

Love and Sex with Robots

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Anticipating 2025

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How my Research Started

- “The Second Self” – Sherry Turkle (1984)

How my Research Started

- “I’ve tried having girlfriends but I prefer my relationship with my computer”. - Anthony

My thinking

- Such relationships are inevitable within a few decades
- Such relationships will be considered normal by the middle of this century
- Why am I so convinced?

Why do I believe this so strongly?

- The investigation of parallels between:
 - Reasons for falling in love (with people and with robots)
 - Reasons for having sex (with people and with robots)

Reasons why we fall in love

- Reciprocal liking – Peter is more likely to fall in love with Mary if Peter knows that Mary likes him

A robot can be programmed to simulate affection for its owner

Reasons why we fall in love

- Similarity in some respects, for example:
 - Personality
 - Interests
 - Religious views

These can be simulated in a robot personality

Reasons why we fall in love

- Being alone with the object of one's affection

Simply buy a robot and take it home!

Reasons why we fall in love

- Ten main reasons have been identified by research psychologists

Almost all of them can apply to human-robot relationships

Reasons why we have sex

- Most of the main reasons identified by research psychologists can be applied to human-robot sex relationships, for example:
 - Physical pleasure
 - Having fun
 - Reducing stress

Why some people pay for sex

- Variety of partners
- Variety of sexual experiences
- Robots can provide both

Trend – Sexual attitudes and mores

- Homosexuality
- Oral sex
- Fornication
- Masturbation

Trend – Human emotional attachments

- Originally only for other humans
- Then for pet animals
- Then for virtual pets
- In the future for robots

Emotional attachment to pets

- At first pet animals were our servants
- Now they are objects of affection
- And treated as part of the family
- Love for a pet animal is sometimes very strong

Emotional attachment to virtual pets

- Tamagotchi and AIBO are the best known
- Many Tamagotchi owners organized their lives around their Tamagotchi's schedule for virtual feeding, playing games, etc.
- Many Tamagotchi owners posted eulogies for their “dead” virtual pet on the Internet

Summary of these trends

- Human emotional attachments →
- Sex technologies →
- Sexual attitudes and mores →

Conclusions

- The parallels and trends all point in the same direction:

Towards a future in which it will be normal and commonplace to have intimate relationships with artificial partners. Great sex on tap 24/7.

Thank You!