



175th Session
1st Ordinary Meeting
Thursday, 21st September 2023

On the 21st of September 2023, the Queen's University Belfast Literary and Scientific Society convened for the 1st Ordinary Meeting of the 175th Session for the motion: This House Believes AI Undermines Our Humanity.

As usual, the meeting began with announcements. All council members introduced themselves.

Following a reading of the minutes, the meeting moved to Private Members' Business. First Ryan Hoey HLM raised Rishi Sunak's heroic decision to push back Net Zero. Responses were heard from Keir Robertson, Dermot Hamill HLM, Matt Walker, Megan Hewitt, and Grant Warren. Sean Palmer then raised the issue of climate taxes to aid poorer countries. Responses were heard from Jacqueline Bonner, Jonathan Deronja, and Matt Walker. Tom Burns raised the issue of Lough Neagh turning green. Responses were heard from Sam Haslett, Fintan Lalor, Dermot Hamill HLM, and Max Kieran.

President's Questions then took place. Dermot Hamill HLM asked if the President would condemn the French. She did. Jack Sands asked if the President supported the junta in Niger as they are anti-French. She said she did not express political views. Jacqueline Bonner asked about the swear jar. The President explained the system. Ryan Hoey asked the breakfast question. The President had bacon. Fintan asked how the President was. She said fine. Mr. Secretary James Orchin asked for permission to strike Ruairi. Madame President gave it. Roisin Keenan asked about feminism. "Feminism" was the response. Dermot Hamill asked about the NI Libertarian Party, she said she couldn't express political opinions.

After President's Questions, the vote of prior opinion was held. There were 32 votes for aye, 18 votes for nay and 8 abstentions, so the proposition had it.

First on the proposition was Ryan Hoey HLM. He started by defining the motion and said that the proposition isn't attacking AI in general, and said that they would discuss it more philosophically. He asked if AI means its loosening what it means to be human. He mentioned rationality, literature, innovation, and scientific advances. He contended that AI is undermining a great range of these things. He discussed the matter of rationality, he brought up Kant and David (Daah-vid) Hilbert. He discussed Alan Turing and his Turing Test.

First on the opposition was Megan Hewitt. She began by arguing that the Turing Test may be outdated. She listed various forms of AI, and mentioned her AI. She said she was a drama student. (Shame) She said that AI might take our jobs. She mentioned AI plagiarism of music and the motion pictures guild strike and the use of AI to write scripts. She mention Mr. Secretary Orchin's AI movie script (part two coming Christmas-time). She said that the passion and feel of humanity in literature which come across as emotionless. She argued that AI is being given too much credit and argued that those who use AI are the real problem.



Second on the proposition was Ashling Quigley. She stated she wished to focus on art and AI. She argued the importance of art and that it is the reflection of the human experience and its importance for society and community. Art should inspire and make others reflect. AI meanwhile is a parasite that feeds off others. AI's rate of production is simply too large for anyone to keep up. She mentioned extras and voice actors having their likenesses captured and used without their authorisation and approval.

Second on the opposition was Max Kieran. "This will be amazing" he said. He started by defining AI and humanity. He argued humanity was about compassion and love (yuck). He read an AI generated speech from ChatGPT which used the phrase 'howdy' at one point. He had a massive diatribe about linguistics at which point I feel asleep. A lot of human existence is unnatural, his argument then became almost Ted Kaczynski-ite.

The final speaker for the proposition was Cormac McSparron (fashionably late). He discussed how ChatGPT can know more than any human over a lifetime. The brain does not use as good a learning algorithm as digital intelligence. This is more than *you* can learn he said, pointing at one of the women debaters. He discussed Bobby Fischer versus a Soviet computer and won. But he couldn't do it. AI knows more than women. He then touched on linguistics again (dear God), and argued it took us 100,000 years to get to where we are today with language. He argued AI doesn't exist to make us better.

The final speaker for the opposition was Fintan Lalor who argued that AI cannot multitask, he proposed trying to translate Irish and English and that humans can multitask, AI cannot. Data is a major issue in his eyes. He discussed the idea of a book a week - multitasking is important and began to discuss engineering. He brought up birds, data, Tamagochi, "peripheral vision is cool", Mary Berry,

Questions were heard from Maria Whitehead, Luke Maguire, and Matt Walker, Dermot Hamill HLM, Eleanor Robins, and Jonathan Deronja

Following the debate and questions from the House, the vote on speaker ability took place.

There were 9 votes for the proposition, 34 votes for the opposition and 5 abstentions, so the opposition had it.