

## **What comes after AI?**

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Today it has become very popular to speak of Artificial Intelligence (AI) as the culmination point of our highest aspirations in Computer Science. It has not always been like this. AI has undergone major seasons and the last “AI-winter” lasted many years if not a decade or longer. More recently, i.e., the last decade or so, AI has gained significant momentum. This is due to the fact that Machine learning (ML) and Deep Learning (DL) methods have become very successful in everyday Computing. Image and Video Classification has become mainstream and very accurate. Parsing and “understanding” language has seen immense progress. All of these applications are used by millions of people today with smartphones and on the Web.

The aim of this short discussion paper is not to reiterate the blessings and achievements of AI and the associated ML and DL methods and to sing praise to the great road ahead for AI. The purpose rather is to think critically what actually could be the next steps that mankind as well as the technology providers and research in general is up to. The reason I want to offer a fresh perspective here is that apparently the mainstream of research and the technology world seems to lack imagination as to what the next steps might be. There have been plenty of publications as well as blogposts and commentaries highlighting major issues with current AI. Some praiseworthy lines of argumentations can be found in the Vienna School of “Digital Humanism” [1], in the works of Edward A. Lee [2] and also in the general line of research on AI Ethics and bias in AI [3] highlighting the many problems in society with today’s use of AI. Those are all extremely valuable research lines which require all our attention.

In this short discussion paper, I would attempt to discuss some ideas which could be regarded as unconventional. The reason I do this is by no means to state that other research is wrong and the things presented here are the way to go. My main motivation rather is to argue that for looking forward on mankind’s challenges is worthwhile to take a more holistic perspective as to where we are leading to and the role our technologies play as well as what it means to be human.