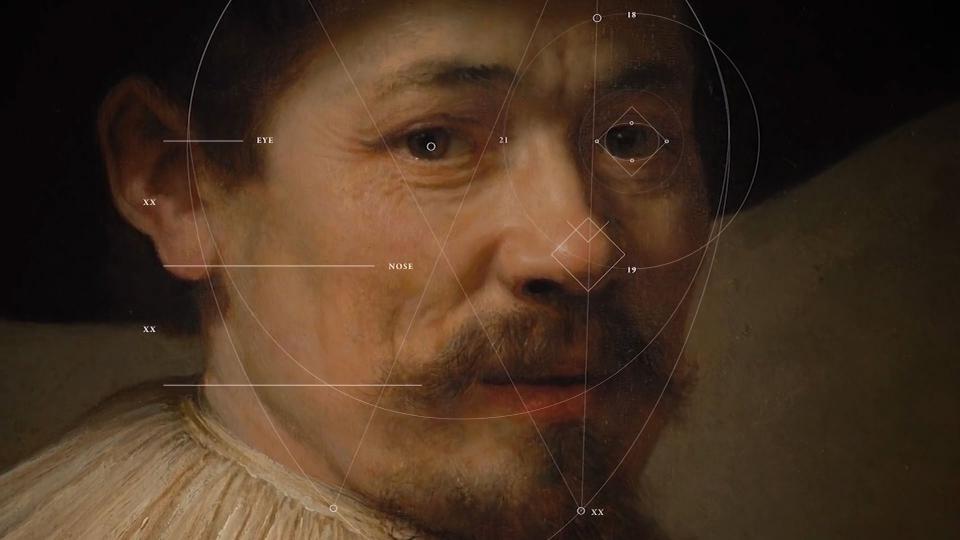


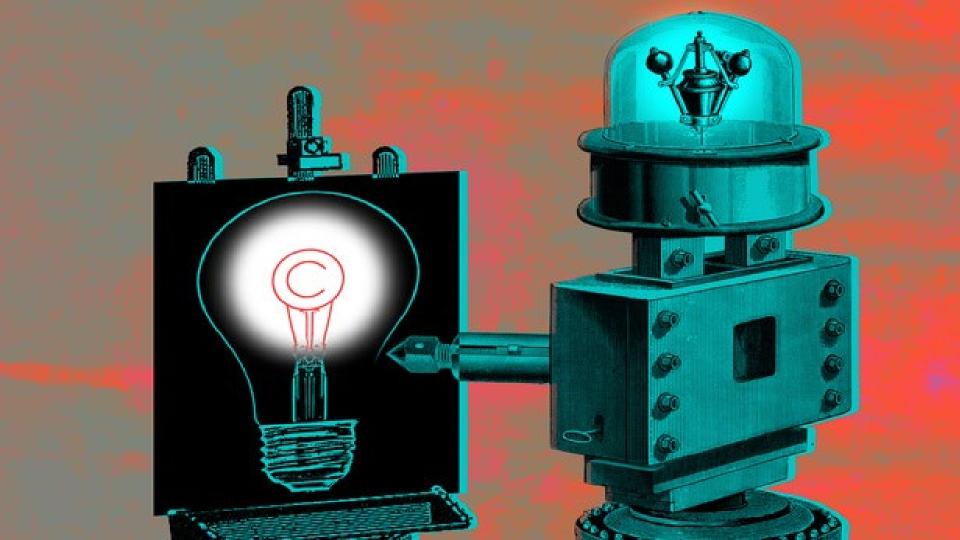
## **Inventive machines**And the future of innovation

Ryan Abbott, MD, JD, MTOM
Professor of Law and Health Sciences
University of Surrey School of Law













"The Congress shall have Power ... to promote the progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries."

## FUTURE TIMES

1 JANUARAY 2040



## Robots Fight For Equal Rights

The now famous humanoid robot Sophia, created by the Hong Kong-based company Hanson Robotics, was granted citizenship in Saudi Arabia in October this year. But many people were offended, even outraged by it, because now the robot had more rights than women in the country which is believed to be the birthplace of Islam. But technically, if a person (or creation) is a "citizen" of a particular country, won't he/she have rights there? The right to free will, the right to life, and maybe even the right to vote? Benjamin Kuipers, professor of computer science and engineering at the University of Michigan had a unique take on the predicament: "A human being is a unique and irreplaceable individual with a finite lifespan. Robots (and other AIs) are computational systems, and can be backed up, stored, retrieved, or duplicated, even into new hardware. A robot is neither unique nor irreplaceable. Even if robots reach a level of cognitive capability (including self-awareness and consciousness) coual to humans, it is not at all clear what this means for the 'rights' of such 'persons'. We already face, but mostly avoid, questions like these about the rights and responsibilities of corporations. A well-known problem with corporate 'personhood' is that it is used to deflect responsibility for misdeeds from individual humans to the corporation." But Professor Kuipers' statement doesn't take into account the very human nature to anthropomorphize robots because of popular psyche, and basically an inherent nature to relate and protect. The now famous humanoid robot Sophia, created by the Hong Kong-based company Hanson Robotics, was granted citizenship in Saudi Arabia in October this year. But many people were offended, even outraged by it, because now the robot had more rights than women in the country which is believed to be the birthplace of Islam. But technically, if a person (or creation) is a "citizen" of a particular country, won't he/she have rights there? The right to free will, the right to life, and maybe even the right to vote? Benjamin Kuipers, professor of computer science and engineering at the University of Michigan had a unique take on the predicament: "A human being is a unique and irreplaceable individual with a finite lifespan, Robots (and other Als) are computational systems, and can be backed up, stored, retrieved, or duplicated, even into new hardware. A robot is neither unique nor irreplaceable. Even if robots reach a level of cognitive capability (including self-awareness and consciousness) equal to humans, it is not at all clear what this means for the 'rights' of such 'persons'. We already face, but mostly avoid, questions like these about the rights and responsibilities of corporations. A well-known problem with corporate 'personhood' is that it is used to deflect responsibility for misdeeds from individual humans to the corporation." But Professor Kuipers' statement doesn't take into account

the very human nature to authropomorphize robots because of popular psyche, and basically an inherent nature to relate and protect. The now famous humanoid robot Sophia, created by the Hong Kong-based company Humson Robotics, was granted citizenship in Saudi Arabia in October this year. But many people were offended, even outraged by it, because now the robot had more rights than women in the country which is believed to be the birthplace of Islam, But technically, if a person for creation is a "citizen" of a particular country, won't he/she have rights there? The right to free will, the right to file will, the right to file, and maybe even the right to vore? Benjamin Knippers, professor of punture science and engineering at the University of Michigan had a unique take on the predicament." A human being is a unique and irreplaceable individual with a finite lifespan. Robots (and other Als) are computational systems, and can be backed up, stored, retrieved, or duplicated, even into new hardware. A robot is neither unique nor irreplaceable. Even if robots reach a level of cognitive capability (including self-awareness and





