



Employability Skills

Academic Skills for Digital Era

BMSW4013

Ffion Cumberpatch

Mircea L. Coroian (2421526)

Report on Dr. Hart Disappearance

Certificate of Higher Education

Table of Contents

- 1. Executive Summary 2
- 2. Background..... 3
 - 2.1 Professional Background 3
 - 2.2 Ethical Support and Corporation Interest..... 3
- 3. Investigation and Evidence Analysis 4
 - 3.1 Corporate Reaction Evidence 4
 - 3.2 Competition Involvement Evidence 4
 - 3.3 Witness Statement 5
- 4. Theories and Solutions..... 5
 - 4.1 Corporate Revenge Theory 5
 - 4.2 Competition Involvement Theory 5
- 5. Recommendations 6
 - 5.1 Examine Corporate Communications..... 6
 - 5.2 Review Academic Competition 6
 - 5.3 Analyse Lab Security Footage 6
- 6. References..... 7

1. Executive Summary

This report investigates the disappearance of Dr. Dana Hart, a prominent AI and robotics engineer renowned for her important work in ethical AI deployment. Two main hypotheses are presented, explored and analyzed:

- **Corporate Retaliation:** Suggest that she became an easy target because of her work and exposure to ethical practice within the robotics industry.
- **Competition / Rival involvement:** Suggest that academic competitors feeling threatened by her performance, therefore may have acted unlawfully to stop her from continuing with the research.

The analysis is based on evidence related to Dr Hart's professional work, witness testimonies and academic research on AI and Robotics ethics. Recommendations for further investigation underline the importance of analyzing both corporate and competition pressure in the AI and Robotics field.

2. Background

2.1 Professional Background:

- Dr Dana Hart served as an AI and robotics engineer at NovaTech Industries. She was well known for her work on the “*Harmony AI*” system, a technology designed to synchronize robotic movements with human emotional responses.
- Her research extended to the ethical implementations of AI in critical sectors such as healthcare, military strategy and manufacturing.
- Dr. Hart was also an advocate for transparency, human oversight and the establishment of global ethical standards in AI deployment (Hart, 2025; Bartneck et al., 2020).

2.2 Ethical Support and Corporation Interest:

- Dr Hart's commitment to ethical practice demonstrates the reason, why often she finds herself in the wrong spot, against the corporate best interest.
 - The fact that she exposed Automa-Bot company for mistreating robotic workers and ethical concerns, provoked public reaction and as a result she received legal warnings from the corporation.
 - Her disappearance followed by a series of threatening emails and reports of high stress related to imminent meetings with company executives, underlines the potential impact of her ethical position on her fate (Floridi & Taddeo, 2018; WeForum, 2023).
-

3. Investigation and Evidence Analysis

3.1 Corporate Reaction Evidence:

- **Exposure impact:** Dr Hart's article "*Ethical Treatment of AI in Manufacturing*," implicated Automa-Bot Industries for unethical practices, including working hours and insufficient safety protocols for robotics workers.
- **Lab target evidence:** The chaos and disturbance in her lab suggest that someone focused on finding or destroying evidence linked to her investigation (Hart, 2025; Swansea Voice, 2024)

3.2 Competition Involvement Evidence:

- **Ethical research disputes:**
Dr. Fox Alaric, also known as the competitor in Academic research, had multiple disagreements with Dr. Hart in connection with AI ethics. By providing clues in connection with her publication, his actions raised questions and concerns about motives.

- **Warning message:**

A scrap of paper was found, where the intended message is to intimidate and stop Dr. Hart's research. This shows clear signs of sabotage and pressure.

3.3 Witness Statement:

- **Colleague and Student observations:**

Multiple statements from colleagues and students reported that Dr. Hart had concerns and been stressed about finding throughout research and loudly criticized AI misuse.

- **Last communication:**

In the last email sent to NovaTech CEO Felix Morgan, Dr. Hart mentioned an important and “*urgent*” matter. This concludes that she may have discovered sensitive and potentially dangerous information (Virginia Tech Magazine, 2023)

4. Theories and Solutions

4.1 Corporate Revenge Theory:

Dr. Hart's investigations into the unethical standards and practice related to Automa-Bot Industries suggest that she became a target for someone who wanted to silence her or seek revenge. Supporting evidence includes:

- Content of the threatening emails and the timing.
- The searching method used in her lab.
- Documented Conflict between the Corporate Associates, who might have chosen to protect their reputation (Hart, 2025; WeForum, 2023)

4.2 Competition Involvement Theory:

This theory displays the tension between Dr. Fox Alaric and Dr. Hart, who suspect that academic competition may have contributed to her disappearance. The evidence suggests:

- Innovation in Research could have damaged the careers or funding sources of those competitive researchers.
 - Act of sabotage may have been motivated by the desire to suppressor surpass her work (Bartneck et al., 2020; Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, 2023).
-

5. Recommendations

5.1 Examine Corporate Communications:

- **Action:** Investigate internal communications at Automa-Bot Industries, including a detailed analysis of legal and corporate correspondence according to the time of Dr. Hart's disappearance.
- **Objective:** Identify any evidence that connects corporate activities to the scenario of silencing Dr Hart.

5.2 Review Academic Competition:

- **Action:** Conduct interviews and produce statements with Dr. Fox Alaric and other researchers involved in opposition to Dr Hart.
- **Objective:** Identify potential motives and confirm any links related to her disappearance.

5.3 Analyse Lab Security Footage:

- **Action:** Based on specific period conduct analysis of the security footage, particularly focusing on the NovaTech premises.
 - **Objective:** Detect any suspicious activities or unauthorized access to her lab that can relate to the lab incident.
-

6. References

- Bartneck, C., Lütge, C., Wagner, A., & Welsh, S. (2020). *An Introduction to Ethics in Robotics and AI*. Springer. Available at: <https://www.bartneck.de/publications/2020/An-Introduction-To-Ethics-In-Robotics-And-AI/An-Introduction-To-Ethics-In-Robotics-And-AI.pdf> [Accessed 26/02/2025].
- Floridi, L. & Taddeo, M. (2018). *Ethics and Artificial Intelligence in Defense: A Framework for Responsible Innovation*. Journal of AI Ethics, 2(1), 1-25.
- Hart, D. (2025). *Ethical Risks of AI Deployment in Decision-Making Systems*. Journal of Artificial Intelligence and Ethics, 12(1), 45-62. [Moodle].
- Hart, D. (2025). *How Artificial Intelligence is Reshaping Military Strategy and Ethics*. LinkedIn Article. [Moodle].
- Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy. (2023). *Ethics of Artificial Intelligence*. Available at: <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/ethics-ai/> [Accessed 26/02/2025].
- WeForum. (2023). *Robots and AI Help Humans at Work*. Available at: [9 ways robots are helping humans: Robodogs to magnetic slime | World Economic Forum](#) [Accessed 26/02/2025].
- Virginia Tech Magazine. (2023). *The Future of AI: Ethical Challenges and Opportunities*. Available at: <https://eng.vt.edu/magazine/stories/fall-2023/ai.html> [Accessed 26/02/2025].

