

Review of: "[Essay] Not Quite Like Us? — Can Cyborgs and Intelligent Machines Be Natural Persons as a Matter of Law?"

Kushal Shah

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Very interesting paper! I fully agree that sapience is a much better yardstick as compared to sentience, since many animals also clearly have properties of sentience. However, it is still not clear to me if sapience will work as a good differentiator in the future. The authors talk of humans with AI powered limbs, which is easy to handle. But there is also a possibility that AI powered devices could enable at least some animals to make a huge leap in intelligence and rationality, bringing them quite close to sapience. There is no fundamental difference between humans and animals in terms of biology, and so it is quite possible that what would have taken some animals to achieve in a million years of evolution may now happen in a few decades through AI. I think it might be worthwhile to consider the possibility that in the future, there will be no clear distinction between humans and other life forms, and start thinking about a suitable legal system to handle that situation. That may also be helpful in other ways by promoting a more sustainable way of living where all life forms are given appropriate importance.