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Robots: the perception of risk for contemporary workers

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Abstract

The technology scares the world of work. According to the third Censis-Eudaimon report on corporate welfare, 7 million Italians believe they are losing their jobs due to innovation, from robots to artificial intelligence. For the company, it means profit, innovation, time to market because it makes companies grow, modernizes them, makes them traceable to the millimeter, having a positive effect on GDP, gross domestic product. On the worker side it means anxiety, control, fear of being replaced by a machine. The fear of the rebel robot is an ancient and profound theme. The same word "robot" - from the Czech robota - which means more or less forced labor - is used for the first time in the 1920 theater play R.U.R. (Rossum's Universal Robots), written by Karel Capek (1890-1938) who inaugurates the theme of the rebellion of androids, problematizing the ethical and social aspect. The perception of the risk of losing one's job and the uncertainty about one's future is based on the exaltation of the new AI tools and the distortion of the analyzes. But what fear does this human surrogacy bring with it?

Keywords Human-robot interaction; future of labor; roboethics

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