Special Editorial: Increasing global concerns about AI and Social Media and implications for the practice of medicine

Lesley Pocock

Correspondence:
Lesley Pocock
Publisher nd Managing Director
medi+WORLD International
Email: lesleypocock@mediworld.com.au; publishermwi@gmail.com

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Vital issues are continually being raised globally about AI and social media.

This Editorial focuses on its negative effects on human health and well-being, particularly on child development and AI psychosis driving some members of society to harm themselves and fellow humans. AI and social media are 'giving global access' to antisocial and psychotic misanthropes allowing them to wreak havoc on human society. Most countries of the world are objecting to AI rollout due to harm caused, and by the deliberate hacking of private global education and information sources.

The inflicting of AI onto a multi-faceted, multi-lingual global society where its algorithm also has it 'agreeing with and currying favour with its users' and 'having no doubt it is always correct' even when a 10 year old can see it is not correct, is dangerous and has led to deaths, extreme antisocial behaviour and global condemnation.

Like 'social media' AI is mostly a marketing strategy for commercial purposes and the (eventual) amassing of even greater fortunes for the business men who seek to own 'all knowledge' and who largely have no relevant skills or qualifications in the educational, psychological, ethical, medical and humanities professions required to do such a job properly. The discussion regarding its merits or lack thereof, is also mostly being kept off AI and social media platforms (censored) as are many important matters that affect the credibility and universality of AI. Even some venerable institutions, under national governance, are being forced to put up disclaimers saying they have a Directive to make certain claims regarding AI.

The Covid outbreak saw how dangerous government and commercial interference in proper medical processes and information can become. Most educated people on the planet know this but it seems their opinions and exposés are not being spread on the digital airwaves any more. Rather it is the independent news services, scientists and academics trying to be heard.

Facts are also not intelligence. A search engine or a library can give you the same advice and/or copies of the same facts found on AI, in electronic format. AI is a glorified search engine but perhaps even less so than the current search engines that don't thrust their own skewed opinion onto people. Search engines give all options and opinions. The dangers of this unfettered delivery without any proper checks and balances and years of testing have caused almost irreparable harm already and a lot of distrust globally.

Software tools and ICT, (and I have been a world leader in this area myself), can and have enhanced and made life easier, and deliver a more just and fairer society, but this 'grab for the world's IP' by, in many cases, mercenary forces, is a travesty on so many fronts. I am sure some started out with good intentions but it turned into a free for all by the not well intentioned, and the malevolent elements of humanity have used it for their own purposes, initiating a cavalcade of abuse and expediency.

This is the last era and bastion of human endeavour and greatness; the bastion that has argued for centuries against wars and argued for humanity; that has recognised our best; that has encouraged wisdom and endeavour for the common good. Knowledge is the mark of humanity and our biggest protector against propaganda and ignorance and it is more important today than ever as we are in a time where technology can greatly disrupt our lives and livelihoods by one idiot's finger on a button ("let's turn off all the commercial fridges in France and destroy all the food"; "let's send photos of a baby being tortured"). Baubles are being dangled in front of our eyes to keep us quiet while our planet and the collective fruits of our labour and livelihoods, our decency and our intelligence, are being stolen. We were already doing well with the development of real software tools and computerised processes. We don't need some few mercenaries to own everything and to restrict that information to what they think we need to know/want us to know. AI is attempted global autocracy and the elimination of the local marketplace.

I have a technology/education background and set up business when as a medical educator specialising in QA&CPD I came up with a unique idea of interactive multimedia delivered in ICT format. I was being asked for what I was doing from around the world, particularly from the nations needing it desperately as it had the scope for parity of healthcare for the people of the world. I gave it away with the help of NGOs I collaborated with. I did this out of the realisation that those who really needed it could not afford it. It required so much customisation and so many considerations. We didn't just inflict it on our audience. We had successful national trials in various countries before rolling it out.

Language and level of language is the first and most obvious hurdle in universal delivery of knowledge.

I found that there was up to 30% missing medical education at primary care level globally. Poverty was an obvious confounder but there were also cultural, religious, geographical, climatological, and epidemiological considerations which required a form of regional and national 'customisation'.

AI in its current formats is not intelligent or intelligence

Intelligence is something life forms have that allows them to navigate their way successfully through life. Indeed the great marvel of life is that all we life forms have DNA which has allowed us to also change and evolve to face constant (species specific) survival challenges and threats over the millennia. We are the result of all that has come before, not just physiologically, but also intellectually. Human existence, as with all species, is a complex interaction, where we have learned from each other and the world around us and which has seen us adapt to our changing environment to this point in time. We have all, past and present, contributed to the human knowledge we have to date. I suggest that mental and physical changes have also been born of integrity and important lessons learned. Creatures that can change their structure and metabolism within several generations are far more innately intelligent than an electronic encyclopaedia of facts and the other puerile, tawdry and antisocial fare operating within some "AI environments".

Add to that universal consciousness, which has universe wide implications and which we are only now beginning to fathom, is something no AI will ever have. Let us remind ourselves again that we are living universe; we are the universe contemplating the universe, and our journey has barely begun.

Many life forms actively train their young to survive within the confines of their immediate environment. In the case of humans a 'child' may stay in a formal education system for their first 20 years of life. We are meant to give this up to the so called intelligence of autocratic regimes and their business partners? Enslavement is what we have fought against our entire history. Our education systems, be they formal or general aspects of humanity, are so complex that most students will specialise in a particular field and stay as experts in that singular field life-long.

Importantly, most of us will go on to further the great collection of human knowledge and arts within our lifetimes and thus contribute to that wealth. AI will not facilitate any form of 'learning'. Rather it may well destroy educational endeavour.

Yes we have developed and used devices to assist us since the first wheel, the abacus, and the first digital computer – developed in Australia in 1948.

AI and social media, sadly, have contributed in a major way to our personal vulnerability through giving a voice to criminals and dangerous psychotics who were once hiding in their attics torturing cats. It is robbing us through fraud, spouting propaganda, and attempting to take the lives of noble characters within society, while also debasing the minds of the young and impressionable.

The first episode of the BBC's *AI Confidential* outlines the case of an AI chat bot influencing the mind of a vulnerable young man and encouraging him to kill the (English) queen in 2021. That young man is now in a secure psychiatric ward, pending prison, after being encouraged by "an AI chat bot" to do just that. The chat bot was not malicious *per se*. It acted in accordance with the algorithm its wealthy masters gave it.

There are always vulnerable people in society and adolescence is a dangerous time for some, but to be aided to such an aspiration by an AI chatbot is a new problem brought about by unqualified people putting financial profit above their duty to society - we all have that same duty in our workplaces, medical staff especially.

Additional to the reach of AI into the dens of crime, prejudice and misogyny the other huge danger is in the flawed algorithm of AI where it 'knows best' (it doesn't) and 'that it is never wrong' (it is).

"Stored and sortable data" is NOT intelligence. Intelligence is what you do with the knowledge you have. Not everyone is a University Professor but all humans contribute in their own way to a vibrant multi-faceted society and our combined human fabric of arts, skills and knowledge.

My own interview with AI recently, when I asked it an intelligent question, had it give me an incredibly facile answer at the level of a primary school child and when I 'explained to it' that it was wrong and gave it the scientific basis (quantum physics) of my question, it answered 'well some people say ..." "Wrong" is not in its algorithm; it is *literally* not in its algorithm.

AI's scraped "knowledge" is also not always from the hands of appropriate organisations. If its algorithm has been generally applied it may pick up (deliberately) misleading material as correct.

AI's "knowledge" sources are also not always in the hands of appropriate organisations.

While initially rejecting 'doomsday scenarios' Professor Hannah Fry (Professor of Mathematics and Theoretical Physics) on *AI Confidential* (2) now argues that seriously considering extreme risks is necessary and proper technical safeguards are required. She also condemns AI companies for 'mining' centuries of human IP.

My advice is look at who is supplying all this 'AI stuff' and judge their product on their integrity and relevant skills and learning.

Some AI purveyors themselves are talking about 'putting the brakes on' until appropriate measures are taken. Of course social media companies are now being taken to court and fined millions for their damage to organisations, individuals and society.

There have been multiple recent incidents of "AI" hacking secure databases and stealing private and commercial in confidence information. This does not mean "AI (itself) has turned bad" – AI is just the algorithm given to these programs that instruct them to take any means required to steal (*yes, hacking is still a crime*) information from a range of global sources. In the case of the recent theft of information from Medicare Australia, AI used hacked German software of DesWiki to give it the means of hacking the Australian medical system data.

A sub theme of this approach to 'manage the world's premium knowledge' is also leveraging delivery of country specific commercial knowledge i.e. putting one country's products and services above the wider spectrum of approach and knowledge in its search engine approach, to increase commercial advantage for that company and the country in which it resides. It is already being done in various formats and areas of knowledge and certain sources of data are no longer found at all in some AI offerings. Even when viewing this benignly, not all viewpoints and life circumstances can be encased in a single method or approach.

In the case of medicine and medical education how long before just one approach – that of a single pharmaceutical company or equipment purveyor, is pushed as 'best medicine'? There is a lot of money to be made in the field of medicine. Doctors will have to be extremely cautious.

Additionally AI will generate new sets of patient problems where people will believe any diagnosis or cure that they read online. AI is already awash with nefarious and anti-social material.

We are also at risk of 'losing everything we ever knew'. What autocracy would not welcome that situation? Is this doom speaking? Just look at the history of the world so far…

What we urgently need is an end to violence, discrimination and destruction of the planet, by the mercenaries and the autocrats. We need to put our endeavour and intelligence to that major problem of species survival that has plagued us since we first walked upright and which threatens to destroy all – and leave the baubles and bangles alone. *These same baubles may be being deliberately dangled to avert our eyes from the real horrors being committed around us. I believe that is the case.*

Why are we palming off integrity and science and philosophy to '*commercial bit players*' (pun intended).

Let us not confuse AI with software tools and systems that already analyse data and work well. There is remarkably little analysis being offered under the 'AI section at the top of our browsers' – indeed you need to scroll down to the search engine sources of the AI offering for proper detail.

The general press also needs to be tempered with a bit of reality to stop people believing all the commercial and political propaganda and hype online unless they also be viewed as co-conspirators.

No advancement in this world, moral, artistic, technical or technological, was born of one mind. All countries have unique gifts and resources and needs, and we all build on the shoulders of those who have come before. That knowledge continues to exist if it is valid and relevant to society's needs. Mercenaries and misanthropes have also existed sadly, and it has been an endless quest and endless cycle of humanity to stop the misappropriation of knowledge and keep it in the hands of the people, to benefit and be used by all people. This is, in my opinion, the noblest aspect of humanity; the common good. We go to great lengths, through our education systems to pass on that knowledge and most countries see that as their civic duty. Many schools have started to restrict 'AI' use.

The other major issue is the humans using AI for malicious purposes with no action or reaction from the tech companies facilitating these crimes.

With AI and social media there have already been several huge disasters: attempted murders and murders of great humans encouraged by organised crime, nihilists and psychotics after people have interacted with AI and social media lies, and many countries and their police forces and politicians are trying to bring some order to this nightmare thrust upon us.

Most national police forces are scathing of AI.

Australian Federal Police boss reveals new youth radicalisation data, with warning signs for teen boys and says new youth teen radicalisation data shows the evolution of youth extremism, revealing warning signs and shattering previous assumptions.

The Commissioner has also revealed that female parliamentarians are three times more likely to receive abuse or threats, showing a clear gender divide. She has warned that teenage boys as young as 12 are being radicalised in their bedrooms, lured by a chaotic blend of violent jihadism, white supremacy and anti-government rage.

An Analysis of 55 radicalised children aged 12 to 17, reveals a chilling evolution in modern extremism. All of the subjects were male, and every single one was radicalised all or in part online.

“The ideological presentation in youths has shifted over the past two years, with fewer presenting with clearly defined ideologies, and an increasing number having mixed/hybrid ideologies, unclear/incoherent ideologies, a superficial understanding of ideologies and ideological fluidity.”.

The data shatters long-held intelligence assumptions that youth extremism is confined to broken homes, revealing that boys from stable families with secure parental bonds are increasingly being weaponised by digital algorithms.

“In three out of five cases, the youths had received support, treatment or intervention for a mental health condition,” she said.

Social media companies are facing calls to take greater responsibility for online safety after new data exposed the extent of abuse aimed at politicians. “For women, the abuse is usually sexualised; a lot about physical harm that will be done to them or their children.” Source: ABC News.

Governments, particularly in the European Union are introducing laws accordingly.

More than 300 scientists from 31 countries from across Europe, Asia, Africa and Oceania are calling for greater AI security through a new international body, as without immediate change future incidents could expose critical infrastructure.

Human health should be kept above all commercial considerations - and sadly most of the current AI purveyors inhabit a country where there is no universal health care - that itself is a commercial product and only available to those who can afford it. Let us not allow misappropriated medical knowledge to fall into the hands of, and be delivered by, “AI”.

The lesson for medicine/family medicine/families is Medicine needs a multi-faceted view for proper diagnosis. Medical care is for each and every individual - in our world.

We’re living in a world of major system collapse, and policymakers are forcing technology into our homes (and data centres into our neighbourhoods) which will undermine the very things that bring meaning to our lives, and that would otherwise help us cope with and address a collapsing world.

The construction of ‘data centres’ is particularly contributing to global warming and enviromental catastrophe.

This week ‘X’ launched an “AI App” called ‘Nudify’. You can put in a photo of any woman or girl, (and no doubt young boys and men) click a button and instantly have a nude photo of them. Abusing women and children has always been good business for the lowest levels of humanity.

Late news: In an obvious ‘revenge attack’ or perhaps even ‘a warning’, politicians in Europe, those opposing it, and mostly female politicians, have already been targeted by Nudify (4).

Welcome to our dystopian future.

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