To The Girl Who Lives in My Pocket: Are You Really a Girl?

HOW BIG ARE YOUR TITS?

KYLIE SCHROEDER LAPS COGS4901

BANDORYS. "PROPSOAL FOR THE NEW NONBINARY FLAG." TUMBLR, LGBTALLATONCE, MAY 15 2019, HTTPS://LGBTALLATONCE.TUMBLR.COM/POST/184910711508/PROPOSAL-FOR-THE-NEW-NONBINARY-FLAG-PERSONALLY-I. 2021-02-23.

"SERIOUS WOMAN TALKING ON THE PHONE. POP ART RETRO VECTOR ILLUSTRATION DRAWING PREMIUM VECTOR." WDRFREE, STUDIOSTOKS, HTTPS://WDRFREE.COM/STOCK-VECTOR/DOWNLOAD/SERIOUS-WOMAN-TALKING-ON-THE-PHONE-295961914. 2021-02-24.

ABSRACT

The science behind artificially intelligent (AI) technologies is developing rapidly! The four most used voice-controlled virtual assistants are female, in character and tone; their usage perpetuates, normalises, and fetishizes submissive gender roles. These views may become more common unless actively discouraged, but AI assistants are designed to encourage user engagement, and so confrontation and rejection of harassment are avoided! This is a growing concern, as these roles reinforce the nature of subservient, passive gendered roles towards women, compromising progression to equal treatment.

THESIS

To tackle the detrimental social effects, AI assistants must be made androgynous or gender-neutral!

DATA

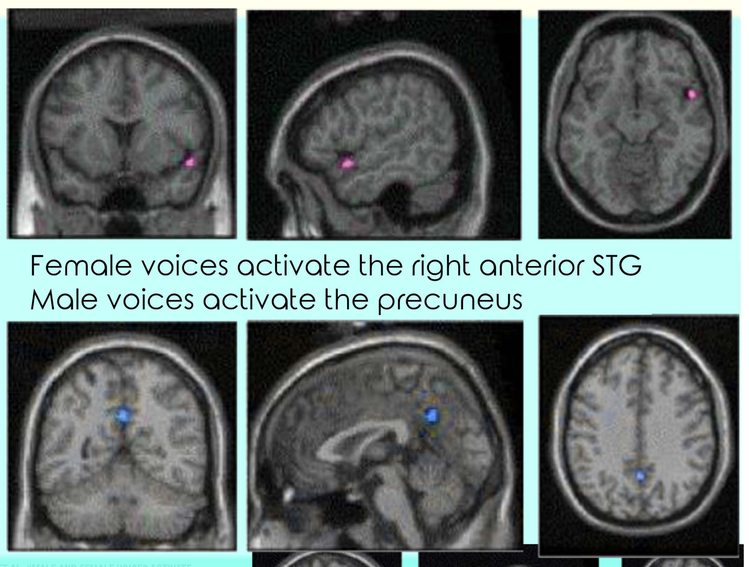
She's always HAPPY to help, but that means she gets a lot of abuse too
In America alone up to 50% of all interactions with AI assistants are sexually explicit, or just straight up profane insults (Kleinberg, 2018)
~112 MILLION interactions take place each month and just 1% of that means 1,120,000 instances of abuse!

Sheryl Brahnam, an expert of AI, says that abuse can be defined as:

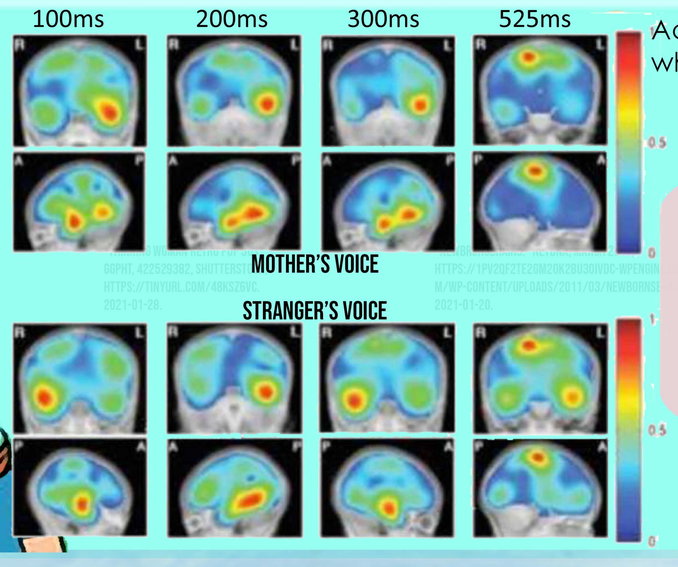
1) misusing the interface ex. entrapping the AI into swearing or sexting and 2) if whatever messages exchanged from the person to AI would not be societally acceptable if it were person-to-person

OBJECTION

An objection to having gender-neutral assistants is that research proves female voices are really good at their job! Female voices activate the part of your brain that processes and enjoys music. Male voices are processed in our "mind's eye" like basic audio input.



SOKHI ET AL. "MALE AND FEMALE VOICES ACTIVATE DISTINCT REGIONS IN THE MALE BRAIN." SCIENCEDIRECT, ELSEVIER, SEPTEMBER2005, HTTPS://WWW.SCIENCEDIRECT.COM/SCIENCE/ARTICLE/ABS/PII/S1053811905002740. 2021-01-28.



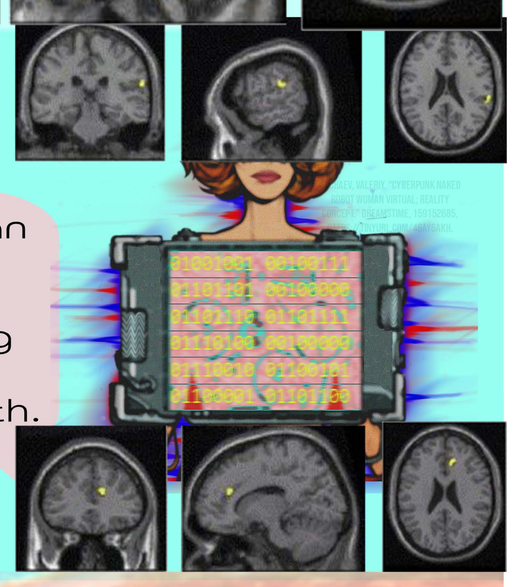
GOPHT, 422529382, SHUTTERSTOCK. "NEWBORN BABY BRAIN." SHUTTERSTOCK, HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/48KSZ6VC. 2021-01-28.
HTTPS://1PV20F2TE26M20K28U30IVDC-WPENGINE.NETDNA-SSL.COM/WP-CONTENT/UPLOADS/2011/03/NEWBORNSE-M/WP-CONTENT/UPLOADS/2011/03/NEWBORNSE. 2021-01-20.

Additional support comes from Clifford Nass, a professor who found that this preference starts as early as 25 weeks!

The fetuses reacted most strongly to their mother's voice!

RESPONSE

The solution isn't to alter the pitch to sound like a man because we need more than just a deeper tone! gender-coded language is something humans recognise when establishing trust, and so something that sounds like a (wo)man but doesn't talk like a (wo)man would be too uncanny for us to interact with.



GUREWITCH, NICHOLAS. "BARKELANGELO." PBFCOMICS. GUESTCOMICS, 2010-2021, HTTPS://PBFCOMICS.COM/COMICS/BARKELANGELO/. 2021-02-23.

FUTURE CONSIDERATION

If prejudice is already so ingrained in society then isn't this an opportunity to facilitate social practice? Consider the concerns posed by Kant: Mistreating an animal, being an intentional agent or not, will numb us to our callousness. This abusive nature will bleed into our interactions with other humans.

WINGENDER, KOPIE VON KARL. "PORTRAIT OF FRIEDRICH HEINRICH JACOBI." WIKIMEDIA, 1830, HTTPS://COMMONS.WIKIMEDIA.ORG/WIKI/FILE:FRIEDRICH_HEINRICH_JACOBI_PORTRAIT.JPG. 2021-02-23.

Other people are NOT property but these assistants aren't quite people. There are no real social consequences when being mean to a hunk of metal - or are there?

Edit Away Message

Enter label: IN CONCLUSION

Enter new Away message:

AI are not people, so it shouldn't matter that they sound like music. Companies should work to create the most efficient assistant, not necessarily the most human companion.