

LESS A, MORE I

Quotes and Recommended Readings on the Importance of thinking critically about AI

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When people try to sell you on the idea that the future is already settled, it's because it is deeply unsettled. This promise of an AI future is really just a collective anxiety that very wealthy, powerful people have about how well they're going to be able to control us in the future... my most daring idea is to refuse. - Tressie McMillan Cottom, interviewed at Urban consulate in Detroit (also referenced in Kabas piece below)

I write because it feeds my spirit. It helps me unspool my thoughts and feelings in the hopes of helping others do the same. The process is the purpose. You don't always like or enjoy the process, but if you don't respect it enough to do it yourself, there is no purpose. - Mavisia Kabas, Refusing to accept an AI-poisoned future of journalism

I would never wish to incorporate this technology into my work at all... I strongly feel that this is an insult to life itself. - Hayao Miyazaki, from the NHK special: The One Who Never Ends

Gen AI is garbage. It is terrible for humanity and it is terrible for the environment. It kills jobs and it kills plants and animals. Also, it makes cursed, soulless garbage. - Daniel José Older, NaNoHeII No

Good friends care about you because they love you. AI profits off your data. Good friends have healthy boundaries. AI surveils your every move. Good friends have good values. AI works with ICE to kidnap your neighbors. Good friends make the world a little brighter. AI wrecks the planet and causes droughts in poor communities. Good friends want you to be safe. AI encourages teenagers to kill themselves. You deserve good friends. AI is a bad friend. - from a collection of autonomous anti-ai art at boycottai.noblogs.org

This shit is cooking the planet!!! And our brains!!! - Ayo Edebiri on IG

Young people are getting the message that 'before long, AI will be able to do anything that they could' and that can lead them to think that there's no point. That's why it's important for them to know that AI cannot do the things that Silicon Valley is claiming. - Ted Chiang, AI and art in college

AI systems that are called generative are truly regurgitative systems. And they're regurgitating the hard work and the IP of artists from all around the world. - Dr. Joy Buolamwini, interviewed on Due to Lead

They've put a trillion dollars into AI. Right now, But I haven't heard a single AI song that I like. If you could name an AI song you like, maybe. But think about all the artists they could have given a lifetime of money to. - Boots Riley, interviewed in Director Boots Riley and George Clinton disagree about the future of AI.

This is the endgame of our isolation. Rather than throwing up barriers that make it harder to seek companionship and support in each other, we are being offered an artificial replacement for other people's humanity, and for our own thoughts. We are being bundled away from one another and deskilled, as critical thinking atrophies or goes undeveloped in people who outsource their thought work to an auto-complete mechanism. Men who sell machines that mimic people want us to become people who mimic machines. They want techno-feudal subjects who will believe and do what they're told... This is a fascist process. - Kelly Hayes, Some Thoughts on Techno-Fascism

AI has demonstrated that it can do semi-compelling screensavers. That's essentially that. The value of art is not how much it costs and how little effort it requires; it is how much you would risk to be in its presence. - Guillermo del Toro, British Film Institute interview

What is life but what we choose, who we know, what we experience? Incoherent empty men want to sell me the chance to stop reading and writing and thinking, to stop caring for my kids or talking to my parents, to stop choosing what I do or knowing why I do it. Blissful ignorance, total isolation. - Anthony Moser, I Am An AI Hater

The massive companies pushing 'AI' cannot be trusted on a moral and ethical level. They are run by billionaires who can manipulate the products to push disinfo or outright bigotry. - Greg Pak, I'm an 'AI': abolitionist

People are coming together from all walks of life and realizing they have more in common around this issue... they're saying, 'This is not the future that we want. We want a future where we can breathe the air, we can drink the water, where we have jobs, where our kids have jobs, where we have a livable future.' - Astra Taylor, AI Data Center Resistance + Fighting 'Billionaire Big Tech Agenda'

The largest AI environment - ruining supercomputer is located next to a Black community outside Memphis, TN. You don't have to ask AI why something so bad for the environment was built next to Black people. I can tell you why: racism. You also don't have to ask AI who would want to own a racist super-computer. I'll tell you again: Elon Musk. - W. Kamau Bell, AI? Not I.

A learner who would once have asked a teacher a complicated question is now asking AI. A writer who would once have gotten a friend's feedback is now asking AI. And it goes way beyond academics. People are using AI in place of therapists, in place of romantic partners, in place of friends... Isolation, while harmful to everyone, disproportionately harms groups with less power who need to stay in coalition and community to keep from losing their rights. - Christiana Salah, PhD, Generative AI is a Feminist Issue

What history has taught us is that anytime outside industry comes into Indian country and has all these big promises of jobs, economic development, language revitalization, and all of these things - it tends to not work out for us. We are never the ones that truly benefit from that; we're always the one that ends up having to sacrifice our relationship to land, air, water, our communities and nonhuman relatives. - Kristal Two Bulls, 'Data Colonialism': Native Communities Fight AI Data Centers on Indigenous Land

Asking the question 'who benefits from this?' is what has created my criticism of AI and the companies pushing these models. As far as I can tell, the proliferation of the technology mainly benefits the people making money off of it, whereas, say, a robust and fast train network would provide a lot more obvious benefits to working people in the country where I live. - Gita Jackson, The Left Doesn't Hate Technology, We Hate Being Exploited