

Report on the Talk by Professor Davy Cielen

On February 9th, 2023, Professor Davy Cielen, a co-founder of the Maiton Consulting Group based in London, delivered an informative and thought-provoking talk on “AI for Good at SDMIMD”. The talk was focused on the topic of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its various applications, as well as its potential to bring about positive change in society.

The Professor began his talk by addressing one of the common misconceptions about AI - that it will replace workers. He stated that AI will not replace roles, but rather create a need for a newer set of skills in the new paradigm. He also highlighted the various applications of AI, such as its use in the healthcare sector to assist surgeons, speed up medicine development, and in the education sector to assist with homework and grading of students. These applications are making our roles easier and allowing us to focus on the important aspects.

Professor Cielen then went on to discuss the evolution of AI, from its theoretical foundations in the 1950s to its current state where anyone can work on it, regardless of their mathematical knowledge. He showcased various tools such as Dalle2, MID Journey, Chat GPT, and Digital Humans that are making AI more accessible to the public. He also explained the three stages of AI - Narrow AI, General AI, and Super AI - and highlighted that transfer learning requires much less cost than before.

The Professor also addressed the fears associated with AI, as humans have a basic tendency to fear the unknown. He shared a research study that illustrated how women tend to show more fear towards technology, while this is up for debate. He also showcased a study where researchers tried to understand the likelihood that AI will consider us as a threat, which was found to be low, despite reports of a Google AI project becoming sentient.

During his talk, Professor Cielen emphasized that AI will never be able to replace jobs that require empathy, creativity, intuition, and compassion. These are human traits that machines are not capable of replicating. He also touched upon the need for legislation to regulate the use of AI and the importance of human-centric AI for social good.

In conclusion, Professor Davy Cielen's talk was informative and thought-provoking. He highlighted the many ways in which AI can be socially positive and how it can be used to bring about positive change in various sectors such as healthcare and education. He emphasized that while AI has great potential, it is important to keep an eye out for risks associated with its use. Overall, the talk provided valuable insights into the current state of AI and its potential for the future.