



 View PDF

Access through **your institution**

[Purchase PDF](#)

Futures

Volume 20, Issue 2, April 1988, Pages 119-136

Articles

The rights of robots: Technology, culture and law in the 21st century ☆

[Phil McNally, Sohail Inayatullah](#)

[Show more](#) ▾

 [Outline](#) |  [Share](#)  [Cite](#)

[https://doi.org/10.1016/0016-3287\(88\)90019-5](https://doi.org/10.1016/0016-3287(88)90019-5)

[Get rights and content](#)

Abstract

The development of robots and their emerging rights will have significant impact on judicial and criminal systems and on the philosophical and political worldviews of our social institutions. This article places the definition of rights and of what is 'alive' in a historical and cultural context, and reviews the developments in and prospects for artificial intelligence (AI). It argues that such advances will change our perceptions to such a degree that robots may have legal rights. It examines how such rights might emerge, and which legal issues may be involved.

 [Previous](#)

[Next](#) 

[Recommended articles](#)

[Citing articles \(37\)](#)

FEEDBACK 

- ★ The views expressed in this article are not necessarily shared by the Judiciary or any other organizations and associations with which the authors are affiliated. This article has appeared in *Law/Technology*, 20, (4), Winter 1987. It is reproduced here with the permission of the authors.

[View full text](#)

Copyright © 1988 Published by Elsevier Ltd.



Copyright © 2021 Elsevier B.V. or its licensors or contributors.
ScienceDirect® is a registered trademark of Elsevier B.V.

