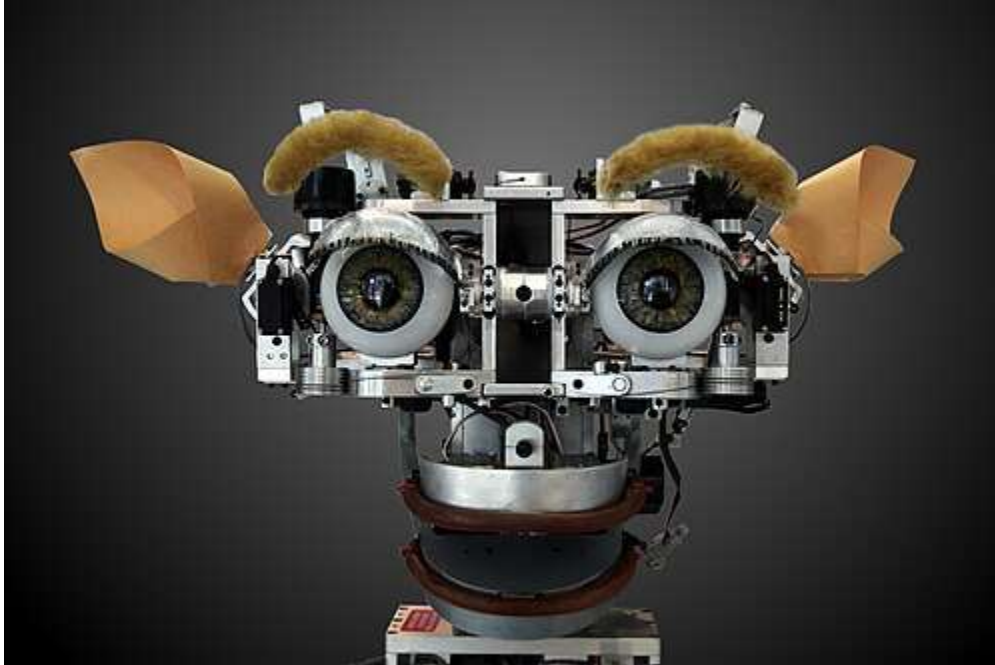


AI – a force for good or bad? By Albert Fried-Cassorla

AI – essay – by Albert Fried-Cassorla 9-24-25

Artificial Intelligence AI – good or bad for society – by Albert Fried-Cassorla 9-24-25



Kismet, a robot head designed at MIT by Dr. Dr. [Cynthia Breazeal](#) “as an experiment in [affective computing](#)”¹

Is Artificial Intelligence (AI) good or bad for society?

By Albert Fried-Cassorla

Any answer to the question of whether artificial intelligence is good or bad for society is likely to be at least twofold. Good and potentially great for medical research and practice. In short, IMHO, Bad generally for the environment. Bad for electric ratepayers. Potentially good or great for world health.

The industry itself is gigantic and getting larger all the time. According to one study the industry “the global artificial intelligence market size was estimated at USD 279.22 billion in 2024...”²

¹¹ [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kismet_\(robot\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kismet_(robot))

² <https://www.grandviewresearch.com/industry-analysis/artificial-intelligence-ai-market>

The potential is great certainly, but to separate the grandiose claims from the reality takes work, and the negative aspects are often hidden. There are some claims, for example, that AI will improve medical research and lead to better health for humanity. I think that is generally true.

The following article presents a relatively balanced approach to benefits and disadvantages of AI:

<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC7605294/>

Health Claims. Much has been said about the potential health benefits from AI abetting medical research.

The following article examines the potential effects of AI on health. In my opinion the overall sense of the Harvard piece is that it has achieved some results and has potential, but much of it is as yet unrealized.³ You may see it differently.

<https://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2025/03/how-ai-is-transforming-medicine-healthcare/>

The next article does detail some health progress enabled by AI:

<https://www.docwirenews.com/post/the-top-6-ai-breakthroughs-in-healthcare>

Energy cost savings. AI industry claims do NOT generally predict cost savings for consumers. And for good reason. The evidence so far seems to be that the industry has increased our bills.⁴

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/artificial-intelligence-ai-data-centers-electricity-bill-energy-costs/>

³ <https://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2025/03/how-ai-is-transforming-medicine-healthcare/>

⁴ <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/artificial-intelligence-ai-data-centers-electricity-bill-energy-costs/>

How much money has the AI industry spent on lobbying?

Precise Information is hard to come by, but via an AI inquiry it seems. Lobbyists have spent nearly a \$1 billion on lobbying in 2024, according to *Public Citizen*.⁵

AI and the environment

AI is placing a great strain on the environment. I will only point to one well-researched article on this topic:⁶

<https://news.mit.edu/2025/explained-generative-ai-environmental-impact-0117>

Conclusions

It is hard to draw conclusions about the worth of an industry based on so few years. I have not found many examples of dramatic breakthroughs. However, individual cases are impressive.

This industry seems to regard American ratepayers are a great cash cow for themselves. If they had a motto, it might well be: “Let’s building enormous, expensive data centers and get the ratepayers to subsidize us. And oh, if we mess up the environment, they should pay for cleanup too.”.

Despite all my complaints and warnings in this brief article, it may well be that my life and yours will be extended by AI medical and scientific research.

In sum, let’s harness this beast and make it work for the benefit of all of us.

Albert Fried-Cassorla is a writer, teacher and playwright in Philadelphia. Learn more at www.fried-cas.com He encourages you to write to him at amfriedcas@gmail.com

David Langdon on my AI essay

⁵ <https://www.citizen.org/article/artificial-intelligence-lobbyists-descend-on-washington-dc/#:~:text=A%20previous%20report%20by%20OpenSecrets,issues%20that%20year.%5B6%5D>

⁶ <https://news.mit.edu/2025/explained-generative-ai-environmental-impact-0117>

Your essay is well-written, articulate, and it was hard to find anything to disagree with, though i tried. It seemed like something that could have been written about the new coal-mining industry in 1770, the expanding railroads in 1850, the oil industry in 1870, the plastics industry in 1945, the computer industry in 1975... and many others.

An article about each of those could have been written pointing out

1 this industry is poised to make huge changes in how we live,

2 this industry will absorb lots of capital and produce lots of profit for some of the corporations and people involved,

3 with significant harm or economic loss for some others;

5 this industry will create significant environmental harm, both foreseeable and unforeseeable.

6 Therefore, we (society, those we have empowered to act for us regarding such corporations) should take measures to mitigate the harms in the interest of social, economic, and environmental justice.

Do you think i have misunderstood or misconstrued your essay? Did I get all the main points?

David

Albert: Yes you did!