

THE BEST OPTION

A Research-Creation Project on Artificial Intelligence and Democratic Decision-Making

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Arkadinia
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Duration: 20 minutes
Short fiction film

1. Project Overview

The Best Option (2022) is a short science-fiction film developed as a research-creation project exploring the ethical, political, and philosophical implications of artificial intelligence in democratic governance.

The film stages a near-future scenario in which algorithmic systems assist—or potentially replace—human decision-making processes in public affairs. Through speculative narrative, it examines tensions between efficiency and responsibility, optimization and deliberation, technological rationality and human judgment.

The project was conceived at the intersection of cinema studies, AI ethics, and public policy reflection. It seeks to investigate how narrative fiction can function as a laboratory for testing technological imaginaries and making complex conceptual issues accessible to broader audiences.

2. Research Context

The film emerged within a broader research trajectory focused on:

- Representations of artificial intelligence in contemporary cinema
- The cultural construction of algorithmic authority
- Narrative sovereignty and the politics of technological mediation
- The role of artistic practice in shaping public debate on emerging technologies

Rather than presenting AI through dystopian spectacle, **The Best Option** adopts a restrained speculative framework, allowing viewers to confront plausible institutional scenarios. The film functions as an analytical device: fiction becomes a mode of inquiry.

In this sense, the work belongs to a research-creation methodology in which artistic production and theoretical reflection inform one another.

3. Methodological Approach

The project integrates:

- Philosophical inquiry (agency, responsibility, delegation of power)
- Institutional analysis (decision-making, governance models)
- Cinematic narrative strategies (minimalist speculative fiction)

The choice of short format (20 minutes) was deliberate: it enables concentrated narrative experimentation while facilitating use in educational, institutional, and workshop contexts.

The film has been presented in academic and European institutional settings as a catalyst for discussion on AI regulation, public trust, and the limits of automation.

4. Contribution to Research-Creation

The Best Option contributes to ongoing debates in three domains:

1. **AI Ethics and Governance**
It explores the conceptual risks of delegating collective judgment to computational systems.
2. **Cinema and Technological Imaginaries**
It demonstrates how speculative cinema can test institutional futures without relying on sensationalism.
3. **Art as Public Deliberation Tool**
The film functions as a medium for structured debate, bridging academic discourse and policy-oriented reflection.

The project exemplifies a hybrid profile combining filmmaking practice and academic research in the humanities.

5. Credits and Production

Written and directed by Serge Goriely

Production: Arkadinia

Country: Belgium

Year: 2022

Duration: 20 minutes