



JOSHA's Critical Review of "High Hopes for 'Deep Medicine'? AI, Economics, and the Future of Care" by Robert Sparrow and Joshua Hatherley

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Submitted: 22. June 2023
Published: 3. November 2023
Volume: 10
Issue: 6
Affiliation: Journal of Science, Humanities, and Arts, Freiburg im Breisgau, Germany
Languages: English
Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, Healthcare, Medicine, Deep Medicine, Patient Care, Economics
Categories: News and Views, Artificial Intelligence, Modeling and Simulation, Medicine
DOI: 10.17160/josha.10.6.910

Abstract:

"High Hopes for 'Deep Medicine'? AI, Economics, and the Future of Care" by Sparrow and Hatherley critically examines the potential impact of AI on healthcare. The essay questions the optimistic view that AI will enhance the doctor-patient relationship, and identifies economic and institutional factors that may hinder its realisation. Concerns are raised about the erosion of the therapeutic relationship, increased administrative burden, reduced time for patient interaction, and diminished trust in doctors. While acknowledging the benefits of AI in diagnosis, the authors call for a more balanced approach, suggesting specific recommendations and exploring successful examples of AI integration to prioritise patient-centred care and protect the doctor-patient relationship.

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"High Hopes for 'Deep Medicine'? AI, Economics, and the Future of Care" by Sparrow and Hatherley critically examines the potential impact of AI on healthcare. The essay questions the optimistic view that AI will enhance the doctor-patient relationship, and identifies economic and institutional factors that may hinder its realisation. Concerns are raised about the erosion of the therapeutic relationship, increased administrative burden, reduced time for patient interaction, and diminished trust in doctors. While acknowledging the benefits of AI in diagnosis, the authors call for a more balanced approach, suggesting specific recommendations and exploring successful examples of AI integration to prioritise patient-centred care and protect the doctor-patient relationship.



"High Hopes for 'Deep Medicine'? AI, Economics, and the Future of Care" by Robert Sparrow and Joshua Hatherley explores the potential impact of artificial intelligence (AI) on healthcare. The essay challenges the optimistic view that AI will improve the doctor-patient relationship, arguing that economic and institutional factors are likely to hinder the realisation of these expectations. While acknowledging the potential benefits of AI in improving diagnosis, the authors raise concerns about the erosion of the therapeutic relationship and the negative impact on professional and patient satisfaction.

Sparrow and Hatherley argue that introducing AI in healthcare will not necessarily lead to a return to the 'golden age of the doctor'. They argue that economic considerations, particularly in for-profit healthcare systems, will prioritise increasing patient throughput over fostering meaningful patient-physician interactions. In addition, institutions tend to focus on measurable outcomes, potentially neglecting the intangible aspects of care. The authors question the ability of physicians to mobilise politically to protect the therapeutic relationship, citing historical failures in advocating for improved healthcare conditions. They also highlight the potential demoralisation and disempowerment of the medical profession due to the disruptive nature of AI, which could shift power away from frontline practitioners to IT system managers.

The authors make valid points about the economic and institutional forces that could hinder the positive impact of AI on healthcare. Their critique highlights the potential negative consequences of AI implementation, such as increased administrative burden, reduced time for patient interaction, and diminished trust in physicians.

JOSHA's conclusion: It is important to note that the essay focuses primarily on potential pitfalls and challenges, with limited exploration of possible solutions or mitigation strategies. To improve the essay, the authors could provide specific recommendations to address the issues identified. For example, they could propose policy changes to prioritise patient-centred care and protect the doctor-patient relationship. In addition, exploring successful examples of AI integration in healthcare systems that prioritise care and patient satisfaction would provide a more comprehensive analysis. In conclusion, the essay by Robert Sparrow and Joshua Hatherley raises valid concerns about the potential negative impact of AI on the doctor-patient relationship and overall care in healthcare. However, a more



balanced approach that considers both the challenges and opportunities would contribute to a more nuanced understanding of the future of AI in medicine.

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Acknowledgements

ChatGPT May 24 Version was used during the writing process as part of JOSHA's policy of experimentation with new AI tools. However, the authors of this review take full responsibility for its content.

Article Information

Robert Sparrow and Joshua Hatherley, "High Hopes for 'Deep Medicine'? AI, Economics, and the Future of Care," *Hastings Center Report* 50, no. 1 (2020): 14-17. DOI: 10.1002/hast.1079