

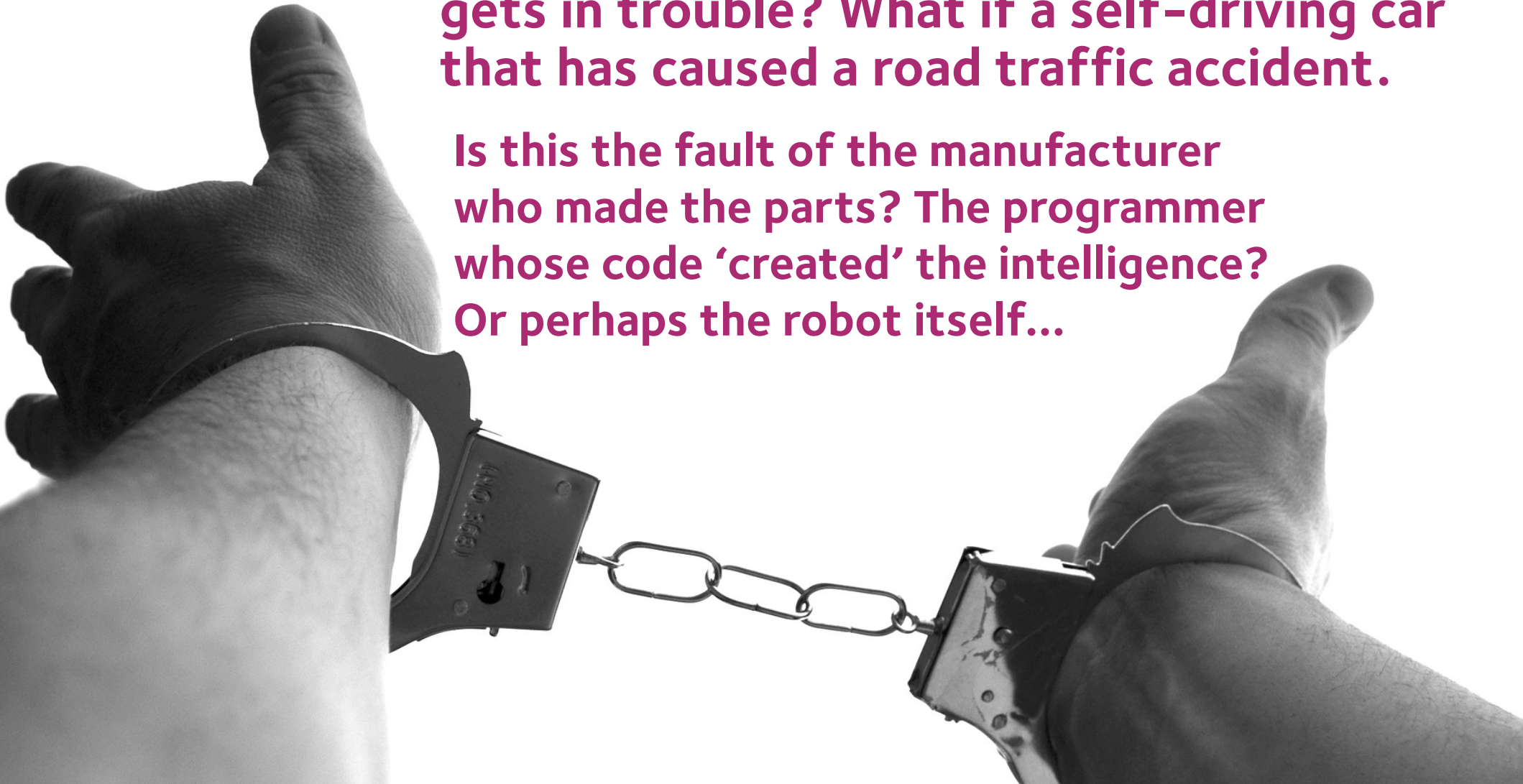
Is a robot a person?



Scientists are creating **‘social’ robots** that can keep **lonely elderly people company**. These robots could be controlled from home and sent out into the world – maybe to the shops! Algorithms that can understand social behaviour are able to detect facial emotions such as smiling and respond.

If a robot commits a crime, who gets in trouble? What if a self-driving car that has caused a road traffic accident.

Is this the fault of the manufacturer who made the parts? The programmer whose code 'created' the intelligence? Or perhaps the robot itself...





US Army General Robert Cone predicts that **Soldier Robots** will replace a quarter of all US combat soldiers by **2030**, as bots are being developed to do everything from dismantling land mines to engaging in frontline combat.

Defense News, 2014



A trial in a school in South Korea used **robotic teachers** to take classes in maths, English, science and even art. The students really liked their machine teachers and they apparently made the students feel more creative!



Korea Institute
of Science and
Technology,
Engkey



Strong Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a machine or system that has been designed to think like us. Strong AI may not be made of the same stuff as us, but it is a system that does the same thing.



With technology developing so fast we need to work out how we would treat something like this. Is it fair to treat it like a slave?

Personhood Theory is a branch of philosophy that suggests a 'person' is anything that has consciousness.



This means that dolphins and apes could be treated as people as they are 'sentient' – having social structures and ways of communications. Conscious robots should be people too.

“The development of full artificial intelligence could spell **the end of the human race.”**

Professor Stephen Hawking
Theoretical Scientist

A "super computer" has duped humans into thinking it was a 13-year-old boy called Eugene Goostman.

It passed the 'Turing Test' which required it to fool over 30% of humans it interacted with in five-minute keyboard conversations. Eugene fooled 33%.

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The Tin Man in *The Wizard of Oz* needs a heart. Is that what would make him a person?

We're mainly making robots more intelligent. But if we start making robots emotional – so they can feel like us – would that make them a person?



“If we are machines ... we should be able to build machines out of other stuff, which are **just as alive as we are. But I think for us to admit that, we have to give up on our special-ness”**

Professor Rodney Brooks
Australian Robotics Expert

**If a robot is a person, what does that mean
for how we treat them?**

**Would they have the right to be a citizen of
a country, or to buy a house?**

If only some robots would have the intelligence to be a person, how do we test that? How can we classify them?





Meet JiaJia, Nadine and Sophia.

They are all robots.

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“Man is a robot with defects”

Emil Cioran
Romanian Philosopher

