Lecture by Dr. Anthony Elliott



MAY AI BE WITH YOU

AGENCY AND AUTOMATION IN THE AGE OF

ALGORITHMIC MODERNITY

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Faculty of Engineering, Bldg.2, 9th floor, Room 92B, Hongo Campus, UTokyo



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From industrial robots to ChatGPT, and from driverless cars to military drones: Al is transforming all aspects of our lives, from the changing nature of work, employment and unemployment to the most intimate aspects of personal relationships. In this lecture, Elliott focuses on the complex systems of AI - spanning intelligent machines, chatbots, advanced robotics, accelerating automation, big data - and their centrality to new forms of social interaction, organizational life and governance. He argues, provocatively, that today modernity has come to mean smartphones, tablets, cloud computing, big data, automated recommendation systems and predictive analytics. This has heralded the arrival of what he terms 'algorithmic modernity', an altogether new 'stage' in the ordering techniques of envisioned human mastery. In this automated order of algorithmic modernity, human agency is increasingly outsourced to smart machines. We should understand this phenomenon, Elliott argues, in terms of a containment of both uncertainty and complexity which the digital revolution in social relations poses, but which ultimately denies answers.





