Granting Personhood for Sentient Non-Human Animals and Sentient Artificial Intelligences

A Demonstrative Argument
Overview

• Sentience
• Public Perspectives
• Animal Sentience
• Sentient Artificial Intelligences
• Personhood
What is sentience?

Self-Awareness  Reasoning  Emotion
Robots in the Media

Sources: TriStar Pictures, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, Universal Television
Totally uncomfortable with a robot walking their dog

Totally uncomfortable with a robot caring for children or the elderly

Public Opinion of Domestic Robotics

68%
Totally uncomfortable with a robot walking their dog

86%
Totally uncomfortable with a robot caring for children or the elderly

Population: Citizens aged 15 and over in the 27 Member States of the European Union

Source: The European Commission (2012)
Public Opinion of Domestic Robotics

As we become more familiar with robotics, we will become more comfortable interacting and coexisting with them.
Public Opinion of Domestic Robotics

Sources: Apple, Amazon, Google
Artificial Intelligence in the media

Sources: TriStar Pictures, Buena Vista Pictures, Columbia Pictures
Animals in the media

Sources: Walt Disney Pictures, Universal Pictures
The Supposed Line Between Us

Sources: Clipartfest, Firkin
Animal Sentience: Self-Awareness & Reason

Sources: Phys.org, BBC
Animal Sentience: Emotion

Source: National Geographic
Comparison: Animals
Are humans *more* intelligent?

Humans > Chimpanzees > All others

“Some animals, including apes, dolphins, and dogs, exhibit [sentience] at levels higher than or before young children.”

-Clifton Coles
“... we would be more accurate and just in our assessments if we recognized that ‘there are many different ‘intelligences,’ rather than ranking all species on the same scale of intelligence. “

-Karen Davis
Comparison: Intelligence

“Everyone is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid.”
A.I. Sentience: Present Day

• Reason
  • IBM Watson

• Self-Awareness
  • Several robots are capable of this

• Emotion
  • Recognition and expression have been achieved
A.I. Sentience: Research

“Several leading Japanese roboticists...have separately developed artificial neural networks or algorithms necessary for the creation of, in their words, conscious robots.”

-Jennifer Robertson
A.I. Sentience: Emotion: Feeling

Source: Journeyman Pictures
A.I. Sentience: Future

Sources: Instant Physics, AMC Studios
Personhood

**Natural Persons**
- Biologically Human

**Juridical Persons**
- Not human
- Select legal protections
Personhood: Application

• Bodily Integrity
• Security from Torture and Exploitation
• Freedom
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<th>Modern Western Law</th>
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Why is this important?

Ethics

- Necessary to eat animals at one time
- Now, a diet without animals can be healthier and is more sustainable.
Why is this important?
Final Thoughts

- We know that some animals possess sentience
- We are learning that other animals may be sentient in currently unrecognizable ways
- Artificial Intelligence is developing rapidly
- Creation of Sentient Artificial Intelligence appears to be likely
- It is ethically necessary for us to protect our contemporaries now
Resources

- More Information
  - goo.gl/w9ujUm

- Email
  - jjm29570@email.vccs.edu
Works Cited (1)


Works Cited (2)

