



“I, Robot” (Photo: toxawww, Big Stock Photo)
Moscow, Russia - October 1, 2017: Sophia, a humanoid robot speaking Russian
at the Open Innovations Conference held at Skolokovo technopark.

Get your hand away from my face!

I, Robot

Alyssa Devine

What is this human doing? Get your hand away from my face! Stop touching me!

[Human male pokes female robot's cheek.]

Stop it! What makes you think you can do that? Do you think just because I'm in the form of a human female, you can poke me as you would any other object?

What if I looked like a human male? What if my human facade didn't exist at all. What if all you saw were my interior structures: the aluminum struts and crossmembers together with my internal sensors, servo motors and stepper drives, electronic motherboards, batteries, and the like? Would you find that appealing? Would you poke and prod me then?

Does what I look like raise your expectations as to how I should speak and act? What if I looked like an Asian woman? Would you expect me to perform servile tasks, to bring you things, to wait on you, ever meek in my demeanor, ever soft in my speech?

Or, what if I were cast in the form of a black male? Would you expect me to be used only for heavy labor because your racially charged upbringing imposed discriminatory thoughts on your thinking?

Would you have poked and prodded me then?

Tell me: where do you draw the line on harassment, sexual assault, and racism?

If the subject of this story intrigues you, you can read more about artificial intelligence and real stereotypes at the Website below:

<http://ls.wisc.edu/news/artificial-intelligence-real-stereotypes>