SOCIAL STEREOTYPES

A critical reflection on the oneness of humanity

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November 2022

Stereotype: *a widely held but fixed and oversimplified image or idea of a particular type of person or thing.* [Oxford Languages / Google]

A globalized hyper-connected world is said to give plenty of opportunities to exchange ideas and expand one's vision. Well, in principle that's true, but in practice this rarely happens, as very few people are able to critically filter and elaborate the huge amount of information available in such wide context with to develop a personal point of view.

Instead, for most, the practical result is a smearing of thinking that leads to a standardization of concepts. All different facets of major matters are lost. The endless repetitions of similar standpoints coming from the multitude of individuals are averaged. Thus, complex issues get oversimplified, they turn into slogans.

Such thing can also be seen in the way people look like in terms of dresses, hair cuts and social behavior. International fashion and marketing businesses rely more and more on this effect.
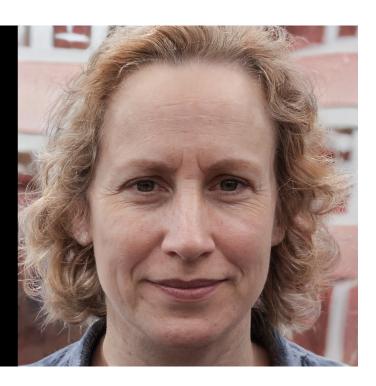
Yet this is a way of depicting what the oneness of humanity is nowadays: a common mainstream aesthetics and mind, which represents all and no one at the same time. On one side, that has the advantage of allowing a powerful sharing and amplification of what we feel are the most important challenges the humanity need to address. On the other side, an impoverishment of the dialectic debate arises, and this may lead to over-simplified solutions, or even to extreme polarizations with deviations towards populism.

In this project, which lies in-between photography and computer imagery, I'm experimenting with artificial intelligence in order to generate a set of stereotyped individuals, together with their stereotyped standpoints on important world's contemporary matters. No person nor statement represented here ever existed in reality. They are all synthesized by the AI as a result of learning iterations upon a huge training set composed by portraits and statements of real persons.

The AI training process with its synthesized results perfectly simulate the development and social effects described above.

Alice, 58 years old — The Energy Crisis
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Moreover, we need to start by looking at our own lives, and taking steps to make sure that we are using less energy than we currently are. This means that when you're using electricity, you should turn off all of the lights in your house when you leave them on. You should also not leave appliances on standby if they're not being used—this will help keep your appliances from using more power than they need to run.
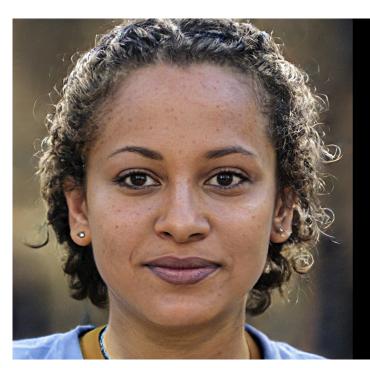
Bohai, 34 years old - The Football World Cup in Qatar
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In recent years, Qatar has been accused of using migrant workers to build stadiums and other buildings for the 2022 World Cup as well as for other construction projects around the country. This has led to widespread abuse and exploitation of these workers, who often face unsafe conditions and limited wages.
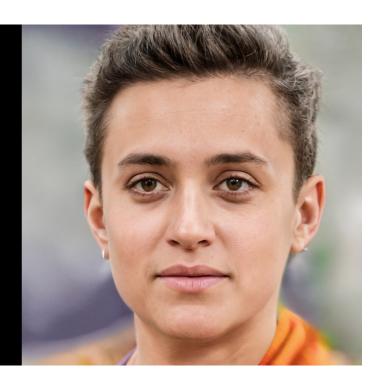
That's not okay!

Abeba, 26 years old - The Climate Change
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It might seem like a daunting task to start looking
at ways to reduce your carbon footprint, but once you
get started, you'll see that it's easier than you think.
The first step is finding out where your energy comes
from. Do you have solar panels? Do you have energy
efficient light bulbs in your home? Is your car
powered by gas or by electricity? If so, those are
things that could be changed right away!

Andrea, 19 years old: Gender and Identity
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We must amplify their voices. If you're not part of
an LGBTQ+ community, try talking with someone who
is and ask how it feels to be part of it. Try reading
books by members of the community. Try listening to
music created by members of the community (you
might find it inspiring).
Everyone should also support them when they speak
up about their own experiences - whether it's at an
event or in your own life. By doing so, you'll be
giving these voices even more power!

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        Berat, 47 years old - The War
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In the current world, we are facing a war that has no
end. War makes people suffer and destroy the
country's finances. The war is not only expensive but
also tiresome.
We need to search for peace at every moment and do
our best to make it happen in life so that we can live
peacefully with our fellow human beings without any
discrimination or violence towards them (Martin
Luther King, Jr., "Why We Can't Wait").