Discussion Set #1
How AI is changing global understanding and cooperation

Discussion for "The Business of Artificial Intelligence"
Prof Keith Chan
Redeeming Technology, Session 3.
3rd February 2018

- Christians can use AI to continue the work begun at Pentecost – speak many languages.
- Search and semantics algorithms suggest article or conversations based on past behaviour.
- AI collaboration systems coordinate teamwork in diverse groups for disaster relief, volunteer organization, gather, display and analyse data to enable effective response.

Discussion Questions

- How might Christians work with AI systems to communicate our faith?
- How can Christians show God's love and remain open to those in need despite tendencies of AI systems to surround us with familiar, comfortable information?
- Increased connectivity sometimes exposes extreme views and increases conflict. How can Christians engage with people and ideas as peacemakers?

Discussion Set #2
Relating to artificial persons in everyday life

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- IPA (intelligent process automation) systems make phone calls, schedule meetings, answer questions, and order products.
- The way we treat the beings in our lives (human and non-human, animate and inanimate) can shape our own character in other situations.
- IPAs have also long been the subject of fantasies about power and sex.
- IPAs can cause (or allow) humans to turn away from human contact.

Discussion Questions

- How might relationships with IPAs deepen our worship and our human understanding?
- How should Christians think about the morality of the ways we treat artificial persons?
- Can Christianity offer ways to think about creating beings in our own image that include relationships other than servitude?

Discussion Set #3
How will AI transform work, creativity, and purpose?

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- Predictions about the fraction of UK, EU and US jobs replaced by automation by 2030 ranged from 5%, 30% to 50%.
- AI systems can monitor the work force using cameras or brain-wave detecting hats.
- Unemployment may cause societal damage to people's purpose and sense of self-worth.
- Owners of AI systems profit from automated labour trained by collecting personal data.
- AI can generate art, music, and language.
- Work with AI can discover new understandings that reflect wisdom and creativity of our Creator.

Discussion Questions

- How can Christians respond to the changing nature of work and the effect it is having on our communities, especially the most vulnerable?
- How can Christians use AI to create new opportunities for people to serve each other?
- What effect does AI-based management have on the value and dignity of human work?
- Can Christianity clearly imagine a human identity that is not diminished if machines are able to match or exceed our abilities in producing, creating, and serving?

Discussion Set #4
AI in counselling and spiritual care

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- AI is transforming care for mental and spiritual well-being:
    - large-scale data collection on people's intimate thoughts/actions,
    - interpretation of people's emotional and spiritual conditions,
    - coordination of counselling and emergency responses.
- Facebook uses AI to assess users' risk of suicide from what they write and say, and how their friends respond.
- AI reduces the costs of mental health counselling by intelligently assembling personalised therapies.
- AI may provide a measure of spiritual well-being by tracking people's mobile phones and communications, being able to monitor and intervene on a wide range of spiritual and moral issues.

Discussion Questions

- What theologies of privacy and accountability could guide an era where our intimate spiritual, emotional, and prayer lives are observed and judged by automated systems?
- What might Christian teaching on personal transformation offer a society that increasingly relates to each other based on predictive modelling?
- Just as Christians have pioneered crisis telephone lines, how can Christian ministries use AI systems to heal the broken-hearted?

Discussion Set #5
What does machine consciousness mean for Christianity?

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- What does it mean to be human?
- To what extent is the gift of salvation tied to our humanity?
- What if AI achieve consciousness?
- Effort to differentiate humans from AI can weaken our view of humanity when we create definitions of thinking, emotions, or creativity.
- Can an AI worship?

Discussion Questions

- How does thinking about AI help us respect the fullness of each other's personhood?
- How can technology development be shaped by the full diversity of human experience?
- Where in our lives have automated technologies deepened or extended our worship?

Discussion Set #6
How AI is shaping ideas of sin, justice, freedom, and forgiveness?

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- Surveillance and law enforcement system
    - Observe human behaviour, detect alleged wrongdoing, make predictions for law enforcements.
    – UK, US use AI system to direct police patrols, prompt investigations of domestic violence.
    – Predictive sentencing has been adopted by judges in the US as AI systems learn from historical data. (Might these reproduce historical unjust discrimination?)
- Human justice delegated to AI.
- There was a case of a video conversation app users contacted by 10-year old girl offering to perform sexual acts on camera. Girl was computer-generated.

Discussion Questions

- What can Christians offer a world that expects machines to predict our moral futures?
- As AIs increase the number of people observed and processed in government and for-profit legal systems, how might Christian thought on sin and justice shape them?
- How can Christians circumvent or resist algorithmic constraints on religious freedom?
- How should we understand acts of sin or harm against artificial persons?

Discussion Set #7
Finance, charity and fairness

Discussion for "The Business of Artificial Intelligence"
Prof Keith Chan
Redeeming Technology, Session 3.
3rd February 2018

- AI is transforming charity, humanitarian relief, and international development:
    – deciding who is eligible for loans,

    – providing humanitarian responses based on predictive analytics,

    – predicting credit score without necessary understanding of fairness, and with limited accountability,

    – affecting people's giving through analytics ranking news and social media.
- AI trading based on "fake news".
- Financial access to poorest people based on credit score prediction.

Discussion Questions

- How much of our prayers and generosity are shaped by news and social media trends?
- What priorities might Christians offer to an AI that decides how to allocate resources?
- How might AI help churches and charities predict and respond to emerging needs?
- What ideas of fairness might Christian thought bring to the governance of AI systems?