

SPEAKERS' DEBATE

Daniel Andler, Professor Emeritus at Sorbonne University, Member of the Académie des sciences morales et politiques, Philosopher

Perhaps we should have a short discussion among the panelists before we open the floor. Does everyone on the panel agree with my idea and the idea of the previous speakers and the session before, that what AI is good at is providing assistance to all sorts of tasks? I would also like you to say if you agree with my opinion that the idea of creating an entirely autonomous thinking machine is both unreachable and undesirable. Most of the people in the industry who talk about AGI clearly have this goal in sight, they think that what AI is heading for is essentially creating fully autonomous cognitive machines that are equivalent to, if not better than us. I disagree, first I think it is unfeasible, and we do not have anything like the ideas to reach that goal and is also undesirable. With this provocative statement I invite you to react.

François Barrault, Founder and Chairman of FDB Partners, Chairman of IDATE DigiWorld

I think I said this last year, the competition is very unfair. When you look at the speed of treatment of information, it is the speed of light 300,000 kilometers per second. If I touch my iPhone, there are sensors and the speed of information going to my brain is 60 meters per second, the speed in my brain is 100 meters per second. Let us assume that you are writing a thesis, you arrive in the national library, and you need to look at 10,000 pages in 24 volumes, it will take you months.

Daniel Andler

A lifetime.

François Barrault

A lifetime. AI, LLMs and LQMs will look at all the information, make a summary of it and with ChatGPT N+2 or equivalent, we can write it exactly as you would. In my view, all the task-oriented things that are boring are going to be outsourced. That being said, I do not think jobs will disappear, I think it will create a lot of new jobs and I gave the example of doctors. It is also a question of the technology evolves and one point we need to understand is that when you give toys to kids you do not know what they are going to do with them. Remember, the first SMS, i-mode in Japan, was an emergency system for people, but very shy teens used this SMS system to communicate with each other. SMS was then brought to Europe, by Bouygues by the way, and SMS became a major communication method. Nobody can predict how AI will be used because it is self-developing and, at the end of the day, and I think you

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mentioned this, Daniel, we make the call. AI will never be more than a super chief of staff who will provide options for things but in the end, we will decide.

Daniel Andler

Thank you, I agree with you.

Omran Sharaf, Assistant Foreign Minister for Advanced Science and Technology of the United Arab Emirates

As I mentioned earlier, AI will not just be an assistant making things easier for us, I really think it will redefine the way nations will work together, and the strategic capacities and capabilities we have will be defined by that. Nations facing certain challenges related to the environment, resources, water resources, etc., will rely on AI to help them manage those challenges and find solutions. The trade and logistics systems will be impacted by AI and more efficiency will come into play. Healthcare systems will all be affected by technology. If you look at the big picture, it will really redefine the geopolitical landscape. There are challenges but I think the benefits and the opportunities are much bigger, that we need to focus on building partnerships between nations and addressing each country's needs and challenges. Let us be realistic, at the end of the day each nation needs to serve its national interests, and I think AI will force nations to work together to do that.

Also, if you look at it from the point of view of responsible behavior, initially countries will have different definitions of responsible behavior in Al because countries interpret things slightly differently and have different thresholds. For example, when it comes to defining extremism, some countries have different thresholds compared to others because their demography, system and societal structures are very different. A country that has more than 200 nationalities living and working together, with different cultures and backgrounds, will have different tolerance levels for extremism than a country that has a less diverse combination of people. How do I translate that into technology, the applications and at the same time make sure I work with partnering nations and understanding their differences, providing transparency and putting in safeguards for responsible behavior? That is a very difficult question to answer.

Daniel Andler

Thank you very much. It really raises the issue, before I ask Lee to react, one talks a lot about AI ethics or maybe AI soft law and that is usually directed at the people who develop the systems. However, there is also the issue of who uses the systems and how, and that is almost all of us in our private and professional lives and of course, we are bound to certain ethics as well but in order to behave ethically with our AI tools we need to understand AI better collectively. People need to be educated in what AI is, what it can do, what you should ask from AI, so as to use it ethically, just as we use ethically as far as we can, at least we have ethical codes for driving cars, using weapons, etc. It is the same for AI and I think that dimension of AI ethics by the end-user is underdeveloped and one of the challenges I think we have to meet.

Lee Tiedrich, Distinguished Faculty Fellow in Law & Responsible Technology at Duke University, Member of the OECD and Global Partnership on AI (GPAI)

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Building on those comments, I think it is important to keep in mind that people use the term AI, and it does not refer to one thing. From a technological standpoint, there are lots of different types of technology that can be considered AI, you have natural language processing, machine learning, a variety of other technologies. It seems that new technology is developing every day.

Then, also building on this conversation, there are lots of different AI use cases. Some of the more benign use cases are personal assistants which can help with scheduling. But obviously the risks get higher as you start moving toward using AI in the criminal justice system, granting loans to people or using AI in the medical context. I think it is really important to break it down and look at the use case. I call it ethics and compliance by design, both at the policy level as well as individual company level. We need to make really good choices informed by ethics on how we want to use AI, looking at the tools we have today and the tools that will continue to develop in terms of standards, risk management frameworks. If we are going to use this tool, how can we mitigate the risks? Human oversight, testing, and validation are really important tools we can use to mitigate risks. I think one of the things we will need to develop – and that is in the process of development – is standards. That I think standards will also help give people more comfort that using a certain tool for certain purposes should not be as risky. I think these are all things we are going to see develop over the next couple of years.