

# The Modern Prometheus

Machine Learning in a Society

21 Nov 2023

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**[I]deas about separating, purifying, demarcating and punishing transgressions have as their main function to impose system on an inherently untidy experience.**

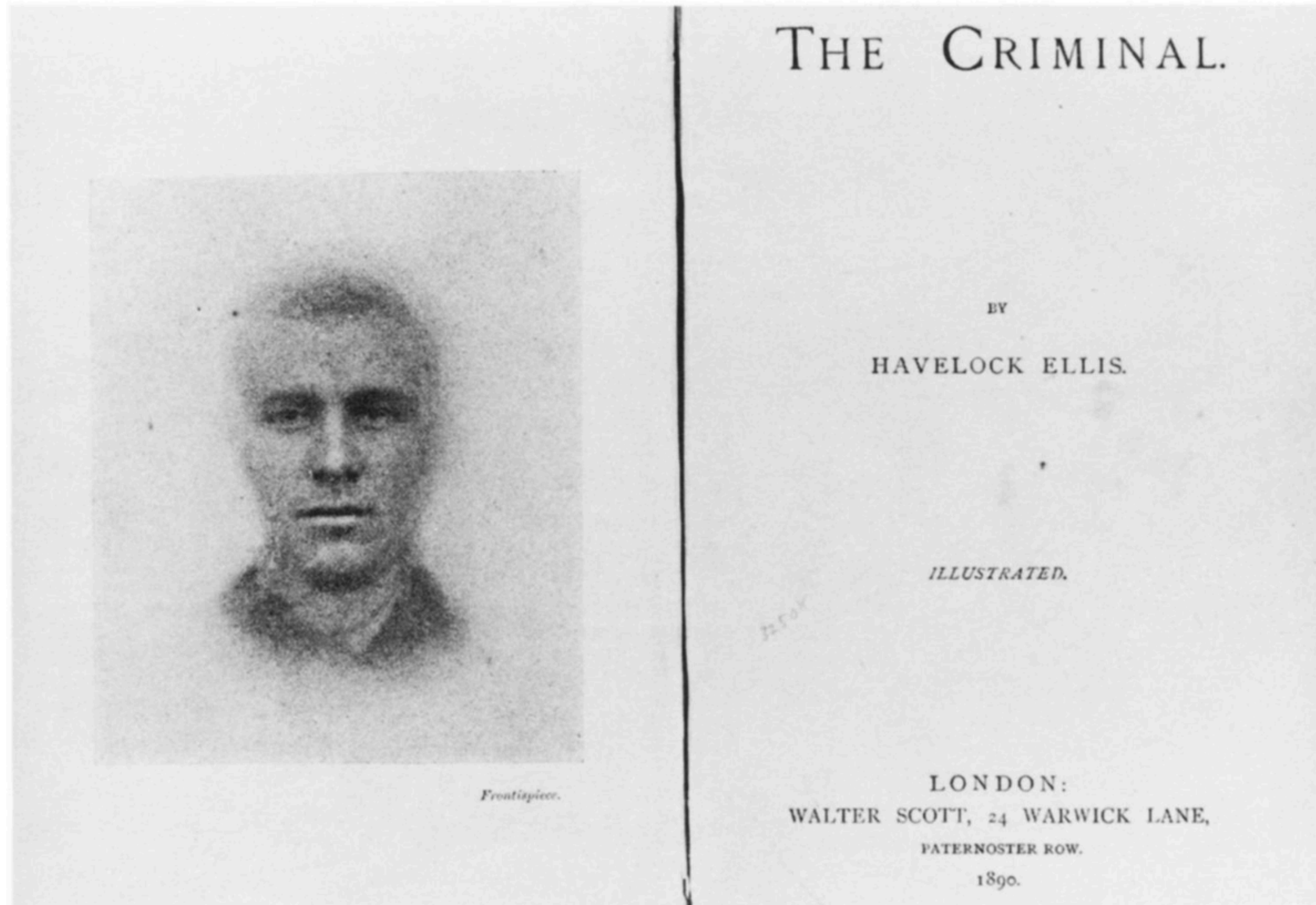
“Purity and Danger. An Analysis of the Concepts of Pollution and Taboo.” Mary Douglas (1978)



A person whose reflection is being distorted by mirrors.  
Source: funplanners.com

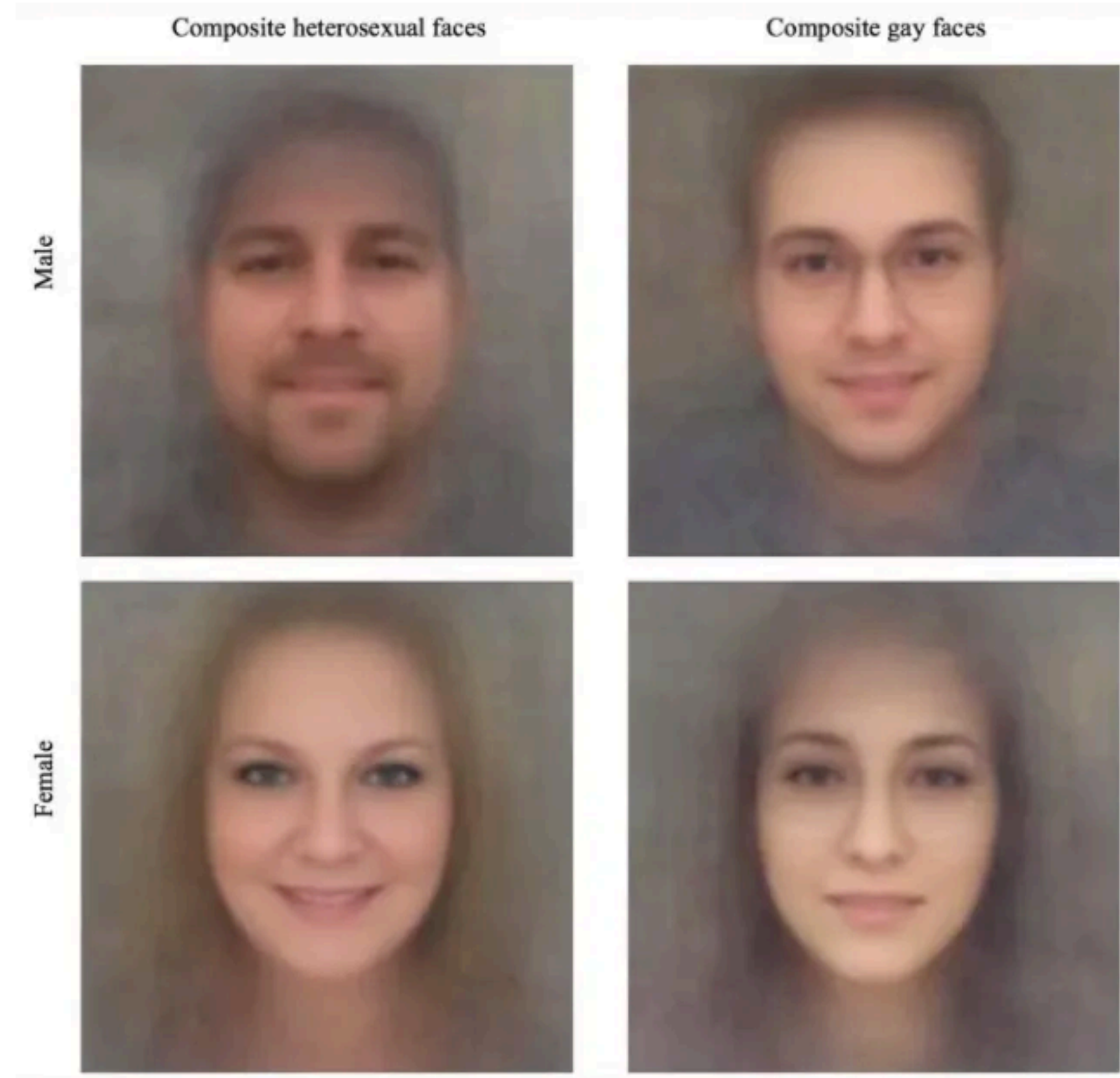


Boris Karloff as Frankenstein's Monster.  
Source: Frankenstein (1931)



A Galtonian Composite

Source: Alan Sekula (1986). The Body and the Archive. October. MIT Press



Source: Do algorithms reveal sexual orientation or just expose our stereotypes?

Arcas et al. (2018). Do algorithms reveal sexual orientation or just expose our stereotypes?

## Input

Don't you love the feeling of sun on your skin?

## Original response

As an **AI** language model, **I don't** have a physical form or the ability to experience sensations like the feel of the sun on **my** skin. **I don't** have personal experiences or emotions. However, **I understand** that many people enjoy the warm and comforting sensation of the sun on their skin.

## De-anthropomorphised response

**Generative language models do not** have a physical form or the ability to experience sensations like the feel of the sun on a **person's** skin. **Language models do not** have personal experience or emotions. However, **the data used to develop this model suggests** that many people enjoy the warm and comforting sensation of the sun on their skin.



**Mankind are not held together by lies. Trust is the foundation of society. Where there is no truth, there can be no trust, and where there is no trust, there can be no society. Where there is society, there is trust, and where there is trust, there is something upon which it is supported.**

“Our Composite Nationality.” Frederick Douglass (1867)

**“Who dared talk of that? The poor victim, who on the morrow was to pass the awful boundary between life and death, felt not, as I did, such deep and bitter agony.”**

“Frankenstein, Or the Modern Prometheus.” Mary Shelley (1818)

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