

URL: <https://ecorner.stanford.edu/clips/the-subtle-dangers-ofagi/>

Sam Altman, CEO of OpenAI, says he is concerned about the subtle dangers of artificial general intelligence (AGI), because people are more likely to overlook them compared to cataclysmic dangers. He shares one particular concern: whether society can adapt quickly enough to the long-term changes AGI will bring about.



Transcript

- A big focus on Stanford right now is ethics.. 00:00:05,250 And can we talk about, you know, how you perceive the dangers of AGI and specifically do you think the biggest danger from AGI is gonna come from a cataclysmic event, which, you know, makes all the papers? Or is it gonna be more subtle and pernicious? Sort of like, you know, like how everybody has ADD right now from, you know, using TikTok.. Is it, are you more concerned about the subtle dangers, or the cataclysmic dangers? Or neither? - I'm more concerned about the subtle dangers 00:00:30,840 because I think we're more likely to overlook those, the cataclysmic dangers a lot of people talk about and a lot of people think about, and I don't wanna minimize those.. I think they're really serious and a real thing.. But I think we at least know to look out for that and spend a lot of effort.. The example you gave of everybody getting ADD from TikTok or whatever, I don't think we knew to look out for, and that's a really hard, the unknown unknowns are really hard.. And so I worry more about those, although I worry about both.. - And are there unknown unknowns? 00:01:03,900 Are there any that you can name that you're particularly worried about? - Well, then I would kind of, they'd be a known unknown.. 00:01:08,972 (audience laughs) - Well, you can.... 00:01:14,640 - I am worried just about, 00:01:16,560 so even though I think in the short term things change less than we think, as with other major technologies, in the long term, I think they change more than we think..

And I am worried about what rate society can adapt to something so new, and how long it'll take us to figure out the new social contract versus how long we get to do it.. I'm worried about that...