Funding the Future

AI could be a big boost to the NatCs

Published: January 14, 2026, 11:09 am

Two articles that were well worth reading in the Guardian have had me thinking.

The first of them is [by Nesrine Malik](#), and I strongly recommend it. In it she suggests that:

If anything, the right in opposition, away from government and its limitations and accountabilities, could be the real danger zone – an incubation period for the Tory party and its network to escalate and finesse extremist rhetoric on racial and sexual minorities, the climate crisis and economic redistribution, and to grow and make connections with an increasingly international movement.

Her argument is compelling. The academic paper she links to is also worth reading. The suggestion she makes is that the idea of 'woke' is being defined by the 'anti-woke' movement for its advantage. The suggestion she makes is that the scale of the investment in this narrative by our media, Tufton Street and a weak BBC will be so significant that other narratives will be at risk of being crushed.

The second article is [by John Harris](#), and is an interview with Timnit Gebru, who is a former Google AI executive who was forced out of that company when she published an article expressing concern about the power of AI to reinforce hegemonic thinking, with an inevitable bias towards the political right wing, the mainstream media and their chosen Christian, white, male narratives as a result.

I associate the two articles because it appears they should be read together. The first is the warning. The second is the confirmation that the warning is appropriate.

I spent some time this weekend looking at a pile of AI apps in the hope that they might aid my productivity. I am, of course, aware that this market is in its fledgling stage. Maybe I should not have too much hope of it at present. One thing is clear, however. This was that if I wanted to produce mediocre material on mainstream themes then there are already a plethora of tools to help me do so. AI can write my mainstream scripts, provide me with images, turn my narrative into a video, split that video into

parts for promotion on Instagram and TikTok, and then reorientate the images for YouTube. All of that can be done now faster than ever before.

The amount of new material of this type that is about to hit the web is almost unimaginable.

The danger should be obvious to see. If AI works on the basis of aggregating vast amounts of web-based data, much of which already indicates the presence of a significant media bias towards right-wing thinking, then a plethora of new publishing that re-emphasises and amplifies that bias is only going to exacerbate the problem that we face in presenting heterodox narratives.

I do not, as yet, have a suggestion as to the way in which this problem can be addressed. In essence the problem is that if right-wing media growth is already exponential, and is so at a rate that exceeds the rate of growth of left-wing and heterodox thinking, then AI can only exacerbate this problem. The NatCs (National Conservatives) must be wetting themselves at the idea of that. Propaganda might never have been created more easily than this.

What I do know is that this places a premium on the value of genuine heterodox thinking by real live human beings who can associate ideas in ways that, at least as yet, AI cannot.