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Algorithmic Intimacy

The Digital Revolution in Personal Relationships

Anthony Elliott

In *Algorithmic Intimacy*, Anthony Elliott examines the power of predictive algorithms in reshaping personal relationships today. From Facebook friends and therapy chatbots to dating apps and quantified sex lives, Elliott explores how machine intelligence is working within us, amplifying our desires and steering our personal preferences. He argues that intimate relationships today are threatened not by the digital revolution as such, but by the orientation of various life-strategies unthinkingly aligned with automated machine intelligence. Our reliance on algorithmic recommendations, he suggests, reflects a growing emergency in personal agency and human bonds. We need alternatives, innovation and experimentation for the interpersonal, intimate effort of ongoing translation back-and-forth between the discourses of human and machine intelligence.

"Algorithms impact today all aspects of everyday life, and what is most personal in it. Anthony Elliott masterfully shows us what is at stake in this digital curve of life, where our intimate being-with-others is built and transformed."

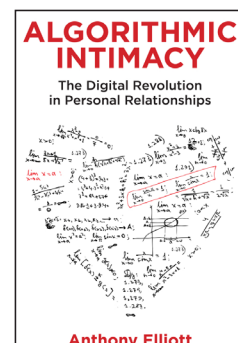
Massimo Durante, University of Turin

"Anthony Elliott offers intriguing insights into how the algorithms embedded into digital technologies contribute to people's closest relationships. Drawing on popular culture for examples, Elliott's lucid writing and expansive focus helps the reader make sense of a rapidly evolving landscape of digitised love, sex and friendship."

Deborah Lupton, UNSW Sydney

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Making Sense of AI

Our Algorithmic World

Anthony Elliott

Tracing the changing fortunes of artificial intelligence, Elliott develops a systematic account of how automated intelligent machines impact different spheres and aspects of public and private life. Among the issues discussed are the automation of workforces, surveillance capitalism, warfare and lethal autonomous weapons, the spread of racist robots and the automation of social inequalities. Elliott also considers the decisive role of AI in confronting global risks and social futures, including global pandemics such as COVID-19, and how smart algorithms are impacting the search for energy security and combating climate change.

"A far-reaching survey across the institutional interfaces emerging between humans and AI and a sense-making guide through many controversial discussions on AI as a global phenomenon that confronts humanity with novel disorganized forms of surveillance and, ultimately, automated warfare."

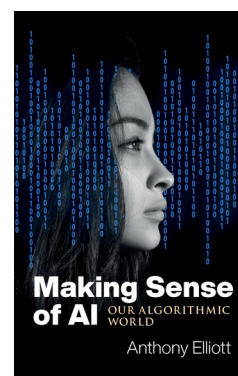
Helga Nowotny, Former President of the European Research Council

"A much needed, clear and accessible account of AI and its possible futures as it emerges as part of our social world, as a global, institutional and everyday phenomenon. Confronting issues that concern all of us, including a focus on the future of work, social inequalities, and surveillance, and the ethics of AI, this book is an extremely welcome and sociological introduction to a field of research too often dominated by the engineering and computing sciences."

Sarah Pink, Director, Emerging Technologies Research Lab, Monash University

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