

Annotation

This text is a literature review with the goal of introducing the topic of artificial intelligence (AI) as a sociologically relevant phenomenon to research. The text has three chapters that together form a basic platform to understand many different aspects of the topic. The first chapter is concerned with the technical aspects of AI and is based on technical literature. These aspects are important for understanding of the current surge of interest in AI that has arisen in the recent years. The technical aspects also help us understand the strengths and weaknesses of AI by understanding its inner workings. The second chapter introduces an overview of sociologically relevant works of authors dealing with the social effects and other aspects of AI. Works of four of these authors are chosen as examples of the breadth of possible ways of looking at AI and as sources for further understanding. The third chapter chooses two examples from the vast amount of areas of application AI in the real world to deepen the overall understanding. This chapter balances out the previous more theoretical chapters by looking at the state of the art in the fields of medicine and transportation and applies knowledge acquired in the previous chapters. The output of the text is a sort of introductory guide through the topic of sociological aspects of AI for those sociologists who are interested in AI or would wish to conduct further research. It is at the same time conceived as an argument why AI can be an interesting focus of sociological research.