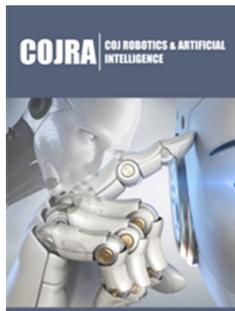


Fuckbots: The Challenges of Sexual Robotics

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Opinion

The first approach to the field of fuckbots, or sexual robotics (also lovotics, dildonics), shows us an astonishing result; we do not have data about them. Taking into consideration that sexual industries (porn, gadgets) provide incredible benefits, the lack of open interest into such research area is, at minimum, a complete absurdity. The estimated revenues for the next generation of SexTech (and sexual robotics, as n included category) systems is estimated on US\$122 billion by 2026. The demand and revenues are exponential but. We do not see departments of sexual robots at universities, nor students doing their final Grade projects on such topic, not academic events are hold on sexual technologies or big companies investing into this field. A few unknown and not relevant professionals have in their hands the future of perhaps the biggest revolution into the human history.

The only rational explanation for this lack of interest is that we are facing still a taboo, related with the still stigmatized role of sexuality in human societies. Some shy publications are there because of their medical and/or sexual-affective (care) orientation [1], but nothing is being directly related to the creation of machines that improve and create human sexual pleasures, for the simple and wonderful purpose of enhance such human feeling. Some scarce and non-systematic research have been done on related topics [2-12], covering HRI, psychological profiles of consumers of such technologies, or gendering issues.

There are, of course, plenty of related, compelling, and complex ethical aspects, but it cannot be an obstacle for the public debate about such technologies. This invisibilization is still related to the lack of freedom for talking about sexuality. And it is the more powerful force of nature, which makes possible the creation of strong social bonds as well as maintain alive living species. In our days, when sex is everywhere and we consider to have reached a new step into the history of sexual rights, the truth is that in relation to SexTech we look like our grand-grandparents, who were (secretly) amazed with the first electric dildos in 19th Century, but did not integrate such things in their normal lives [13-15].

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