

Could You Kill a Robot? Hidden Brain, by NPR on Apple podcast

Summary¹

Can robots teach us what it means to be human? This is one of the questions pondered with Kate Darling of the MIT Media Lab in this 'Hidden Brain' podcast episode. According to Kate Darling, observing our interactions with robots and machines on daily basis may help us understand the nature of our ethical commitments and ourselves as ethical beings.

Duration: 34 min.

Produced by: Tara Boyle and Renee Klahr

Air date, July 10, 2017

Available in Apple podcast:

<https://itunes.apple.com/ca/podcast/hidden-brain/id1028908750?mt=2&i=1000389750420>

or NPR website

<http://www.npr.org/podcasts/510308/hidden-brain>

Questions for discussion:

- Why do you think naming a robot makes a difference to how we treat it?
- Do you think it is necessary to ensure some level of ethical behaviour in our interaction with robots?
- Kate Darlings suggests that we should pay attention to how we treat artificial intelligence such as robots and virtual assistants because it might reflect on how we treat other human beings. Do you agree? Why or why not?
- Should there be restrictions on what robots can be used for? What should the content of restrictions be? Why?
- Is it inhumane to kill a robot? Why or why not?
- In considering our ethical responsibility towards robots, Kate Darling draws parallels to animal welfare legislation. On what grounds, if at all, should robots have moral status?
- Discuss the tendency to bring biases into our relationships with robots (e.g., the correlation between gendered names and the type of task that the robot is developed to perform). What might this imply about ethical norms?

¹ Adapted from summary posted on IMDb website.