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Opinion

# The Society of Urgency, an Era of Ready-Made Answers, and the Impoverishment of Cognitive Processes in Daily Life

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## Opinion

Technological advances, especially from 20th century onwards, brought on a new phenomenon: The impoverishment of cognitive processes in daily life. Technology, developed to facilitate daily life, is potentially reducing human cognitive capacity, as less and less reasoning processes are required. This phenomenon is more evident in the fields where artificial intelligence moves forward, as it tends to transfer basic mental functions to machines, leaving users with simplified, impoverished cognitive processes. The development of apps which make use of artificial intelligence grows side by side with its users' minimum mental work. Robots automatically fulfill a sentence as is being written; any calculus is almost instantaneous, depending solely on access to the right machines. According to Malvezzi [1], time patterns changes substantially through technological mediation, because "at the culture of urgency, one expects immediate results for any and all investments, projects, or actions. In corporate environments, goals and budgets are no longer looked at on an annual basis, but by semester, or trimester; short term courses become a competitive differentiator, and so on". "To gain time, and due to the impossibility of creating boundaries, individuals simultaneously study, work, and perform family and social activities in the same space and time traditionally dedicated to other activities. Nowadays, few people refrain from dedicating some hours of their weekend to finishing work tasks" [2].

Digital and organic life mingle and become interchangeable. The consequences of this urgency society are related to reasoning problems, impacting decision making in hyper-inflated information environments, leading to all sorts of cognitive biases [3-7]. To analyze the phenomenon of impoverishment of cognitive processes in daily life, it is also important to take into consideration the so-called algorithm enchantment [8], which can support the demand of ready-made responses, blunting reasoning and compromising cognitive processes. The impoverishment of cognitive processes in daily life occurs in parallel with the "deification of Technology", as society becomes more and more dependent on apps and algorithms, favoring startups and ready-answers, and leaving behind not only reasoning, but contemplation [9]. By studying this contemporary phenomena, it is possible to not only anticipate the consequences of cognitive impoverishment, but also propose measures to prevent them. These preliminary assumptions are part of an ongoing research on the theme.

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