



Video Script - Roleplay at Workshop

Written by Jennifer Maass and Valentina Delconte for the EngageDkit workshop on 13th September 2024 in the Science of the City pre-festival (Malta).

Theme of the story:

AI-application in Public Health & social injustice;

Speaker in the Video:

Name: Carl Columnia

Job: Journalist at "Malta Today" (Newspaper)

Story - intro

Journalists starts talking:

<p>"Greetings, dear colleagues and participants of this workshop. I am Carl Columnia, and I am grateful for the opportunity to share crucial insights from my year-long investigation on AI-Health Inc. and its ambition to transform Malta's healthcare system with the backing of our National government.</p>	<p>Contextualize</p>
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<p>AI-Health Inc., an overseas tech startup that emerged five years ago, is now making waves across the nation's public health sector. The company's AI-based software 'AI-Health' is being advertised as a revolutionary tool, praised for its affordability and efficiency. According to the corporate representatives, this technology is poised to address many of the longstanding challenges faced by Malta's public health system.</p>	<p>The threat</p>
<p>How does it work? The software utilises pre-collected data and inputs by doctors and medical assistants to suggest medical treatments and diagnosis to patients. This innovation promises to streamline doctor's appointments, making them more efficient and potentially reducing the duration of both appointments and treatment periods, cutting down the costs of Public Health. Additionally, it offers valuable support to medical staff in better assessing patient symptoms. Sounds to good to be true, right?</p> <p>And in fact my year of investigations has revealed that, while the hypothetical benefits are compelling, there are significant concerns that require urgent attention. From my recent investigation, I discovered that Public Health researchers and Citizens Health Networks raised strong concerns about the veiled impacts of the data bias in this AI-run algorithm. With the help of data scientists, I discovered that medical data at the basis for this software, predominantly originate from clinical trials involving a homogenous group of participants: white population, predominantly males, in the age of 40-50, from what we call 'Western Countries, probably overseas. However, the source is private.. Based on existing research I consulted, This lack in quality of data carries substantial risks, especially in vulnerable and under-represented groups. Medical treatments based on such biassed data can lead to incorrect diagnoses and inappropriate treatments, endanger</p>	<p>The problem and different actors</p>

patient health and undermine the integrity of the healthcare system. As I reported, a group of local Public Health researchers warned the Minister of Health without success.

Activist groups, led by the Chamber of Artists and Documentarist of Malta, have highlighted how AI-Health Inc., along with government proponents, has been keen to emphasise the software's positive aspects. From my interviews, the Chamber warned that, this enthusiasm must be tempered with a realistic assessment of the potential dangers.

If this AI-driven approach is adopted without rigorous monitoring, the long-term implications could be directly noticeable. We risk facing a massive misinterpretation of diagnosis and health data by excluding a considerable part of the Maltese population treatments, a significant erosion of trust in public health authorities, and the widening of social injustice.

Given these findings, I urge civil society to engage in this critical dialogue. To foster transparency in decision-making, I propose establishing a roundtable event; a call to all public engagers and science communicators to work together. This platform will allow for the exchange of information and perspectives, ultimately aiming to enhance communication and transparency regarding the government's plans for integrating AI into our healthcare system.

Now is the time for the public to raise their voices. This issue affects us all, and we must ensure that the deployment of AI in healthcare is done with the utmost caution and consideration for the diverse needs of our population. The future of Malta's public health depends on it.

The call to action



SciCultureD

Oh I have to go back to work! See you later”	Conclusion
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2. Video Message → after the round table discussion

“Hello everyone, Thank you all for your efforts to discuss the use of the AI-Health software in our national healthcare system. I am envisioning that in the future multiple perspectives will be involved in the decision making of such topics, that everyone is affected by. I think that we together have done crucial work to unite more as a society, prevent social injustice and ensure trust in public authorities.

Thank you very much for your support and important engagement.
See you hopefully at the next Science Communication Events!

*End of the Video message/Zoom call. *Video screen cuts off* (adding disconnection effects)*

END



Erasmus+

SciCultureD is an Erasmus+ project, led by the University of Malta together with Western Norway University of Applied Sciences, Norway, city2science, Germany, and Science View, Greece. It aims to nurture transdisciplinarity and innovative problem solving through the blending of arts, science and entrepreneurship. Funded by the Erasmus+ programme of the European Union. This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.