

CATRIN MISSELHORN IN "SPARX": ROBOTS IN A QUANDARY – HOW ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE CAN MASTER MORAL DILEMMAS

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Robots are active in areas where moral decisions are necessary and corresponding dilemmas are inevitable. How do we teach them to act ethically when human lives are at stake? Can artificial intelligence be empathetic? And are empathetic robots even desirable?

Empathy of robots is the speciality of the Philosopher of Technology Catrin Misselhorn. The professor sharpens the eye for fundamental ethical problems that AI confronts us with. In her "Sparx" talk, Catrin Misselhorn explains how we can get to grips with the moral limits of artificial intelligence and why trust and responsibility are at the core of the matter. In doing so, the bestselling author navigates the fundamental questions of machine ethics and lays down clear, visionary guidelines for a good life with AI.

[Catrin Misselhorn's "Sparx"-Talk "Focus on machine ethics: can robots act morally?" is online from 8 February 6:00.](#)

Even a robot vacuum cleaner makes ethical decisions. Should it drive around the ladybird on the carpet, scare it away or just suck it in? To kill animals for cleanup purposes or not – that is a moral question. Or: how strongly may nursing robots urge old people to take their medication? Should autonomous weapon systems sacrifice one life to save five others? And: who takes responsibility when something goes wrong or a terrible accident happens? These issues are at the heart of Catrin Misselhorn's work.

While we are in the process of transferring dirty, dangerous or simply unpleasant activities to artificial intelligence, she addresses the question of responsibility. Because humans know socially defined ideas and know what one is morally obliged to do – and what is taboo. They assess situations based on their consciousness and can thus take responsibility – however, consciousness is precisely what robots lack.

Misselhorn's highly exciting talk is about moral standards, freedom of will and moral reflectiveness. And ultimately about the values of social coexistence. In order to do these values justice, Misselhorn defines convincing guidelines in "Sparx" and provides a clear compass for the future.

CATRIN MISSELHORN: When it comes to philosophical questions in the field of artificial intelligence or robot and machine ethics, she is the right person to talk to. Prof. Dr. Catrin Misselhorn (born 1970) has been Professor of Philosophy at the Georg-August University of Göttingen since 2019, before which she held the Chair of Philosophy of Science and Technology at the University of Stuttgart for seven years. Her 2021 book " Künstliche Intelligenz und Empathie. Vom Leben mit Emotionserkennung, Sexrobotern & Co" is a Reclam bestseller.

"Sparx" – Ignites your mind. Decodes the future.

Video-Talks about IT, artificial intelligence and digital innovations

Under this visionary title, the innovative IT company Trivadis – Part of Accenture will launch the second season of its inspiring video talk series in November 2021. "Sparx" brings together some of the world's most brilliant minds in IT, who passionately share their knowledge in hands-on keynotes. Every fortnight, these experts reflect in short episodes of 10 to 30 minutes on future-relevant topics such as artificial intelligence, digital ethics or robotics, it's all about groundbreaking insights and new research trends.

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Trivadis – Part of Accenture is an IT services company with headquarters in Zurich and 15 offices in Switzerland, Germany, Austria and Romania. Founded in 1994, the company with 700 employees supports its clients in making intelligent use of data and new technologies. Trivadis covers the entire spectrum: from the development and operation of data platforms and solutions to the refinement of data as well as consulting and training. Trivadis' customers include automotive companies as well as insurance companies, banks and healthcare institutions. Further information at: <https://www.trivadis.com/en>

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