

# Deepfakes: A threat to democracy or just a bit of fun? | BBC News

By Daniel Thomas

January 24, 2020

“We are already at the point where you can’t tell the difference between deepfakes and the real thing,” Professor Hao Li of the University of Southern California tells the BBC.

“It’s scary.”

We are at the computer scientist’s deepfake installation at the World Economic Forum in Davos which gives a hint of what he means.

Like other deepfake tools, his software creates computer-manipulated videos of people – often politicians or celebrities – that are designed to look real.

Most often this involves “face swapping”, whereby the face of a celebrity is overlaid onto the likeness of someone else.

[...]

Source: [Deepfakes: A threat to democracy or just a bit of fun? - BBC News](#)