

REPORT

Dr Hart Missing

**Module Name: Academic Skills for the
Digital Era (BMSW4013)**

Student Name: Christos Rizos 2427458

Lecturer Name: Tristan Hawkins

Background

Dr. Hart is a scientist and works as a Senior AI and Robotics Engineer at NovaTech Industries. She has written an article about AI technology used in the army and the ethical risks of AI deployment in decision-making systems. Dr. Hart is a renowned scientist in the field of artificial intelligence, with extensive writings on the military applications of AI and its effects—both positive and negative—as well as on its impact

on real-world morality. However, she suddenly disappeared. Her office was described as chaotic by her colleagues, and the few witnesses do not have any additional information to shed light on the case. Among these is a so-called competitor of hers. A note found at the scene may contain a warning or even a threat.

Investigation and Evidence Analysis

Dr. Hart is a distinguished scientist in technology, especially in artificial intelligence and its applications. She has been particularly involved in machine learning (ML) systems used for decision-making in health, military, and security structures. In her article, she refers to the physical risks posed by the use of this technology, such as bias and fairness, responsibility and accountability, and risks of abuse. To reduce these risks, she proposed creating an ethical framework that includes transparency in the creation of the AI development plan, human oversight, and the operation of AI in accordance with existing global standards for ethical use in both defense and everyday life.

There are also other scientists attempting to create human-like beings capable of making decisions for the benefit of humanity, as well as robots that can replicate themselves and then disappear. These advancements offer many benefits in various areas of everyday life, including in the military, in security, in business creation, and in the accumulation of wealth by those who can manage AI and develop new versions such as AI O3. A video [1](#) (Fry, 2025) makes extensive reference to the moral implications that could affect all of humanity, warning of disastrous outcomes—such as the destruction of the planet in a possible war where decisions are made by robots rather than humans.

In modern times, we have seen many disappearances. News reports indicate that Russian researchers are vanishing from academic conferences as isolation takes its toll. Adam Mickiewicz University (2024) explores the attrition and retention patterns of scientists across OECD countries. Disappearances also affect the writings of scientists, as in the case of Nancy Krieger, whose papers disappeared from government websites (Fink, Kenin, and Chang, 2025).

During the investigation, Dr. Hart disappeared without leaving any trace to indicate where she might have gone or whether she is still alive. Photographs of her laboratory show it in disarray, and witnesses have not provided valuable assistance. There are rumors of a competitor from a rival company—Dr. Fox Alaric—as well as a torn piece of paper which, when read, appears to be a threat, a warning, and an indication of a desire for forced cooperation.

Theories and Solutions

Initial indications suggest that Dr. Hart disappeared on her own (her body has never been found yet), choosing not to collaborate with another company to create beings based on artificial intelligence for ethical reasons, thereby avoiding the unpleasant consequences that such collaboration might have for humanity.

What does “ethical reasons” mean, and which are they? Bartneck et al. (2020, p. 17) define ethics as being concerned more with principles, general judgments, and norms than with subjective or personal judgments and values. Some branches of ethics include:

- **Normative Ethics** – Deals with what is right and what is wrong (Wikipedia, 2024).
- **Deontological Ethics** – Evaluates actions as good or bad according to a clear set of rules (The Ethics Centre, 2016).
- **Consequentialist Ethics** – Assesses actions based on their outcomes (Mulgan, 2021).
- **Virtue Ethics** – Focuses on what is “right,” “good,” and what one “ought” to do, emphasizing sensitivity, compassion, and courage (Solomon, 2020).
- **Meta-ethics** – Studies the nature of ethics, the knowledge of moral truths, and the meaning of moral language (Wilson, 2016).

Another scenario is that she staged the chaotic scene in her laboratory to deter competitors from pressuring her to share her AI discoveries. A third scenario is that she actually created a humanoid being and lost control of it, resulting in widespread destruction. A fourth scenario is that she was kidnapped and forced to reveal the secret documents of her work, or that her captors found the codes, obtained what they wanted from her files, and then killed her. A fifth scenario is that a trusted friend disclosed her discoveries to competitors.

Recommendations

Based on the above scenarios, the following actions are recommended:

- Re-examine the witnesses who last saw her.
- Check the security camera footage for any relevant activity.
- Examine any remaining files on electronic devices.
- Investigate her personal and professional environment in depth.
- Analyze the torn note for fingerprints or other evidence.

This disappearance leaves many questions about how it happened and about those who may have orchestrated it in order to leave insufficient evidence for a thorough investigation.

All further investigation must be secretly

References

1 Adam Mickiewicz University (2024) , 'Disappearing scientists: Attrition and retention patterns of 2.1 million scientists in 38 OECD countries', 16 September 2024. Available at: <https://phys.org/news/2024-09-scientists-attrition-retention-patterns-million.html> (Assessed: 25 February 2025).

2 Bartneck, C., Lütge, C., Wagner, A. and Welsh, S., 2020, *An Introduction to Ethics in Robotics and AI*, Cham: Springer.

3 Mulgan, T., 2021. *Ethical consequentialism*, Oxford Bibliographies. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1093/obo/9780195396577-0026> (Accessed :22 February 2025).

4 Fink, K., Kenin, J. and Chang, A. (2025) 'Scientist calls the disappearance of federal health data a "digital book burning"', *All Things Considered*, 5 February, Available at: <https://www.npr.org/2025/02/05/nx-s1-5286577/researcher-calls-out-trump-administration-for-a-digital-book-burning> (Accessed: 22 February 2025).

5 Fry, S. (2025) *New evidence we are close to extinction from AI*. YouTube video, 23 February. Available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JSXosZDzpa0> (Accessed: 23 February 2025).

6 Solomon, D., 2020, *Internal objections to virtue ethics*. In: D. Statman, ed., *Virtue ethics*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1515/9781474472845-012> (Accessed: 22 February 2025).

7 Matthews, D. (2023) 'News in depth: Russian researchers disappear from academic conferences as isolation bites', *Science|Business*, 14 November. Available at: <https://sciencebusiness.net/news/international-news/news-depth-russian-researchers-disappear-academic-conferences-isolation> (Accessed: 22 February 2025).

8 The Ethics Centre, 2016, *Ethics explainer: Deontology*. The Ethics Centre. Available at: <https://ethics.org.au/ethics-explainer-deontology/> (Accessed 22 February 2025).

9 Wikipedia, 2024, *Normative ethics*. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia. Available at: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Normative_ethics (Accessed 22 February 2025).

10 Wilson, C. (2016) 'What is Metaethics?', *Open Book Publishers Blog*, 9 February. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.11647/OBP.0173.0022> (Accessed: 25 February 2025).