

Authenticity in the Age of Digital Companions (Turkle) Questions

This is a really well-written paper with which I disagree on nearly every point., So I am curious what you think.

1. The Galapagos Turtle. Real or robot- what should be used? Why? What is the form of interaction that, in the ideal world, is going on between museum visitor and this turtle?

2. Cynthia Breazeal's sadness at "losing" Kismet when leaving MIT (she didn't leave MIT, by the way)- how is this different, technically, from her sadness if she had built a new electric car at MIT and was graduating and leaving it? Be technical. How is this different?

3. "If the software elicited trust, it was only by tricking those who used it." about Eliza. Several questions come to mind:

a) do you think the students talked to Eliza because they thought it understood them?

b) do you really think they talked to Eliza because they mistrusted people they could talk to?

c) can software that we aren't supposed to ascribe emotion or trust to be accused of "tricking" us- or is that human too?

justify all 3 sub-answers above, of course...