

Humanism, Love, and AI

A Comparative Exploration in Contemporary Cinema

Article

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Abstract

Artificial intelligence (AI) is no longer confined to technological advancements—it is shaping human intimacy, relationships, and self-perception. This article explores the evolving portrayal of AI companionship in contemporary cinema, analyzing three key films: *Her* (2013), *I'm Your Man* (2021), and *Be Right Back* (2013). Drawing on the humanist perspectives of Carl Rogers, Erich Fromm, and Simone de Beauvoir, the study examines the psychological, ethical, and philosophical dimensions of AI-driven relationships. By exploring cinema as a speculative lens, this work questions whether AI enhances human connection or perpetuates emotional illusions, ultimately reflecting deeper societal anxieties and aspirations.

Artificial intelligence (AI) is no longer just a tool of technological progress—it is increasingly infiltrating the intimate spaces of human life, shaping not just relationships and emotions, but also our sense of self. As AI becomes more sophisticated, it raises profound questions about the nature of intimacy: Can AI foster relationships that feel as deep and authentic as human connections? If so, do these relationships enhance or diminish our sense of self? And at what point does companionship with AI become indistinguishable from human connection?

Cinema, as a speculative medium, has long explored these dilemmas, shaping and responding to evolving perceptions of AI companionship. Do cinematic portrayals of AI help us understand the future, or do they simply reflect our cultural anxieties? Has AI in film been more often a threat or a companion? How have these depictions shifted over time, and what historical and cultural forces have influenced them? If AI fulfills emotional needs, does it redefine love and authenticity, or reinforce existing dependencies? These questions challenge us to reconsider our evolving relationship with artificial intelligence. The next section will trace the historical shifts in AI's cinematic portrayal, examining how different eras and cultural contexts have shaped its image—from fearsome adversary to potential companion.