

Review of: "“The Forbidden Planet”: AI and Psychology: Prepare and Sound the Alarm!"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The essay begins with a description of the movie "Forbidden Planet," which was produced about 70 years ago. A machine was built by a past civilization on a planet, which equipped the subconscious of the planet's inhabitants with limitless power and ultimately destroyed them. The author of the essay draws a comparison between the story of the movie and the present day. He believes that today, modern AI does indeed pose a threat to humanity and even has the potential to destroy humanity - at least what defines it. He sees the rapid development of AI and its omnipresent use as the greatest challenge the profession of psychology has ever faced.

After the introduction, the author uses various topics to show how fundamental the changes that are already taking place as a result of AI are. Specifically, he names, among other things, artificially generated images and videos that appear real to the viewer, AI companions that provide companionship, friendship, partnership, and with whom people will probably spend more and more time in the virtual world in the coming years or decades, AI generators that can write essays and poems, create pictures, or compose pieces of music, and holographic projections of the deceased that persons can talk to.

In between, the author raises the question of whether we are possibly digital beings living in a matrix. Without committing himself to an answer, he states that private life and social coexistence will increasingly take place virtually. In this context, the author states that, in his opinion, it is not androids that will become part of everyday life in the future, but avatars. He assumes that a large part of everyday life will take place virtually in the future.

Psychology would face the challenge of helping people to adapt to this "radically post-human" world. Financial, intellectual, and ethical resources should be directed in this direction, according to the author, if psychology is to survive as a profession.

The essay is good, and the topic is very interesting and relevant. One point of criticism is that the text seems a little fragmented in parts. The author repeatedly raises questions that are interesting but bear little relation to the topic, e.g., whether AI persons should be granted a certain status, whether they should be treated with respect, and whether it makes a difference whether it is an android or an avatar. There is no reference here to psychology or how psychology could address these issues. The same applies to the example of the golems of the Kabbalists of the Middle Ages. This introduces an interesting aspect, but it should be described in more detail what this has to do with psychology as a

profession.

It becomes clear that the author is skeptical about the current development, and in particular, the simulation of artefacts, situations, or feelings. In his opinion, we could soon be living on a "forbidden planet" ourselves. The essay concludes with the demand that psychology should prepare itself and sound the alarm. It must be said that preparing and sounding the alarm are two very different (if not opposing) things. The question arises as to what preparation might look like and what the desirable outcomes would be. My suggestion would be to at least begin to answer these questions, to give a direction, so that the interesting essay moves from being a problem-centered essay to a solution-oriented essay. Another suggestion would be to consider another title.