How AI Can Change the World for the Worse

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In just a few short years, we now live in a world where people can ask their computers to write essays or make art for them. AI has transformed our world significantly, but is it for the better or worse? In the article "Artificial Intelligence May Change Labor Market but Doesn't Need to Cause Long-term Harm" from *Fox News,* Rosch-Grace and Straub (2023) argue that while AI will increase unemployment, it's just a tiny issue compared to the vast benefits AI could provide. They say that AI could be used to find cures for many diseases, discover drugs, and automate "dull and repetitive" jobs, giving humans time to be creative. Rosch-Grace and Straub (2023) believe AI will change our world for the better and that with the government's help, it could help relocate all the workers AI will "displace." I'm afraid I have to disagree with Rosch-Grace and Straub's (2023) belief AI will change the world for the better. The rise of AI will replace many jobs, leaving many without any income. Additionally, AI uses artists' works as a source without permission to generate images, contrary to the claim that AI will give humans time to be creative. Alongside its derivativeness, AI has a penchant for spreading misinformation and can even be sexist or racist when used to hire employees.

In their article, Rosch-Grace, and Straub (2023) write, "Individuals currently working in jobs that can be readily replaced by lower-cost AI technologies may need to retrain and pursue work in other areas. This isn't at all unusual during times of technological advancement." I vehemently disagree; AI is a threat to our labor market and could create mass unemployment across America. *Forbes* journalist Jack Kelly (2023) puts it best when he says, "When management consultants and companies that deploy AI and robotics say we don't need to worry, we need to be concerned. Companies—whether they are McDonald's, introducing self-serve kiosks and firing hourly workers to cut costs[...] —will continue to implement technology and downsize people to enhance profits." I completely agree with him, as companies only think of

workers as costly resources. To them, AI is a way to cut costs with no downsides. But to the workers, it's a kick to the curb. Speaking as someone who wants to work as a therapist, what if the job I've been going to school for gets replaced by an AI? What can people do when their livelihoods are being ripped from under them? Kelly (2023) accurately explains why companies are interested in AI: for profit.

Continuing their praise for AI, Rosch-Grace, and Straub (2023) paradoxically state, "The future promise of AI systems – like ChatGPT – enables organizations to automate their day-to-day operations, allowing people to focus on tasks that require or benefit from creativity and human ingenuity." This is misleading, as AI isn't just destroying monotonous jobs; it's simultaneously stealing from and threatening creative jobs too. Namely, artists are likely to be replaced by image-generating AI like DALL-E. However, artists are fighting back with a lawsuit. Associated *Press* writers Noveck and O'Brien (2023) explain, "The suit alleges that the AI image-generators violate the rights of millions of artists by ingesting huge troves of digital images and then producing derivative works that compete against the originals." I completely agree with the artists; these AIs use their artwork without credit while simultaneously positing themselves as easy art generators. This contradicts Rosch-Grace and Straub's (2023) statement that AI frees their time to allow for "projects that require or benefit from creativity and human ingenuity."

In their article, Rosch-Grace and Straub (2023) claim that if "Used effectively, AI can help push the boundaries of human capability and help construct a world in which human creativity and ingenuity synergize with AI systems' technical capabilities." I agree that if it was 'used effectively,' we could accelerate human development. However, the writer forgets that AI could be 'used effectively' to expedite the proliferation of misinformation on a massive scale.

New York Times writers Tiffany Hsu and Stuart A. Thompson (2023) state, "Personalized, real-time chatbots could share conspiracy theories in increasingly credible and persuasive ways, researchers say, smoothing out human errors like poor syntax and mistranslations and advancing beyond easily discoverable copy-paste jobs." Misinformation is already rampant, and AI could make it far worse. The misinformation AI sends could change elections, wars, and entire nations. In a world of rampant misinformation, the prospect of an AI-led misinformation campaign is utterly horrifying.

At the end of their article, Rosch-Grace and Straub (2023) write, "By investing in people and taking steps to transition responsibly, governments can ensure that AI-driven automation leads to a better future for everyone – not just a few." Unfortunately for us, it will lead to a better future for a few. When an AI controls the hiring process, it can discriminate against POC applicants. This discrimination is evidenced by *New America*'s Aditi Peyush (2022),

> Nearly six decades ago, Title VII of the Civil Right Act of 1964 made it illegal for firms to discriminate on the basis of race, sex, religion, and national origin. However, unregulated algorithmic screening tools don't always comply with this mandate. The researchers submitted around 84,000 fake applications to entry-level positions at companies across the U.S. They found that applications submitted with distinctively Black names, like Antwan, Darnell, Kenya, and Tamika, were less likely on average to receive a response compared to applications with distinctively white names like Brad, Joshua, Erin, and Rebecca.

I agree with Peyush (2022) that AI's hidden racism could further systemic racism by preventing people of color from getting jobs. As a black man, how would I feed my kids if AI prevented me

from being hired? In fact, how would I feed myself? In an AI-driven world, many people of color are threatened by a hiring process built against us.

As AI becomes more and more common, a lot of lives will be disrupted. It can take our jobs, leaving many without food on the table. AIs have threatened creative jobs, like artists, by using their works without permission. It might cause the growth of misinformation and, when used to hire people, can discriminate against people of color just trying to get a job. While writing this essay, I realized that AI directly threatens me. As someone looking to be a therapist, my potential job is liable to be taken over by an AI. So, I decided I'm not becoming a therapist but a psychiatrist, as a psychiatrist can prescribe and diagnose people, which no intelligent man would trust an AI to do. However, not many people can change their careers. They may have college debt to pay or kids to feed. I'd bet that if you asked them, they'd say that AI has changed the world for the worse.

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