

Review of: "[Essay] The Algorithm; Mind of a Virtual Era – Our Code of Codes"

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This article is a well written comment on the development of AI in the 20th and 21st century. I greatly appreciate the style in which the historical steps are described. Looking at the topic outlined in the initial paragraphs the historical part is slightly too extended. The question of how algorithms change human consciousness and thinking is of utmost importance today. In that regard, however we have not only entered a new era today with ChatGPT and other language models and advanced AI's. The general structure of artificial intelligence has remained quite unchanged since the first computers, and the anthropocene as a concept is in use since the very beginning of our century.

Complexity and computing power surely have developed with great acceleration. Also, the way we use digital devices is very different in comparison to just two decades ago. The somewhat alarmist style in which the article warns of the negative impact on human cognitive systems is not wrong but in parts too pessimistic and methodologically not fully undergirded. Overall it is a good start to think critically about contemporary technology and especially education of the coming generations.

Beyond warning of the dangers at least two perspectives should be taken into account: First education should aim at digital literacy and teach as early as possible children basic coding skills and critical thinking to enable emancipated use of digital media. Second it is necessary to give fine grained phenomenological and psychological accounts of what is lost and gained. Since human minds are always changing with the different media and tools we are using, new skills will always be developed. We also know that older skills usually do not get fully lost but repurposed in cognitive evolution. So, there might be hope that human cognition is not as doomed as it seems today.

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