

## All-Party Parliamentary Group on Artificial Intelligence

Evidence Meeting 3 - ACCOUNTABILITY

Monday, 12 March 2018 | 5:30-7:00 PM - Committee Room 2 (CR2), House of Lords



### **Robbie Stamp, Chief Executive at Bioss International**

Robbie is Chief Executive of Bioss International, a global network of organisation and people development consultancies. Prior to this, Robbie was Chairman and Chief Executive of The Digital Village, a media company founded with the late Douglas Adams, which pioneered social networks to create content on the internet. He also created HandHeld History, a mobile phone content company.

Robbie has given two TEDx talks this past year: at TEDxLondonSalon on digital afterlives, and at TEDxLondon on "How Grief Feels". As the creator of the Bioss AI Protocol, he was a keynote speaker at the CognitionX AI Conference, and submitted evidence at the invitation of the UK Parliamentary Select Committee on Artificial Intelligence.

### **Summary of evidence**

We need to hold two contradictory ideas in our heads. AI is not human, but we will have a new set of "working relationships" with it.

We will anthropomorphise it at every turn because that's what humans do.

Because AI is not human it cannot 'a priori' be ethical. It cannot be meaningfully sanctioned, nor feel guilt, shame or remorse. To programme "pain" in the sense in which humans would understand that, into a system would be an act of great cruelty (assuming of course that such a thing is even technically feasible). It is one thing to cope with 'deep time' evolved patterns in individuals and in human society, quite another to "create them." The search for some kind of fundamental ethical position we hope to finally discover and can thus programme or 'train' is a chimerical quest for both people and AI. Human affairs are messy and our relationship with AI will be full of contradictions and mess too.

This leaves us with Ethical AI Governance, which means complete clarity of human accountability, no magical thinking about AI! The word Governance comes from the Greek 'kybernein,' a nautical term meaning to "take the helm or steer a ship". This is what we need to do now with the 'work' that we give AI to do in our organisations and indeed in the wider society. As we navigate emergence and uncertainty, Governance should be based on understanding key boundaries in relation to the work we ask it to do rather than on hard and fast rules. This is about vigilance.

The Bioss AI Protocol is thus designed as a non technical, simple but powerful Ethical Governance framework, which has its core treating people as people, not as so many data points, and which enables us to track, over time, the evolution of the working relationship between human judgement and decision making and machine judgment and decision making.