Intelligence & the Mind

11 December 2017

Senate House, London

Every living being interacts with its surroundings, sensing and responding to signals from the environment. The technology we use every day does this, too. How is the way we process information being transformed by new forms of intelligence, artificial and social? And what can we learn about the nature and functioning of human intelligence?

The closing public event of *The Human Mind Project* brings together experts from computer science and neuro-economics, science and technology studies, and the philosophy of information, to discuss how humans have become so good at processing information quickly, extracting meaning from raw data, and building powerful narratives of who we are.

#IntelligenceandMind @HumanMindDebate Wifi: UoLConferences Password: iagrem

Event Programme

09:30 *Registration and Coffee*

10:00 Opening Remarks

Barry Smith

Institute of Philosophy, University of London

Session One

Chair: Mattia Gallotti

London School of Economics and Political Science & School of Advanced Study, University of London

10:20 Mind Moves Matter: Intelligibility vs Computability

S. M. Amadae

Department of International Political Economy, Swansea University; Department of Philosophy of the Social Sciences, University of Helsinki; Program on Science, Technology & Society, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

11:00 Mandevillian Intelligence

Paul Smart

Department of Electronics and Computer Science, University of Southampton

11:40 *Refreshment break*

12:00 Intelligence: Ignorance and Puzzlement in Sense-Making

Mary Morgan

Department of Economic History, London School of Economics

12:40 Finding Truth Even if Most People are Wrong

Drazen Prelec

MIT Sloan School of Management, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

13:20 *Lunch, served in the Jessel Room*

Session Two

Chair: Mattia Gallotti

London School of Economics and Political Science & School of Advanced Study, University of London

14:30 Outsourcing Intelligence

Natalie Gold

Public Health England & Department of Philosophy, Kings College London

15:10 THE RISKS OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE FROM A HUMAN INTELLIGENCE PERSPECTIVE

Luciano Floridi

Oxford Internet Institute, University of Oxford

15:50 *Refreshment Break*

16:10 Roundtable Discussion

17:15 CLOSING REMARKS

Mattia Gallotti

London School of Economics and Political Science & School of Advanced Study, University of London

17:30 - ***Wine Reception**, Room 243 Senate House*

Abstracts

Mind Moves Matter: Intelligibility vs Computability

S. M. Amadae. Department of International Political Economy, Swansea University; Department of Philosophy of the Social Sciences, University of Helsinki; Program on Science, Technology & Society, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Artificial intelligence is transforming the world into a virtual eternal present. Humans have new capabilities to interact, have knowledge, and collectively shape the future for life on our planet. Simultaneously VR and electronically mediated relationships change human subjectivity, horizons of meaning, and collective narratives. This generative potential for novel inventions challenges our joint socio-technical imagination to achieve an emancipatory and economically sound future. I argue that a promising path forward builds on social ontology—with mind, meaning and intelligibility—to maintain AI as an implement, and not as a new prison of reason, which is reduced to computation and machine learning.

Outsourcing Intelligence

Natalie Gold, Public Health England & Department of Philosophy, Kings College London

I will challenge the idea that intelligence results from the sort of conscious problem solving that is measured by intelligence tests. I will explain how intelligent choices can be made automatically, without conscious processing. I will give some examples of how the Public Health England behavioural insights team has changed features of the environment in order to help people make better choices. This approach is usually associated with 'nudging' where a government or policy maker gets people to make better choices. But, as I show, it can also be used by individuals, who can outsource intelligence to their environment. I discuss the implications for how we think of intelligence.

Finding Truth Even if Most People are Wrong

Drazen Prelec, MIT Sloan School of Management, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

The question whether to trust the judgments of a few experts or the wisdom-of-the-crowd is not just of scientific but also of political and philosophical interest. Crowd wisdom is usually defined as consensus — the majority vote or the median estimate or forecast. This principle seems fair and simple, but it has a blind spot for information that is new or unfamiliar. The cost of wrong collective decisions can be high in terms of environmental risks underestimated, or promising ideas ignored. The challenge is to combine the virtues of a 'democratic' procedure, which allows anyone, irrespective of credentials, to register an opinion, with an 'elitist' outcome that associates truth with the judgments of a select few. I will describe a simple alternative to democratic averaging by a panel or online crowd. The alternative principle is to select judgments that receive more support than predicted by those same people.

MANDEVILLIAN INTELLIGENCE

Paul Smart, Department of Electronics and Computer Science, University of Southampton

Mandevillian intelligence is a specific form of collective intelligence in which individual cognitive 'vices' (i.e., shortcomings, limitations, constraints, and biases) are seen to play a positive functional role in yielding collective forms of cognitive success. In this talk, I will introduce the concept of mandevillian intelligence and review a number of strands of empirical research that help to shed light on the phenomenon. I will also highlight the value of the concept of mandevillian intelligence from a philosophical, scientific, and engineering perspective. Inasmuch as we accept the notion of mandevillian intelligence, then it seems that the cognitive and epistemic value of a specific social or technological intervention will vary according to whether our attention is focused at the individual or collective level of analysis. This has a number of important implications for how we think about the cognitive impacts of a number of Web-based technologies (e.g., personalized search mechanisms). It also forces us to take seriously the idea that the exploitation (or even the accentuation!) of individual cognitive shortcomings could, in some situations, provide a productive route to collective forms of cognitive and epistemic success.