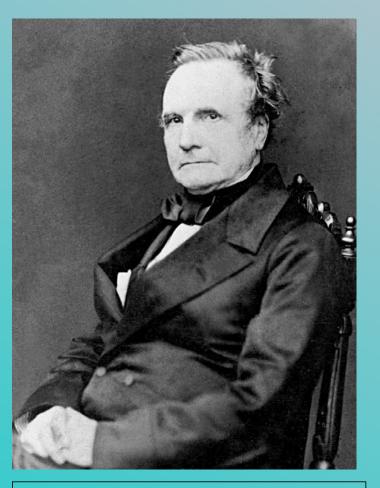
- Descartes (1596-1650)



William Harvey (1578–1657) portrait attributed to Daniël Mijtens, c. 1627

Blaise Pascal (1623–1662) portrait of unknown date by an unknown artist

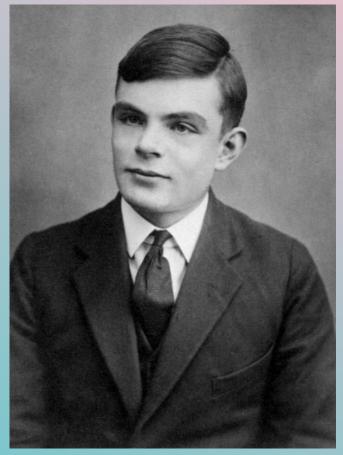
"The father of the computer"



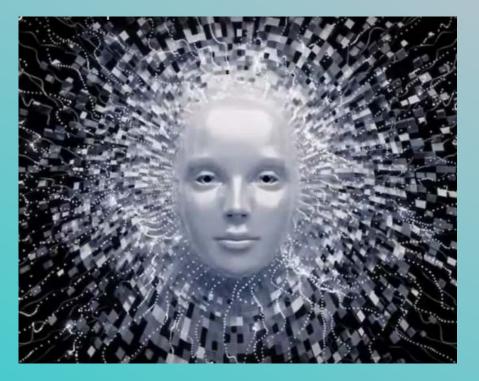
Charles Babbage (1791–1871)

A computer would deserve to be called intelligent if it could deceive a human into believing that it was human. – Alan Turing

"the father of theoretical computer science and artificial intelligence"



Alan Turing (1912–1954), age 16



Descartes Would Have Been Delighted

- Descartes would have been delighted to see machines being "trained" to recognize the alphabet.
- To see machines beginning to mimic the human brain and nervous system through neural networks.
- What he could not have foreseen were the 10 billion calculations per second that a computer can perform.
- Nor could he know that the human brain consists of more than 100 billion nerve cells (neurons).
- These developments and discoveries would all still come later, when computers would catch up and even overtake human abilities, outpacing them as engineers worked on finding a way to implant a consciousness into machines.

Unquenchable Thirst for Knowledge



Humans are the only species on the planet that have the unquenchable thirst for knowledge, with the greatest challenge for a human is to learn, to be more conscious, and to become aware.





Religion & Science

Over millennia, it was the religious leaders and philosophers who studied the mind and human spirituality through sacred texts, but now it is the neuro scientists.



MAARS: Modular Advanced Armed Robotic System



Whoever Controls AI, Controls the World

- The United States military has been spending millions and millions of dollars on research to build robotic machines that kill.
- Soon after such robots are built, human beings will be pitted against machines on the battlefield.
- The first phase has already begun with the U.S. military using Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicles (UCAV), drones, to fight wars with "target killings."
- "Whoever becomes the leader in this sphere will become the ruler of the world."

-Russian president Vladimir Putin

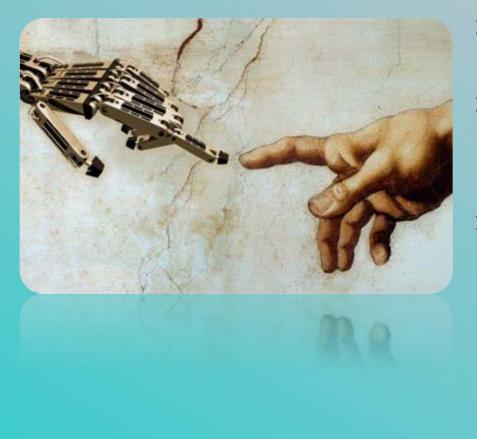
Emerging Technologies 4th Industrial Revolution



- The 4th industrial revolution is defined as the culmination of emerging technologies that include artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning (ML), 3-D printing, Internet of Things (IoT), and others.
- Compared to previous industrial revolutions, the Fourth is evolving exponentially, and people are having trouble keeping pace with the breadth of transformation that has taken place through entire systems of production, management, and governance.

The Oneness of All Things

Impact of AI on Religion



- Could artificial intelligence reveal the nature of consciousness and our role in the universe?
- Will AI engineers be able to replicate the uniquely distinctive human mind and activate in a machine that same impulse that 80% of humans on Earth have: to search for the Divine, the Creator?
- Religions have been humanity's invaluable source of where to draw their truths and have offered humans to look inward toward Self-discovery. Religion has been that vehicle up to this point to help humankind answer questions concerning the meaning and nature of the universe, the purpose and meaning of humans on Earth, and for those religions that hold this belief, the nature of the soul and its relation to the physical body.

AI to Assist Searching for Answers



No one knows the answers to these questions, but artificial intelligence can certainly assist humans in searching for the answers. Such questions are what all religions have always attempted to answer.

AI Assists in Searching for Answers





- Although miracles of truth can be found in all religious experiences, there is a shift taking place that shows studies pointing to the fact that religious beliefs are already in decline around the world.
- Many factors are contributing to this, with one of those claiming that humanity is moving away from worshipping in traditional manners and moving towards what is seen as the 'new god' of society: technology. In the words of the American.
- "In past eras, we as humans were always looking up to God, but in today's era, we are always looking down at our smartphones, computers and other devices" - Dan Brown,
- It is not that far of a jump to realize that artificial intelligence will eventually replace belief in traditional religions, as AI will develop the tools and methods needed to expand the mind to reach mental enlightenment.

Church of Artificial Intelligence



- There is the real possibility of an AI god to emerge in the next 25 years, writing its own bible and being worshipped by humans.
- As AI begins to go beyond its computerized systems of voice and face recognition, playing chess and Go, operating a driverless car, or delivering packages to postal addresses via drones, it will develop into an intelligence that has the capacity to understand or learn any intellectual task in the same way a human does using cognitive abilities.
- "Strong AI," or Sentient artificial general intelligence, will one day be capable of experiencing consciousness.

Designing AI For the Greater Good

- Rather than fearing whether or not there will be an AI god within the next 25 years, it would be prudent for engineers to begin designing AIs that have a fuller cultural worldview, so that they may work for the greater good of humanity.
- One way to do this is to make use of an interdisciplinary team that can bring a range of understanding so that the AIs can be trained to think more broadly and universally.





Artificial Intelligence has the potential to accelerate progress towards a dignified life, in peace and prosperity, for all people. The time has arrived for all of us – governments, industry, and civil society – to consider how AI will affect our future.

- UN Secretary- General António Guterres

- As AI evolves into a benevolent tool for humanity with its prime directive to be an instrument that enhances the quality of life, perhaps this will bring about a more refined human race where there is greater integrity in government, politics, and science, and where compassion and empathy are key.
- This could mean an ending to all starving and killings of human beings, abusing of animals, and poisoning of the Earth. This will be the beginning of a planet that will know peace.

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Shank You!

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