



EVENT THEME ABSTRACT

AI: A tough Love!

Siri, will you marry me?

Language assistants have long since stopped just reading news or giving information about the weather - they are becoming constantly familiar. While language has so far been reserved for humans, talking computers are increasingly changing our relationship to technology. We click, type and scroll - and while we teach machines to speak, they also begin to play obediently by our rules. The line between humans and machines is thus becoming increasingly blurred. Almost like a partner who does not leave our side, always ready to make our lives easier, with the ability to forgive unconditionally and never asks for anything - AI is now even able to make jokes and almost always responds to our human needs in the right way. As a result, we perceive our digital assistants as if they were alive.

At a time when sex robots are being introduced at the world's largest electronics trade fairs and language assistants such as Alexa, Siri & Co. are becoming increasingly sophisticated, a reality in which sex robots replace interpersonal contact seems not far away. But don't such products normalize loneliness and alienation in interpersonal relationships? Following the example of anti-porn feminism, several academic critics complain the development of sexbot technology, arguing that it objectifies and subordinates' women, probably promotes misogynistic attitudes towards sex, and may need to be banned or restricted. Does such a future for ethics and robotics researchers resemble a dystopia that must be prevented or does the ethics of the technology allow for a new discourse on gender norms, feminism, as well as male and female sexual desire? In fact, often we forget the human aspect and the human decision making that sits in the heart of all algorithms.

TEDxHUBerlin would like to reflect on the connection between the calculating machine and the emotional human being. Practice shows that the worlds between humans, nature and technology already collide massively. From workflow management tools to AI board members, to an AI-based sustainability revolution or a humanoid love-machine, there are no limits to the future. Every move we make influences future Innovations – maybe even making us part of a living simulation today?

We would like to invite speakers to take a snapshot of this development to reflect on the current state of affairs, to present AI as an innovation accelerator, to take a look at possible threats or to give a creative outlook on how our future can be shaped by Machine Learning, Big Data & Co. After all, not everyone is ready for humanoid spouses, in this case we would like to hear why humans are the next big thing!

Therefore, the team of TEDxHUBerlin happily welcomes submissions from the fields of psychology, humanities, technology, art, culture, science fiction and entertainment. As always, different formats are conceivable: theoretical reflections, commentaries, practical examples, utopias & dystopias, thought games, music or field reports.

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