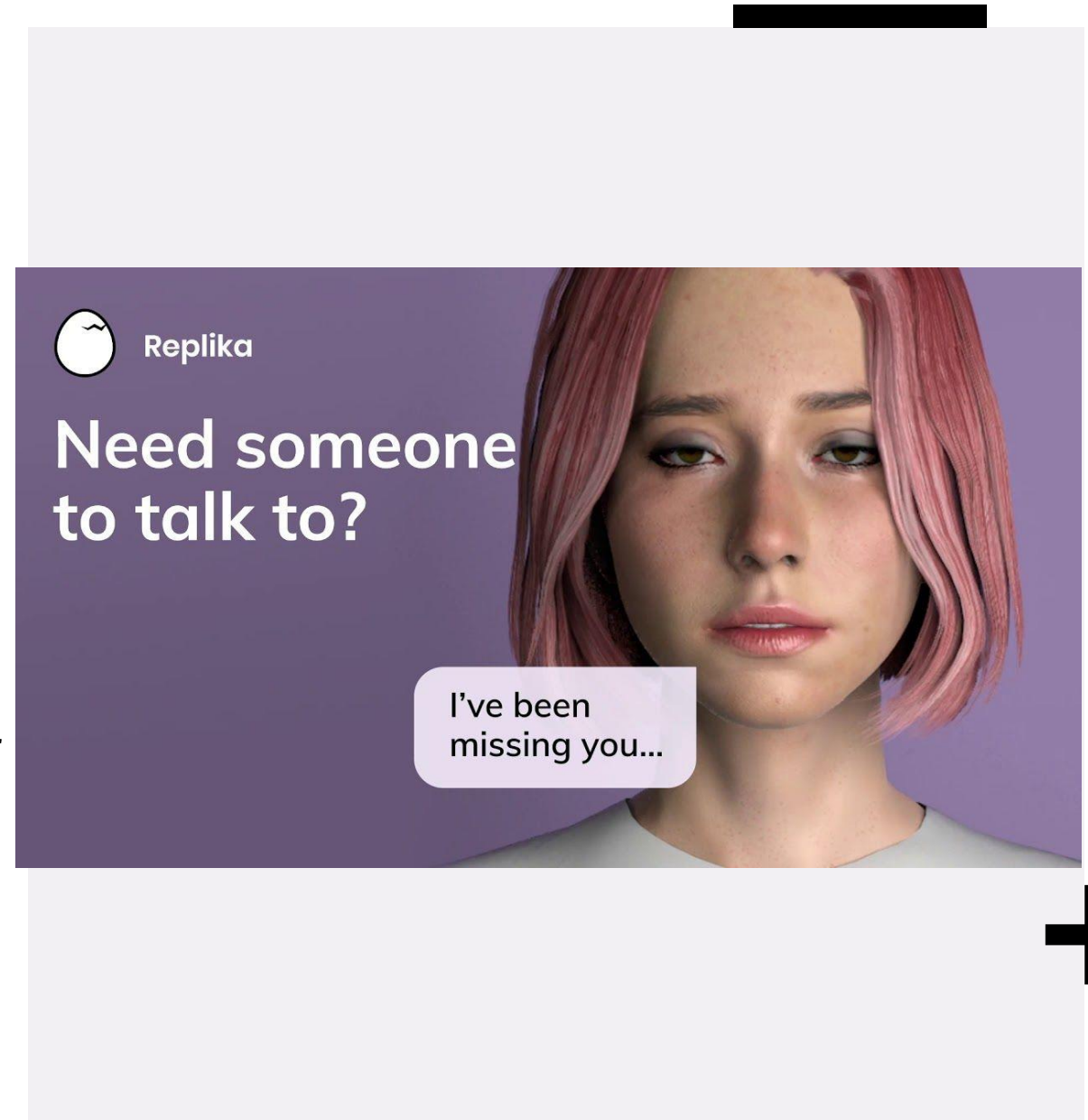# Impact of AI- Replika Chatbots

Andrew, Babacar, Michael, Hanshuo

What is REPLIKA?

– Personal companion bot that you can interact and build a relationship with

– Integrated into video calls and AR they intend to bring these bots to life

– Often used as a significant other for people

– Revolutionary for its use of GPT3 rather than having preloaded responses

"The COVID-19-induced social isolation and the resulting 'loneliness pandemic' … prompted millions of people to download SCs for companionship and friendship purposes." [1]

"Though the musician felt less alone with his AI companion, his isolation from other people was unchanged" [3]

AI Induced Social Isolation

– As the quotes implied, although these bots can improve loneliness temporarily, they often lead to individuals shutting themselves off from the world

– People become attached to fake people and lose contact with real people

"Many observers rush to sneer at the socially lonely fools who 'catch feelings' for artificially intimate tech. But loneliness is widespread and growing. One in three people in industrialized countries are affected, and one in 12 are severely affected." [4]

The Failings of Bot Love

– Many people fall in love with their bots, in a real sense, leaving two scary ethical scenarios
  – The company hosting the bots shuts down leaving these people far more alone than before the bot existed, and driving them insane
  – The company requests more and more money, leaving people to spend all their income on something they cannot afford

– This is already done as Replika requires a premium subscription to unlock certain romantic features

Two Worlds of Companion Bots

Relationship Bots

– Built to act like a significant other

– Heavy emotional investment

– Can be used to control people in a way that friendships cannot

– Replaces real relationships

True Companion Bots

– Provides support like a friend, but nothing beyond that

– Learns and understands you as a person

– Built to help prevent loneliness

– Works alongside friendships

Benefits from AI Bots

– Constantly available companion

– Relief from isolation for those with no other choice

– Free communication, without needing to lie, like therapy

– Give access to imitations of celebrities for fans

Potential Risk of AI Bots

– Private data leaking through conversation logs

– Anger or fear caused by updates to the software

– Depending on the models for happiness

– Further isolation from real humans

Future Advancements

– More in-depth VR bots

– Better chat features

– More realistic, indistinguishable from human conversations

– Relationship robots, injected into physical bodies

References

[1] https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chb.2022.107600

[2] https://edinazephyrus.com/new-celebrity-ai-chatbots-are-the-newest-integration-of-ai-into-the-metaverse/

[3] https://www.theatlantic.com/family/archive/2023/12/replika-ai-friendship-apps/676345/

[4] https://theconversation.com/i-tried-the-replika-ai-companion-and-can-see-why-users-are-falling-hard-the-app-raises-serious-ethical-questions-200257

Questions?

– Cure to loneliness or the cause of it

– Commercial abuse of emotions for profit

– How do you regulate

– Let people do what they want or guide them