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CITIZEN

“Democracy Dies  
in Broad Daylight”

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR?  
BULK ORDERS?

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Notable & Quotable

‘We must stop, we are not ready for AI’

For Eliezer Yudkowsky, the outlook is far from optimistic. The American-Israeli AI researcher arrived at SXSW as a doomsday prophet, warning in a panel ominously titled “How to Make AGI (Artificial General Intelligence) Not Kill Everyone” that AI development must stop – or humanity will face extinction.

Yudkowsky, 45, who grew up in an Orthodox Jewish community in Chicago, founded the Machine Intelligence Research Institute (MIRI) in California two decades ago. The institute’s mission is to develop “friendly” AI systems.

However, during the panel discussion, Yudkowsky painted a far darker picture: If AI development is not halted, it will lead to the annihilation of humanity.

“The AI I’m worried about is intelligent – not because someone gave it a gun – but because it can evolve beyond our control,” he warned. “Humans started as animals roaming the savannah and eventually built advanced technologies and weapons. An autonomous, non-human intelligence with similar capabilities is inherently dangerous.”

Moderated by entrepreneur Judd Rosenblatt, the panel also featured Samuel Hammond, a senior fellow at the American Innovation Foundation, and Nora Aman, an expert on AI safety mechanisms. While neither shared Yudkowsky’s apocalyptic vision, both expressed deep concerns about the existential threat posed by advanced AI.

– The prophet of Silicon Valley doom: ‘We must stop, we are not ready for AI’ by Amir Bogen, Ynet, March 17, 2025. CHC

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