Computers and Populism

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The current debate on “the future of work” or “jobs at risk of automation” seems to implicitly adopt a pure science-push view, which assumes a path for technology driven by what science makes achievable, rather than what is needed by firms.

Giorgio Presidente, 2017
2000. 2016 U.S. Occupational Distribution for White Men with Education less than a BA

(Occupations Listed in Order of Increasing Average Wage)
Three Technologies in Development

- Automated Semi-Trailier Trucks (Long-Distance Truck Drivers)
- Automated Call Center Responses (Customer Service Representatives)
- Industrial Robotics (Assemblers and Fabricators)
### Demographic Composition of Clinton and Trump Voters, Truck Drivers
Customer Service Representatives, Assemblers and Fabricators, and Computer and Mathematical Occupations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Clinton Voters</th>
<th>Trump Voters</th>
<th>Long Distance Truck Drivers</th>
<th>Customer Service Representative</th>
<th>Assemblers &amp; Fabricators</th>
<th>Software Developers &amp; Programmers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White Women &lt; BA</td>
<td>12.1%</td>
<td>22.7%</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
<td>38.3%</td>
<td>23.3%</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Men &lt; BA</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
<td>24.9%</td>
<td>66.1%</td>
<td>17.7%</td>
<td>40.4%</td>
<td>15.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non Whites &lt; BA **</td>
<td>25.4%</td>
<td>7.0%</td>
<td>24.3%</td>
<td>24.0%</td>
<td>31.4%</td>
<td>4.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Women, ≥ BA</td>
<td>21.3%</td>
<td>19.3%</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
<td>8.4%</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
<td>10.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Men ≥ BA</td>
<td>13.9%</td>
<td>19.8%</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
<td>40.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non Whites ≥ BA **</td>
<td>19.6%</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
<td>24.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals ***</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>100.3%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


** CNN samples were too small to disaggregate nonwhite voters by gender and education

*** Totals Exclude responses of "other/no answer"
Geographic Concentrations of Software Developers; Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers
Why AI Might Not Stimulate Populism

- Slow Speed of Diffusion
- Geographic Dispersion
- Lack of Foreign Producers who Create Cheap Imports by Flouting the Rules.
- Heavy Turnover in Some Vulnerable Jobs.
Thank You