

Faculti Summary

<https://faculti.net/the-line-ai-the-future-of-personhood/>

In this Faculti interview, Boyle discusses his new book, *The Line: AI & the Future of Personhood* (forthcoming MIT Press Oct 22, 2024). Chatbots like ChatGPT have challenged human exceptionalism: we are no longer the only beings capable of generating language and ideas fluently. But is ChatGPT conscious? Or is it merely engaging in sophisticated mimicry? And what happens in the future if the claims to consciousness are more credible? Boyle explores what these changes might do to our concept of personhood, to “the line” we believe separates our species from the rest of the world, but also separates “persons” with legal rights from objects. The conversation ranges from Blake Lemoine, the Google engineer who (wrongly) thought the AI system he was working on was conscious, to whether in the future we will give AI systems some form of legal status for the reasons we do so with corporations - so they can sue and be sued. Boyle explains why science fiction treatments of nonhuman intelligence affect us so powerfully, what we learned from the nonhuman animal rights movement, and how AI might cause us to reassess humanity’s own consciousness.