First reflections on the WP10 Workshop
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What is the scope of ethics within Humaine?

• The subject-matter of ethics within Humaine
  – Not science fiction – we aren’t there yet!
  – But the outside world will tend to have science fiction worries when we tell them what we are doing
  – We need a properly informed and argued-for ethics of commonsense in order to:
    • Respond appropriately to the science fiction worries, and not get caught out as firefighters (cf. Sheelagh McGuinness); cf. the genetic modification debate
    • Respond appropriately to what we are actually doing

• The Ethics Committee is set up to do these things:
  – Deploying our everyday commonsense ethics (beneficence, non-maleficence, justice, autonomy), but properly informed and argued-for
  – These are just prima facie principles, to be applied depending on the context
  – So the Committee is no more capable of delivering up straightforward rules to apply to all ethical problems than is our everyday ethics. There are no such rules.

• There are also many other ethical issues not covered by the Ethics Committee (e.g. social responsibility; cf. Shay), which we have been discussing here, and…

• …about which you all have shown great willingness to engage with theoretical, conceptual and argumentative skills.
Two particular philosophical reflections: (1) ethical reflection

- Leaving aside the science fiction:
  - Does what we are now doing raise new ethical issues?
  - Or does it really just raise the 'old' issues in a new guise or context?
    Analogy: Iraq vs. Agamemnon's war against the Trojans.

- Examples of ethical issues which we have been discussing:
  - Emotional diaries (Kia)
  - Avatars (Asimina)
  - Internet relationships (Aaron)
  - ECA relationships (Catherine)
  - Advertising (Oliviero, Shlomo)
  - Persuasive systems and autonomy (Marco, Holger)

- But either way (new or old-in-new-guise) they are fascinating and challenging, and we are surely right to engage with them here—with commonsense, properly informed, with such excellent theoretical, conceptual and argumentative skill.

Two particular philosophical reflections: (2) conceptual reflection

- Including the science fiction:
  - Is it (conceptually, logically) possible to build machines that have emotions (Naomi);
  - Or can we only aspire to build machines that emulate emotions?

- Either way, what are these 'emotions':
  - Emotional episodes? And what are they?
    • 'states', or
    • evolving, changing sequences of events—narratable (Kia).
  - Or emotional 'life' (Roddy)?
    Emotional personalities, emotional dispositions, moods, unconscious emotions, phobias, and so on…
What I will say to people who say that emotion scientists don’t really understand either emotional life or the ethics of emotion

Just come and see what is being done in Humaine!