

RE(X)SISTENT TO DIGITAL DEHUMANIZATION

Digital dehumanization is a process in which people are reduced to data, stereotypes, labels, objects. Our humanity is no longer seen. In light of the imminent advance of this process, the Stop Killer Robots initiative seeks to raise awareness and regulations that put a stop to the use of technology to reinforce discrimination, inequality, and even endanger human life.

Dehumanization is a comprehensive word, but we lose the specificities. In this sense, Alegría González has found in the Center of Documentation and Archive for the Defense of Human Rights (CDyA), the “Archives of Terror”, a volume of material that humanizes through gestures of anger. In this space from where an official narrative, a grammar of power, is constructed and consolidated, sensitive material is confiscated to transform it into an administrative matter. As a counter-narrative, as a process of forgetting, the artist proposes “Archives of Feelings” by reinterpreting the concept developed by Ann Cvetkovich to question the conventional forms of documentation. Alegría’s archives of feelings gather poems, letters and intimate materials produced in the collective and singular experiences of affective circulations of resistance.

Meanwhile, from rhythm and the image in movement, Laura Mandelik and Victoria Mussi question the binary nature - of technology, of gender - and respond with the binarity of rhythmic beats. If this conception of the world is the structure that shapes the construction of an Absolute State, dystopias become binary, and so do the parameters of personal fulfillment. Then, freedom becomes illusory and the control of power ranges from the intimate - greed, desire, fear - to the collective - social passivity -.

Art and activism come together in this exhibition from different languages but with a common perspective; they are pieces of re(x)sistance against dehumanization.



KILLER ROBOTS AND DIGITAL DEHU- MANIZATION

**What are we talking
about and why does it
affect us?**



DIGITAL DEHUMANIZATION

It may sound far away, but it's already happening.

Why are we concerned?

Digital dehumanization is a process in which **humans are reduced to data** that is then used to make decisions and/or actions that negatively affect our lives.

There are several examples of digital dehumanization including data **brokering, facial recognition,** and **predictive monitoring/surveillance.**

Some of the problems with these technologies is that they reinforce existing discriminatory practices.

At the other end of this spectrum are autonomous weapon systems, also known as killer robots, machines that use sensor data to make life-or-death decisions.

Regardless of the type of digital dehumanization, **the data used in these processes reduces us to stereotypes, labels, objects.** They don't see our humanity.

AN INTRODUCTION TO KILLER ROBOTS

(YES, THEY DO EXIST)

They are not from a science fiction movie. Countries and companies around the world are developing them.

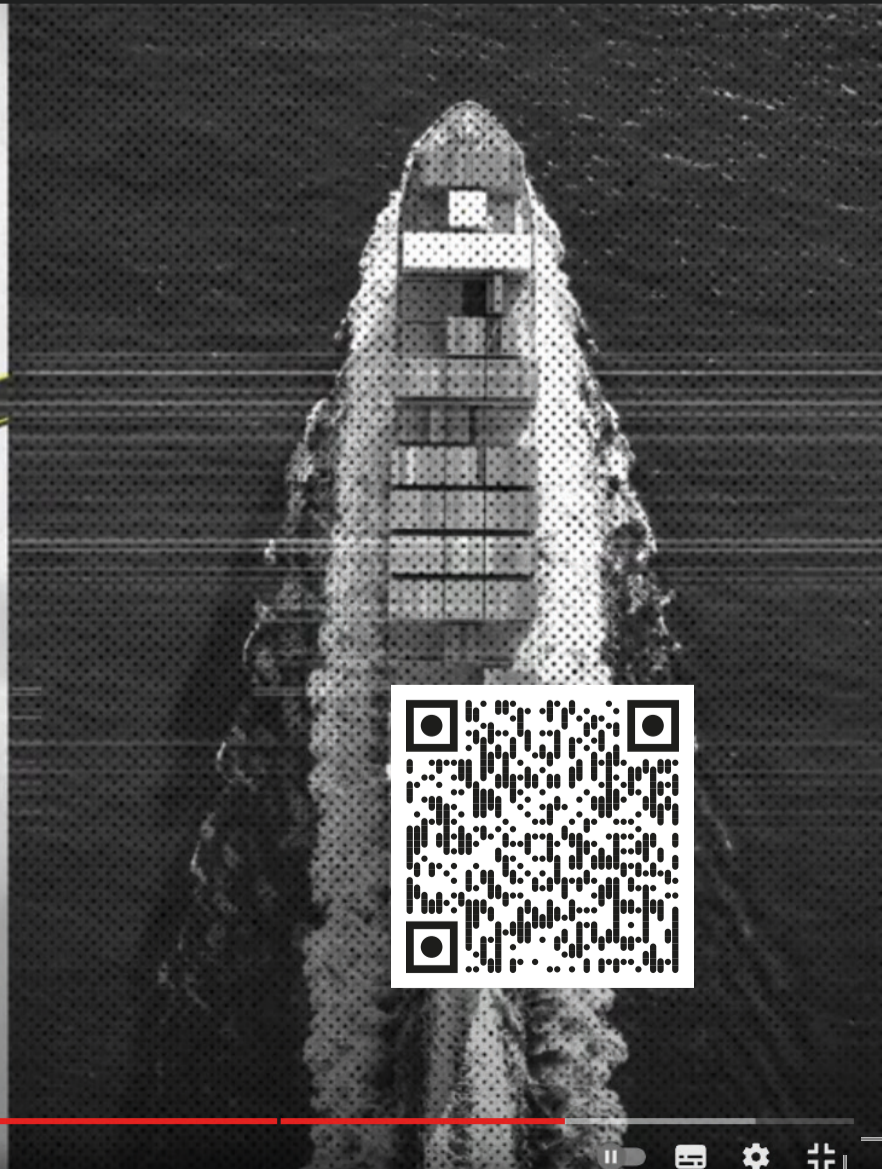
These machines make life or day-to-day decisions without significant human control.

Without this control, the users of these weapons are not fully engaged with the consequences of these actions.

Whether in a battlefield or at a protest, machines cannot make ethical decisions. Digital dehumanization is another problem.

Killer robots are part of this broader process that reduces humans to data.

We shouldn't lose human responsibility and dignity.

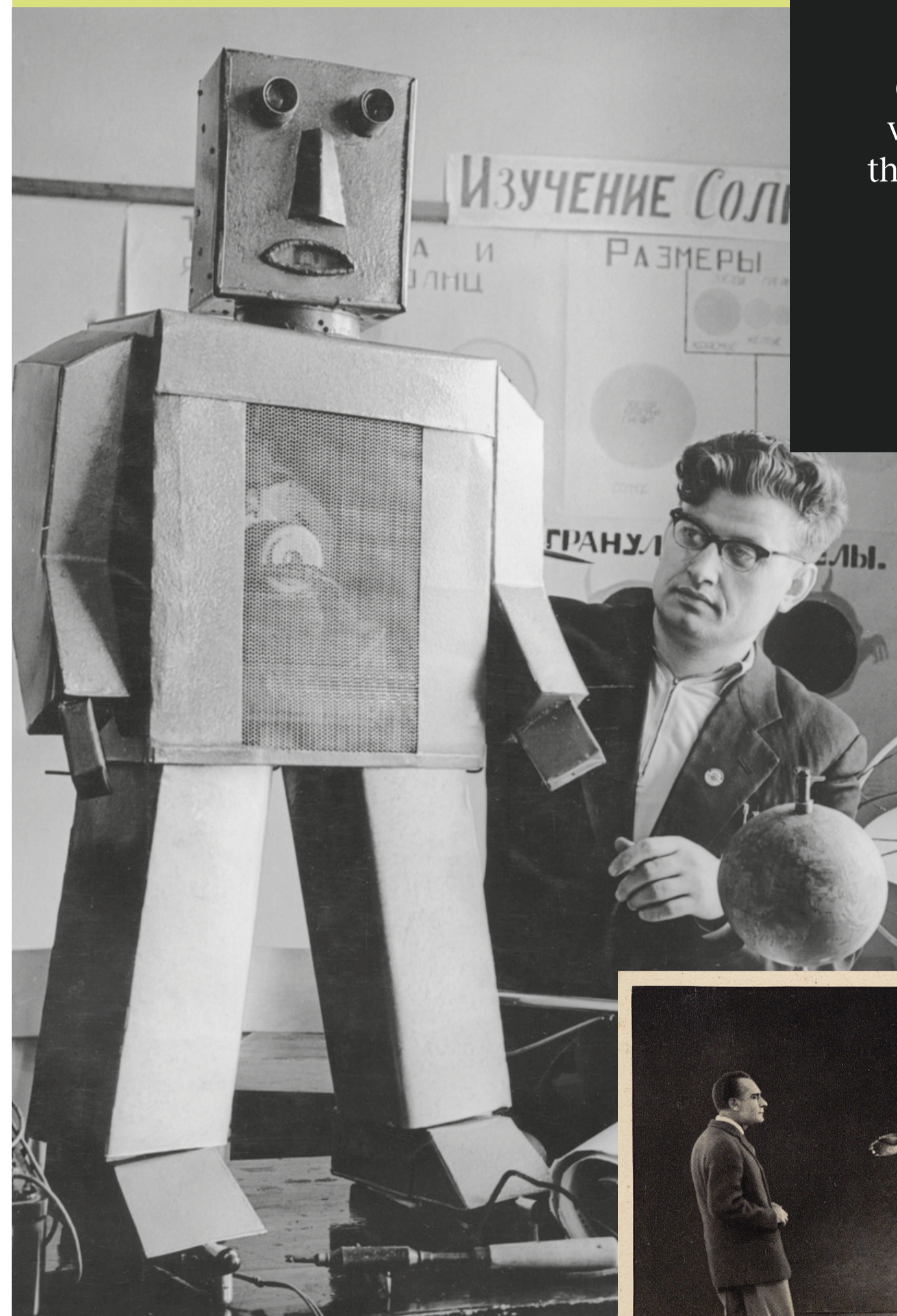


TECHNOLOGY
CAN
AND
SHOULD BE
USED
TO PROMOTE

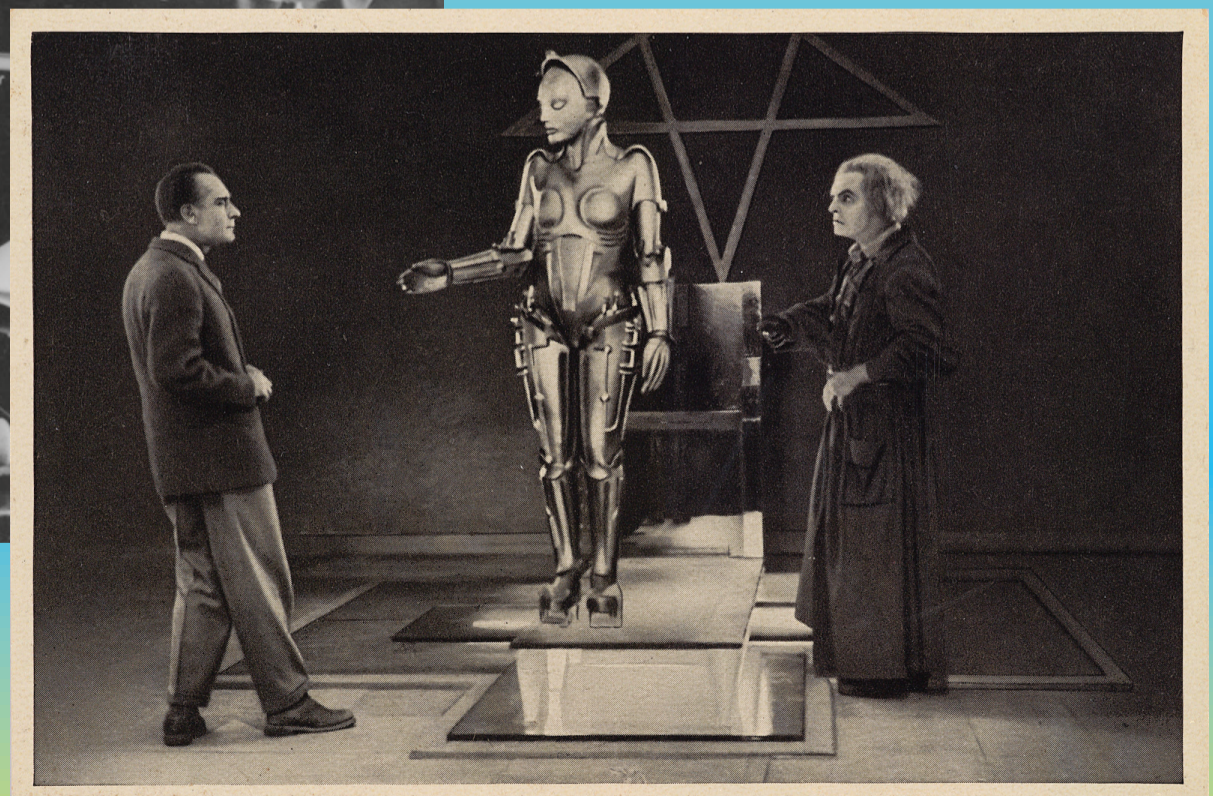
peace, justice
and equality.

WHAT ARE ROBOTS?

The word “robot” was first used by fiction writer Karel Čapek in 1920, in his fiction work “RUR” (Rossum’s Universal Robots). This word, derived from *robotnik*, from the Czech word for “forced laborer,” is currently universally used to refer to any type of mechanical device built for autonomous performance of physical tasks.



Robot “Vanya” by Grakhov, A.
Swedish National Museum of Science and Technology, Sweden - Public Domain.
https://www.europeana.eu/item/916118/S_TEK_photo_TEKA0079235



“Metropolis” by Fritz Lang. Ufa, 1925/1926. Deutsche Fotothek, Germany
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ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

It is a branch of data science that seeks to build intelligent machines capable of performing tasks that usually require human intelligence and cognition.

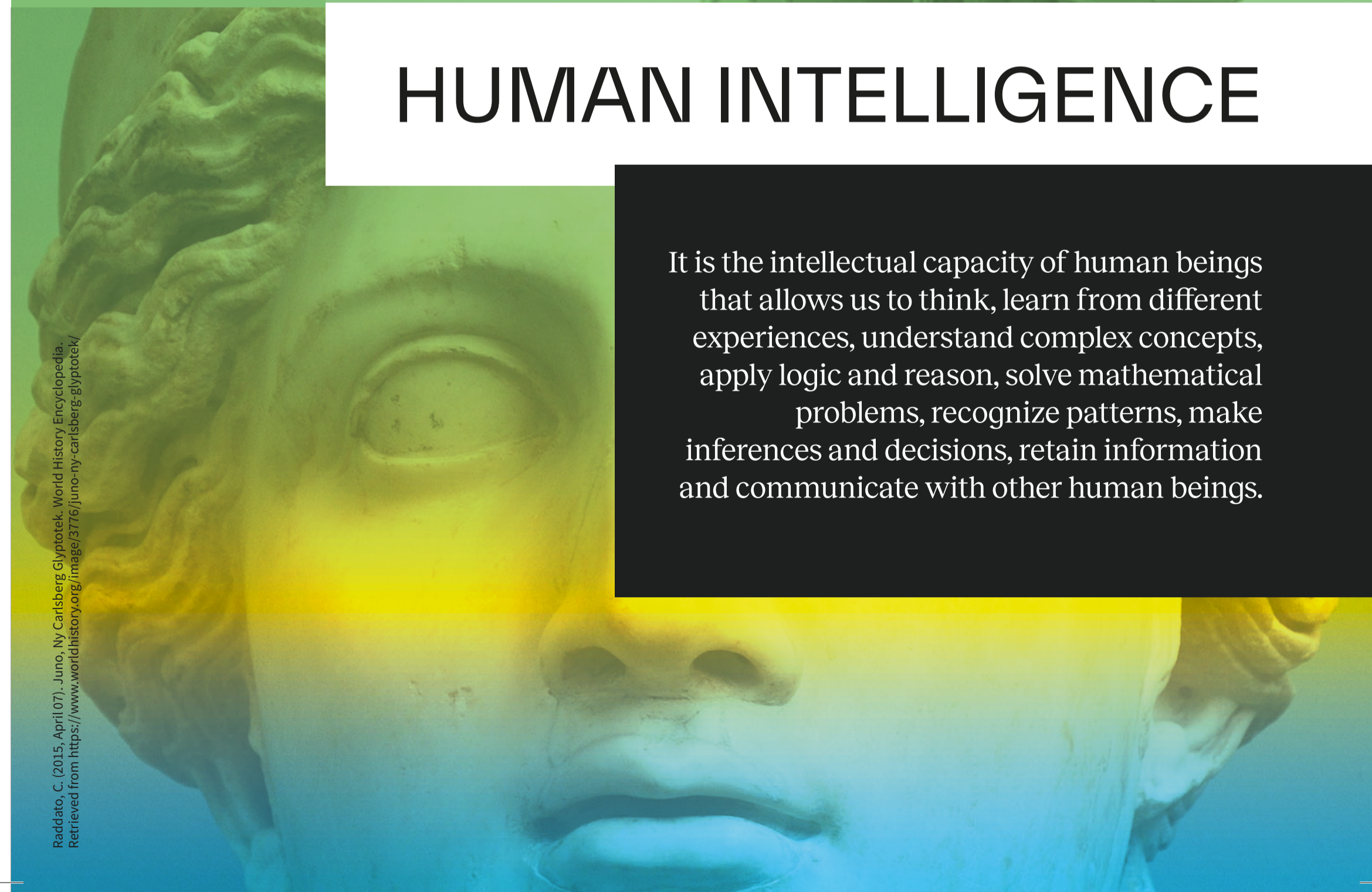
These intelligent machines are trained to learn from experience and historical data, analyze their surrounding environment, and take corresponding actions. It is an interdisciplinary technology that utilizes concepts and tools from multiple fields such as computer science, cognitive sciences, linguistics, psychology, neuroscience, and mathematics.



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HUMAN INTELLIGENCE

It is the intellectual capacity of human beings that allows us to think, learn from different experiences, understand complex concepts, apply logic and reason, solve mathematical problems, recognize patterns, make inferences and decisions, retain information and communicate with other human beings.



AI BIASES

A major concern regarding the construction of lethal autonomous weapon systems has to do with the differential impact these weapons could have on certain population groups, with lethal consequences.

A study by the MIT Media Lab on facial recognition technologies based on AI techniques found that **in light-skinned men the facial recognition error is 1%, in dark-skinned men is 19%, and in dark-skinned women is 35%.**

In other words, if this type of tool was used in the composition of an autonomous weapon, **dark-skinned people - and in particular dark-skinned women - would face a higher risk of recognition error** than light-skinned men, with potentially lethal consequences.

It would be very likely that autonomous weapons would also have a **discriminatory bias** against people with disabilities, neuro diverse and LGBTI+ people, whose appearance, behavior and diversity of conditions may not correspond to the standards considered by those involved in the development of technology and autonomous weapons.

Human prejudices
are present in the
algorithms and
data we use to train
automatic learning
programs, and often
reflect the biases of
our society:

**gender, class,
and race.**

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ACTIONS OF THESE MACHINES?

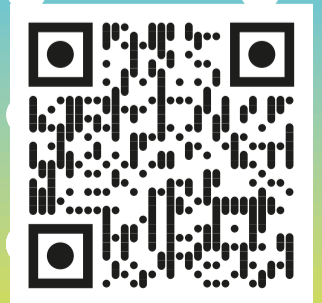
Both international humanitarian law and international human rights law require individual accountability for wrongful acts. Such personal responsibility helps deter future violations, while providing retribution to victims of past harm. However, holding an individual accountable for the wrongful acts of a fully autonomous weapon would be challenging and, in most cases, nearly impossible.

Lethal autonomous weapons not only have the potential to violate international law, but could also allow commanders, operators, programmers, and manufacturers to escape from the responsibility for the violations that may occur.

ABOUT STOP KILLER ROBOTS

Due to the serious ethical, legal and security implications involving the development of these types weapons, in October 2012 several organizations, including Human Rights Watch, the International Committee for Robotics Arms Control (ICRAC) and five other non-governmental organizations created the “Stop Killer Robots” Campaign, to provide a coordinated civil society response to this problem.

The goal of the **“Stop Killer Robots”** campaign has not changed since its creation. It works for the **preventive prohibition of the development, production and use of fully autonomous weapons that target people**. In addition, it advocates the regulation of those with other targets while retaining significant human control.



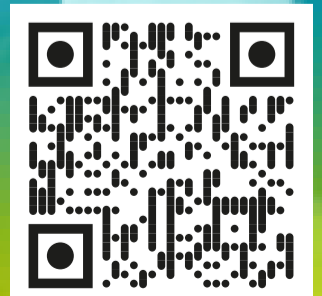
JOIN THE #HUMANTEAM

If we don't stop the advance of killer robots as soon as possible, it will become more difficult while States and corporations invest more in their development.

That's why we support the creation of an international law regulating killer robots through the UN General Assembly.

States have the opportunity to **#VoteAgainstTheMachine** and move towards regulating killer robots.

For more information on the campaign, visit the website: **stopkillerrobots.org**.



CAMPAIGN TO STOP
KILLER ROBOTS

STOP
BOTS
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