Abstract

This diploma thesis deals with the phenomenon of artificial intelligence, which is viewed through the lens of social science. Specifically, it seeks to answer the question of whether social science has been able to anticipate the future in the case of artificial intelligence. In order to answer this question, a combination of the methods of symptomatic reading and hermeneutics is used in the following paper. These consist of reading the selected literature in order to find deeper meanings that may have seemed hidden at first glance. For the analysis I have chosen Ulrich Beck, Anthony Giddens and Niklas Luhmann as representatives of the social sciences, as each of them deals with the relationship between society and nature and thus their holistic worldview can be assumed to includes the topic of artificial intelligence. The thesis first deals with artificial intelligence itself, its development, types and threats. It concludes the first part by defining three selected areas of current risks, namely: the ambiguity of what AI actually is and is not and people's unclear ideas about it, the possibility of text and image manipulation, and finally the problem of outdated data and biased code. Before the analysis itself, I briefly introduce a few concepts from the social science literature for better orientation in the analysis. These concepts are: risk, trust and future. In the analysis, using the chosen methods, I try to explore the issues of artificial intelligence through social science point of view in the context of the chosen AI problem areas and find hidden connections and meanings. In the analysis, I found that at least one author dealt with each of selected AI risks, thereby answering positively the question of whether social science has been able to anticipate the future of AI. This also confirms the importance of the partnership between the social sciences and the natural sciences in addressing issues not only of the present but also of the future.

Key words

artificial intelligence, risk, trust, risk society, social sciences