



Editorial

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Haste to Taste Artificial Intelligence in Psychology: A Short Critique Plus an Easy Policy

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Introduction

Application of artificial intelligence (AI) in psychology and psychotherapy (and vice versa) has gained extraordinary interest in recent years. Yet, there are sparse efforts (if any) to enter robotics, AI and computer in experimental designs of psychology and psychotherapy studies. Fixed design, as the saying goes, replicate similar results. However, in psychological studies, this is not always the case. This is important because there is a mutual crosstalk between psychology experiments and psychotherapy practice in most cases; experiments provide scientific basis for the best practice, in principle.

In most experiment designs, human observers are involved as the experimenter or the interpreter. In Scavenger Hunt Game [1], Word Game [2], Magic Square Game [3], judgment/decision making experiments [4], cursor tracking tasks to investigate human behavior modeling and developing models to predict human intention, and a broad array of similar games and experiments [5-9], noise effects of observer/experimenter hugely confound the implementation of the game/experiment, analysis of data and interpretation of the results. Indeed, results of some experiments are used for some critical issues such as driver behavior, which directly deals with death and life [5] not for amusement.

One solution to remove such human agent-induced noises could be using the robots and computers. Application of Intelligent Robot-Based Design (IRBD) to model human behaviors in experimental settings can become a reality soon. The irony is that appetite to use AI and robots in psychology is so high that before intelligent robots prove their efficacy at experimental level, most of proposals are focused on approaches to reconcile between psychotherapy and AI, to a level that their application as therapist has rightly raised some ethical questions in the scientific community and general public

[10]. This is while a careful search in web and scientific engines reveal that total number of published papers on application of AI in psychology and psychotherapy far overweigh the number of basic experiments conducted in the field.

There is an annoying lack of literature on application of AI and robots to replicate previous studies in order to compare the consistency between human observer-based designs with that of IRBD-based designs, To the best of author's knowledge, there is no recognized and formal tribune for such studies (if any).

A good policy could be a proper budgeting and a "call for papers" on an international-scale and to encourage researchers to fill the gaps in the literature. Alternatively, respected journals may announce some volumes for these thematic issues.

That would be ancillary to shape panels of experts and expert committees to provide consultations via web training on designs of experiments and topics of investigations to lead these efforts cost-effectively and most practically.

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