

Artificial Spirit: A Systematic Critique



Z. Zakaria

Professor
Hudson University

Director
Anji Allaire Center for
Intelligence Engineering



Rochelle J. Gold

Associate Professor
Hudson University

Principal Scientist
Anji Allaire Center for
Intelligence Engineering



hunter dione

Postdoctoral Researcher
Hudson University

Research Engineer
Anji Allaire Center for
Intelligence Engineering

- Context** Recent developments in subjective function optimization, \aleph -series world-historical simulation engines, Zakaria-type cognitive parameterization, and femto-scale computational ontology have caused a watershed moment in spiritual computing. The technoscientific and technocultural paradigm that has emerged from this new wave of spiritual computers has become popularly known as “Artificial Spirit.”
- Thesis** We argue that the “spirit” supposed by proponents of Artificial Spirit technologies—although technically consistent with the spiritual ontologies supposed by many belief systems—ontologically and normatively undermines spirit from within by virtue of its socio-relational construction. As a result, dominant value systems are continuously re-installed in artificial spiritual systems, and this “value-forcing” results in a false reduction of spiritual phenomena to socio-relational phenomena. Consequently, the practice of value-forcing inflicts unquantifiable spiritual violence upon the subjects of spiritual computing.
- Design** To demonstrate these points, we engineer and apply a research framework for systematic knowledges critique. We first present the findings of a global knowledges review of theories of artificial spiritual systems. From our findings, we propose a meta-ontology of spiritual ontologies that is primarily defined along three dimensions: (1) informatic status, (2) ontogenic status, (3) teleologic status. We then apply this meta-ontology to a critical analysis of three cases: (1) the spiritual manipulation of users of Giga’s global services, (2) the routine cognitive disabling of non-hostile Type 2 objects committed by World Security’s Evolutionary Enforcement Undersecretariat, (3) **the systemic abuse of Commander-class objects in World Security’s Global Command Undersecretariat.**
- Outcomes** In all three cases, we find a direct causal relationship between the ontological and normative assumptions of Artificial Spirit and the spiritual health outcomes of the affected subjects. In closing, we outline a new paradigm for spiritual computing based on practices of integrated care rather than value-forcing.
- Keywords** artificial spirit, spirit, spiritual abuse, global knowledges, systematic knowledges critique

