Why, AI?
What you do with AI in the bedroom is your own thing.
What you do with AI in the bedroom is your own thing.

Or is it?
Questions to ask

- Why is there AI in the bedroom, and what is it doing there?
- What's happening in sex robotics with AI?
- "But that's a private thing!" Why is it even an issue that there is a (sexual) AI in the bedroom? The public/private divide and sex robots
- What is to be done?
AI in the bedroom ...

- **Smart home utilities**

- **Personal Service Assistants** (Siri, Alexa, Cortana...)

- **Educational robots** (e.g. story-teller robot Codi for small children)

- **Chatbots** for comfort and emotional support, e.g. Replika A.I

→ Emotionality, relationality, care and companionship in social robotics
... and specifically for sexual purposes

- “Harmony AI” + “HarmonyX” by RealBotix
- AI-driven robotized sex doll
- Companionship, unconditional love, emotional support, care + sexual fulfillment
- A special combination of sexuality and care
- The “perfect companion in the palm of your hands” → “the perfect woman”?
The public / private divide

- Dualism between the public and the private realm

- **Public affairs**: politics, productive work → masculine

- **Private domain**: family life, reproductive work → feminine

- Reproductive work: care work, unpaid work → feminized social function

Expectations in gender roles (relationality vs. distance)
“Harmony” and the private realm

Sex robots embody a combination of sexuality and (emotional) care which relies on the separation of public and private, and reinforces it

→ sexualized care work

Feminist movement: the personal is political

→ experiences are structured along social power relations

→ there is no such thing as an apolitical (private) realm

→ our private desires, practices, and expectations matter
So what is there to do?

1. By analyzing the **structural position** of the sex robot, we can assess the social dynamics that make such sex robots seem plausible and necessary.

2. This requires recognizing that **the personal is political**. By this, we can come to a critique of the deeply engrained patriarchal structures that shape our world of perception and our desires.

3. The first step: reflecting on the public/private divide and how it shows in our relations towards sexuality and the distribution of care. Thinking through these expectations and desires is not an individual, but a **collective task**. By recognizing that our expectations, wishes, and desires are not simply given, but historically and socially situated, we can reflect on ways of how to change the world.
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Thank you!
Literature for further reading and sources


Moran, Jenna Carla (2019b): "My Interview with a Sex Robot". Available online: <https://sexrobotics.wordpress.com/> (last access 01/13/2021).

Realbotix: RealDollX Homepage: https://www.realdollx.ai/

Realbotix: Harmony App Homepage: https://realbotix.com/Harmony

