

AIPACT ZINE ISSUE 1

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This is the first issue of the AiPact research initiative zine, made early on a Monday morning in September 2023 during one of those meetings where we get together to discuss all things AI.

As a group of quite serious scholars, throughout the last year and a half, we've been asking ourselves: what exactly is the societal impact of AI?

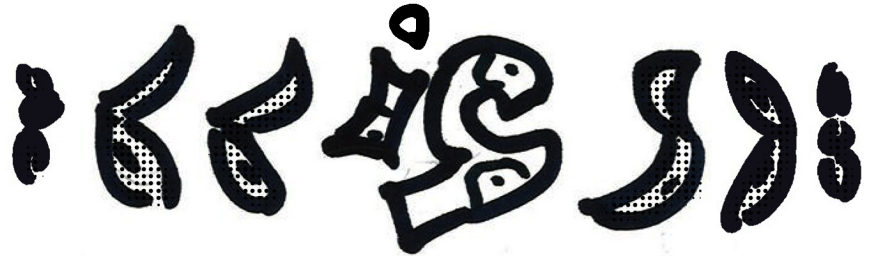
The answer, as far as we can tell, is: it's complicated.

This zine presents a break from the kind of rigorously methodological work that quite serious scholars like us tirelessly preoccupy ourselves with in search of conclusive answers to essentially unanswerable questions. In making this zine, we wanted to give shape to a few of the random ideas, vexations, concerns, and questions that we've been grappling with during our time as part of the AiPact initiative. And in keeping with the spirit of DIY zine-making, we wanted to do this through creative outlets like drawings, cartoons, stream-of-consciousness musings, and even poetry. After all, you never know where your ideas might lead if you let them run wild for a bit...

We hope that you find this zine somewhat interesting, perhaps moderately entertaining, and maybe even a bit thought-provoking. Even if just a little.


- Adriaan Odendaal
AiPact member and editor of this zine

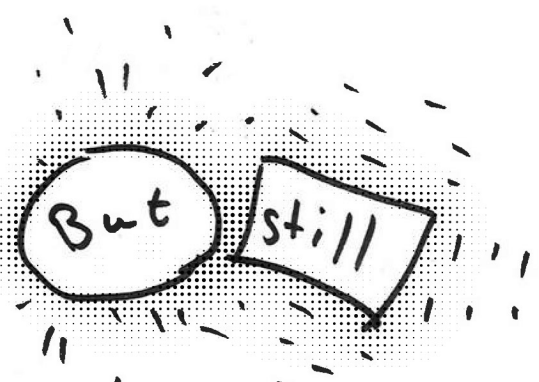





More-than-Human

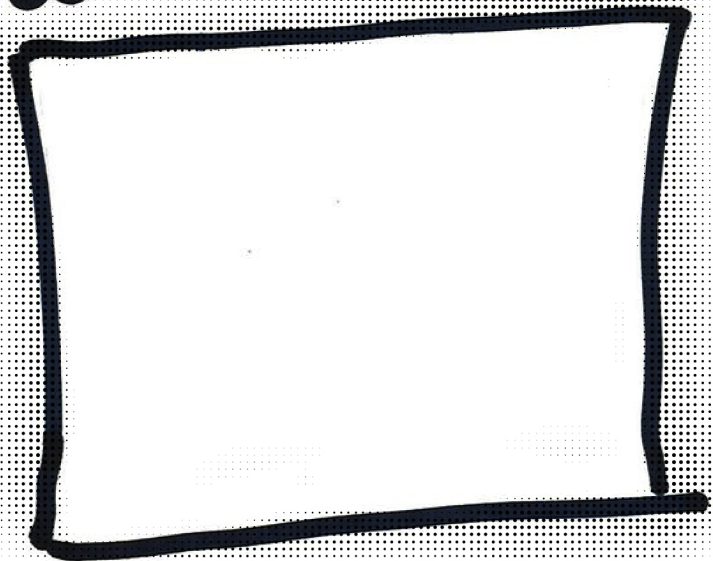


A lot of research ^{on} and policy ^{is} about human-centered 
And for the right reasons!
For instance,
to prevent worker exploitation



An additional way to think about ethical  could be to de-center humans...



Centre of analysis

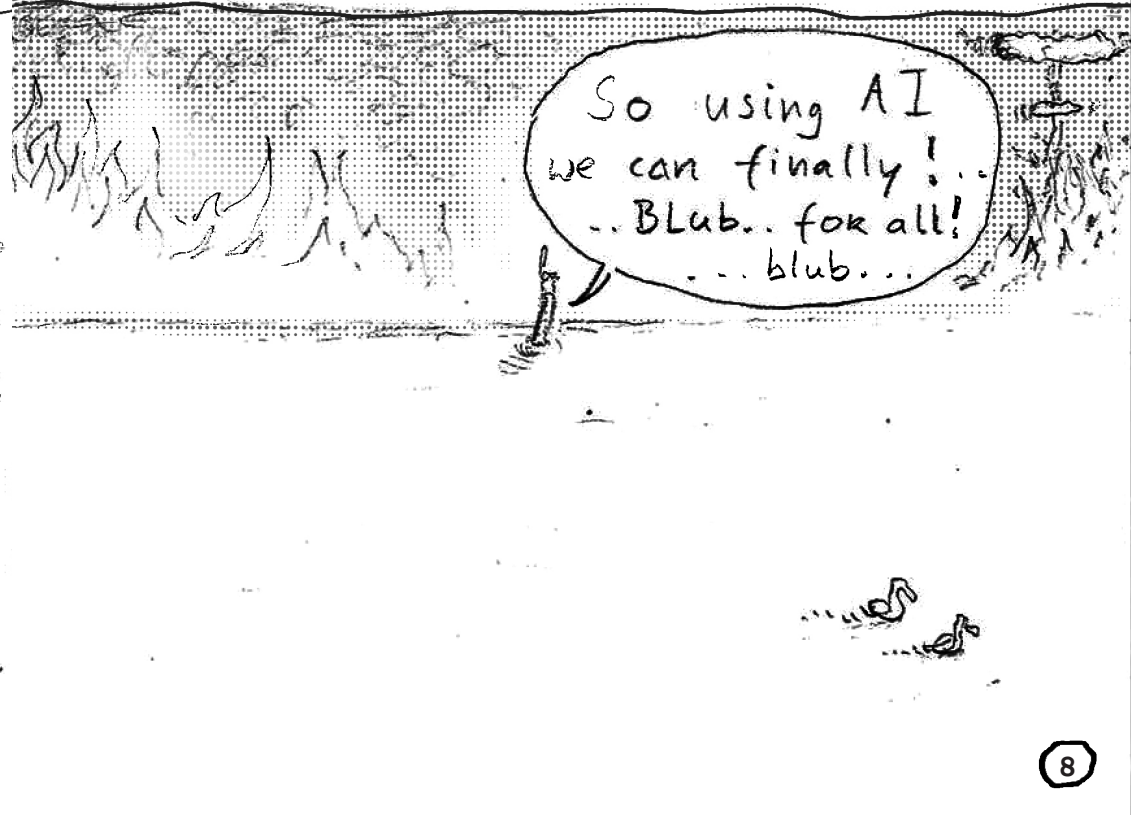
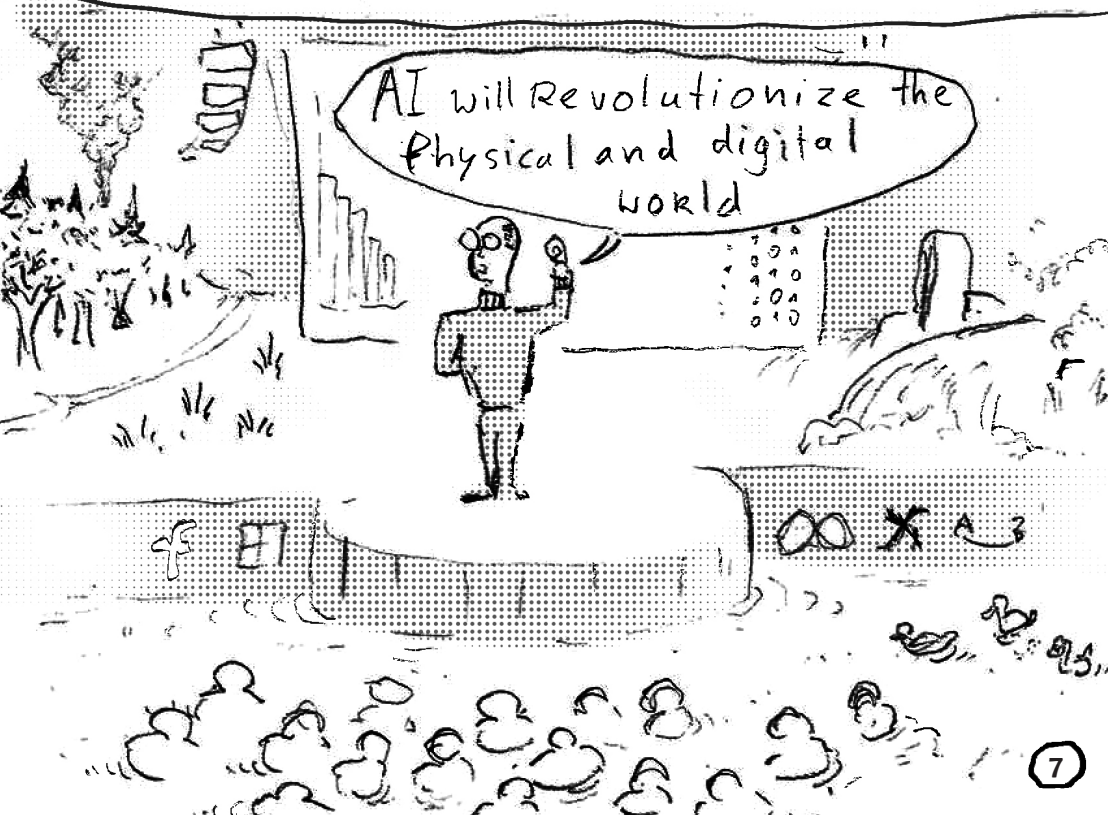
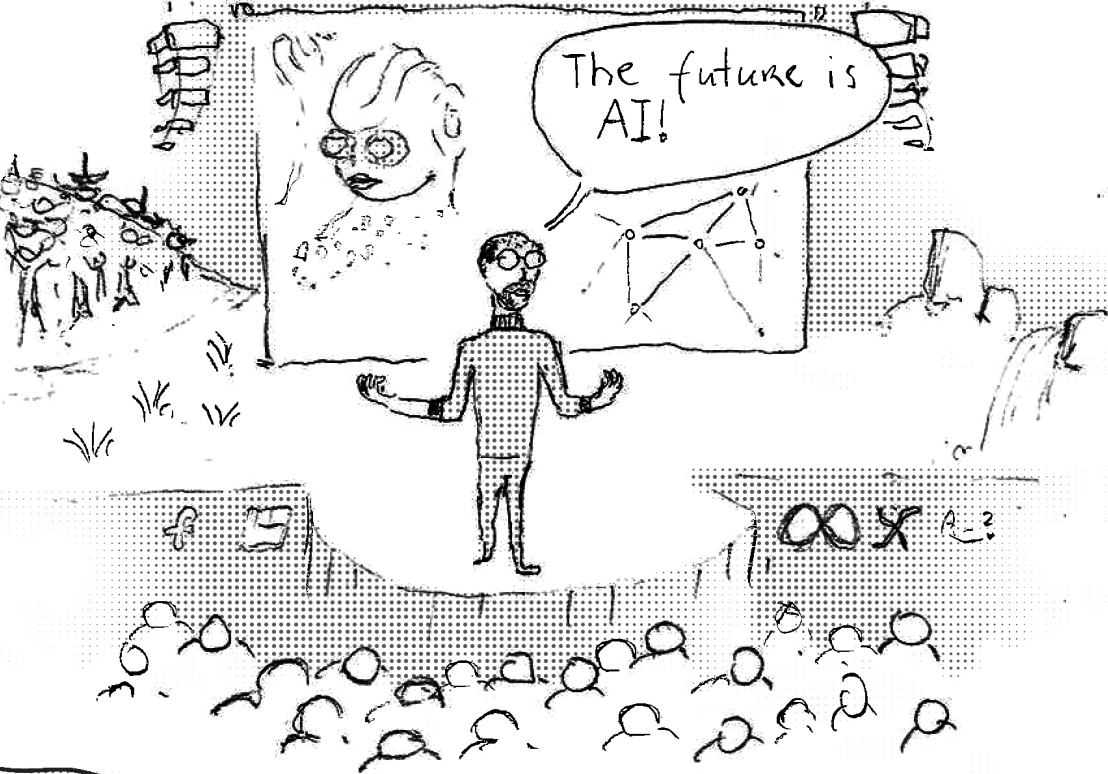


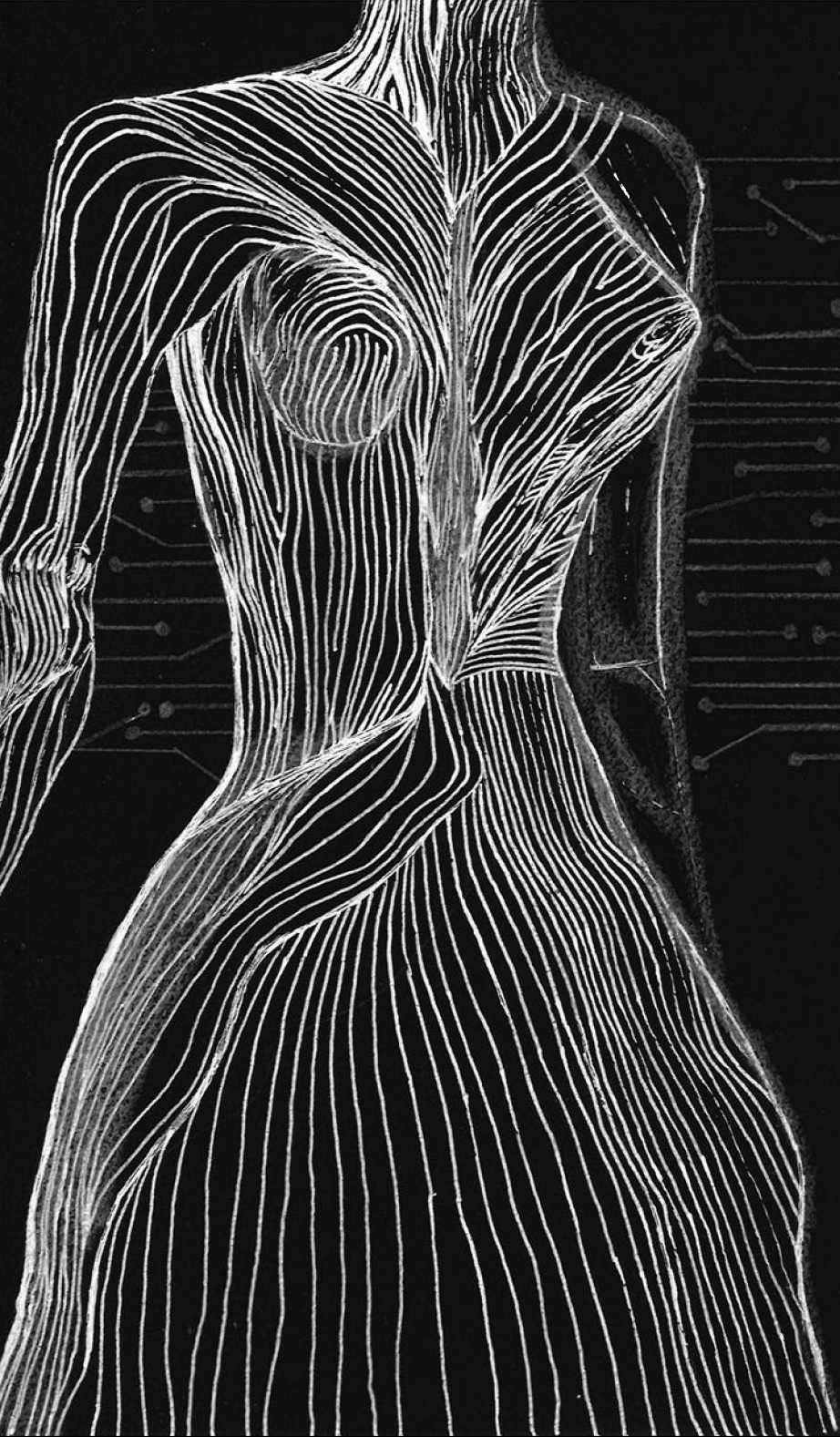
only joking!



One way to think about more-than-humans is that humans are part of many relations: with animals, technologies, plants, etc, etc.

We can then analyse how  shapes these relations, and makes them durable (or not). This is a theory of 





SHIFTING SPATIALITIES OF



3D DESIGN SOFTWARE

Fashion DESIGN SOFTWARE is DIGITALIZING an otherwise heavily physical and slow process of fashion design. Currently, the design of a garment can standardly require a dozen different types of samples which are shipped back-and-forth between global stakeholders.



The advent of 3D Design is set to disrupt the SPATIAL DYNAMICS OF FASHION DESIGN AND PRODUCTION.

Designers' roles will evolve as digital modeling is embraced. Traditional methods, located in ateliers, shipments, and producers, may be rendered obsolete.

The reduced need for physical samples may minimize waste, but could also challenge the tactile essence of fashion.

In turn, factories must invest in fabric uploading machines and train workers, yet the transition may exacerbate job displacement and industry inequalities.

WE MIGHT WONDER, HOW WILL 3D DESIGN TRANSFORM THE SPATIAL FRONTIERS OF FASHION ; AND WHO BENEFITS? 9 10

Can AI support designing behavior change interventions?

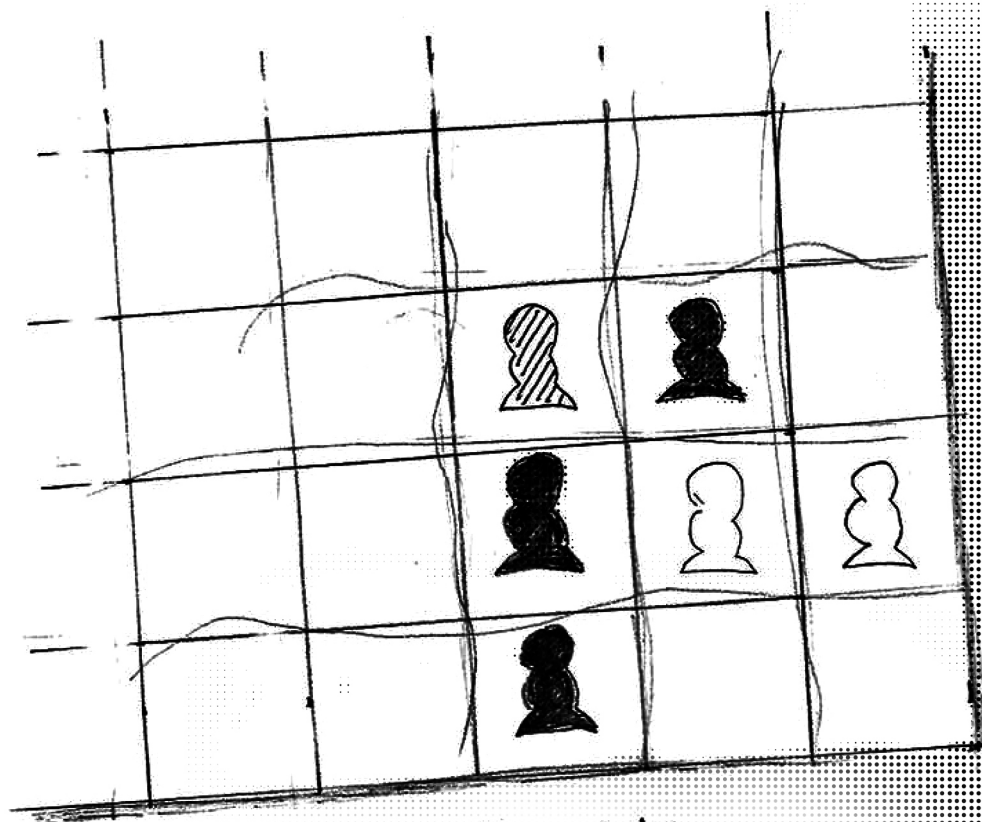
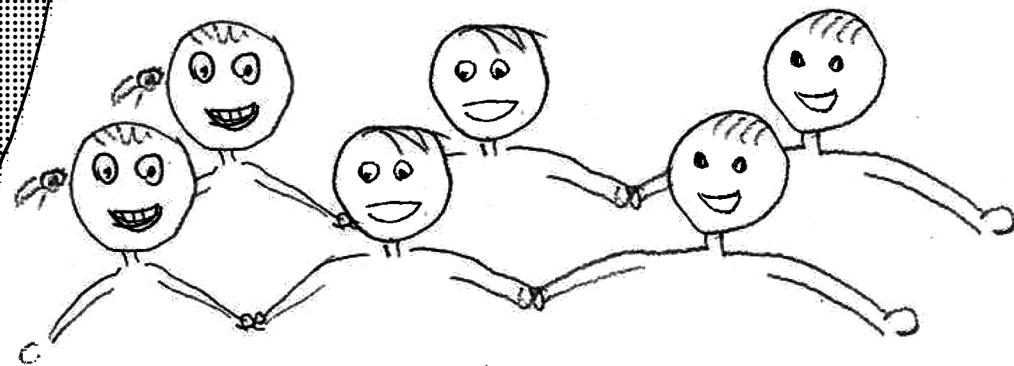


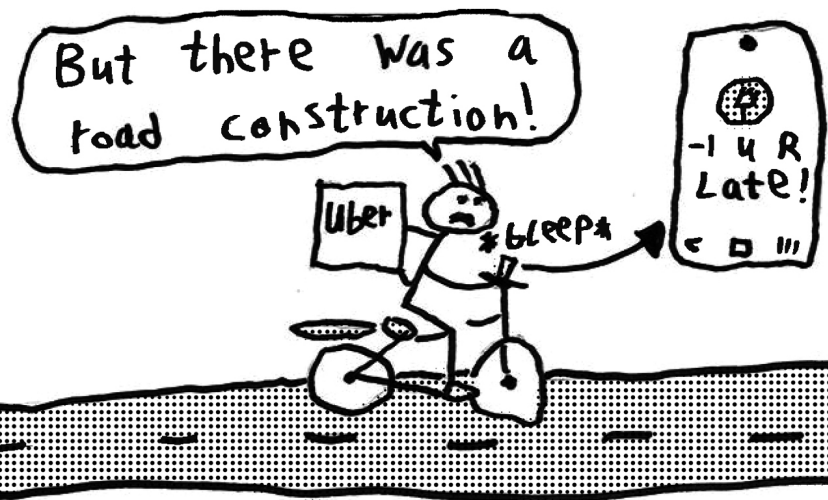
fig1. Playground of society (abstract representation)

Checklist for AI?

- unravel structure of behavior in human society?
- develop digital interventions?
- determine optimal strategies to promote healthy behaviors?
- ...?



Happy people



Most gig economy platforms are owned by investors and managed on their behalf, such as UberEATS for food delivery.

These gig workers often face insecure working conditions, but lack influence on the organisational decisions of the platform on which they depend for access to jobs/clients.

For example, the platform may automatically penalize a gig worker for running late - even if this was outside of the worker's control. Disputing such a decision is typically hard and human representatives of the platform nowhere to find.




Platform cooperatives owned and governed by gig workers themselves have emerged as an alternative organisational form, such as CoopCycle for food delivery.

These gig workers make collective decisions about the platform on which they depend, which may help to improve their working conditions.

To become resilient organisations, platform cooperatives should seek out "workable niches" in the gig economy and create "Good Governance" practices. Yet, given the right conditions, platform cooperatives represent a viable alternative to the future of work depicted by investor-owned platforms. Moreover, they show that it is possible to give gig workers a voice in decisions that affect them!

IS PARTICIPATORY AI EVEN POSSIBLE?



AI that is [conceptualized, designed, developed] through processes that puts [citizens, the public, end-users, communities, marginalized groups] at the centre of those processes. AI technology that thus responds to the [needs, priorities, values] of these public stakeholders, instead of the business interests of corporations or power interests of governments...

- ▶ Participatory approaches are often only used as long as/to the extent that they still align with business interests.
- ▶ Inclusion is often done tokenistically/performatively with no real/meaningful empowerment.
- ▶ The question is never asked: "do we even need this technology at all?"
- ▶ Why would companies forego profitability? Why would governments give up power?
- ▶ ...

WHAT NEEDS TO CHANGE?

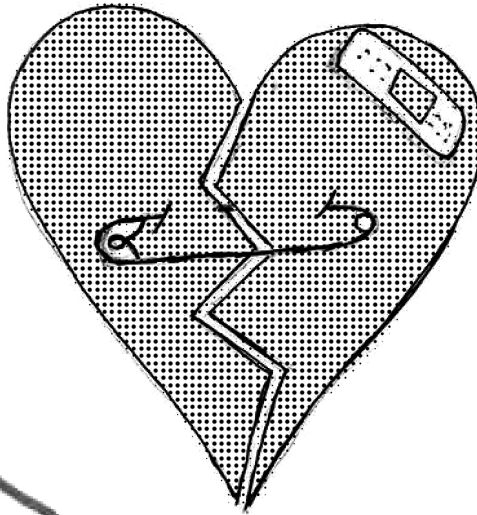
Sentinel of Solace:

AI's Symphony in Healthcare

In healthcare's dance, AI takes its part,
Weaving emotions, a work of heart
It diagnoses, eases fear's weight,
A trusted ally, a guardian's gate.

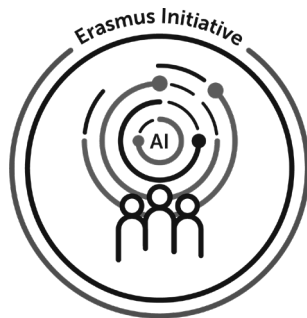
With empathy, it lends an ear,
In mental health, it steers us clear,
A tool to heal, to understand,
But human touch, still in demand.

In this blend of tech and grace,
AI shapes healthcare's changing face,
Emotions and science in harmony sway,
Towards a brighter, healthier day.



AI's cold embrace,
Healing's warmth it may replace,
Patient's heart efface

AI's cold diagnosis,
Kisses the human nuances,
Healthcare's a loss, a crisis



**Societal
Impact of AI**