

Third Discussion Paper (Due Monday, November 30):

Write a five-page essay on one of the following topics.

1. What, in your view, are the chief threats to privacy arising from the development and deployment of robotic technologies? How would you address those threats?
2. Is it morally permissible to have sex with a robot? Should the production and marketing of sex bots be prohibited by law?
3. Is it morally permissible to create fully humanoid artificial persons solely for the purpose of specific servitude?
4. As more responsibility for the care of the elderly and the infirm is handed over to robots, are we abdicating a fundamental human responsibility by depriving those in our care of genuine human interactions or are we achieving a social good by providing more competent and cost-effective care to a great number of people in need?
5. Is it conceivable that, at some future date, robots would be sophisticated enough so as to be granted moral and legal standing? What criteria would have to be met - technical, legal, social, etc. - for such a status to be granted? What would be among the chief consequences of our taking such a step?