

# The case against conscious AI

## Anil Seth

Sussex Centre for Consciousness Science  
School of Engineering and Informatics,  
University of Sussex,  
Brighton BN1 9QJ, UK  
[a.k.seth@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:a.k.seth@sussex.ac.uk),  
[www.anilseth.com](http://www.anilseth.com)  
@anilkseth

## Abstract

For centuries, people have fantasized about playing God, by creating artificial versions of ourselves. This is a dream reinvented with every breaking wave of technology, and with AI the wave is a big one. The AI systems we have around us are already intelligent, at least in some ways, but could they ever be conscious? Will an AI ever have feelings, including the ability to suffer? Many experts in AI seem to think so, but there are many reasons to be skeptical. Our brains are not computers made of meat, and consciousness is unlikely to be a matter of algorithms alone. I will discuss the prospects for ‘conscious AI’, and the ethical and social implications of AI systems that either are, or merely appear to be, conscious.

Further reading: <https://www.noemamag.com/the-mythology-of-conscious-ai/>