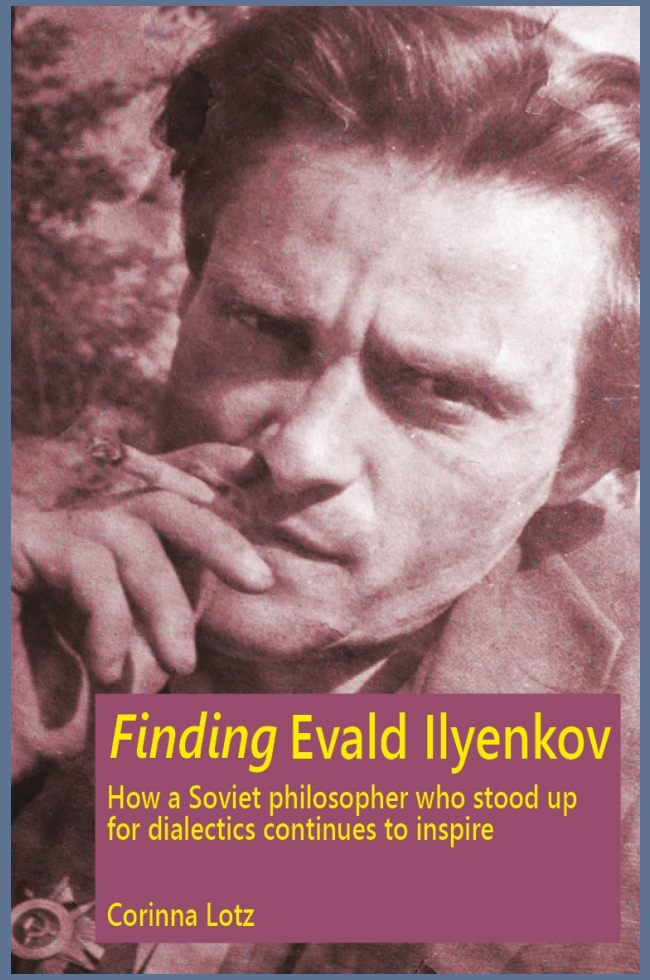


Ilyenkov's Ideal and AI

Corinna Lotz

International Friends of Ilyenkov

Understanding AI through Materialist Dialectics

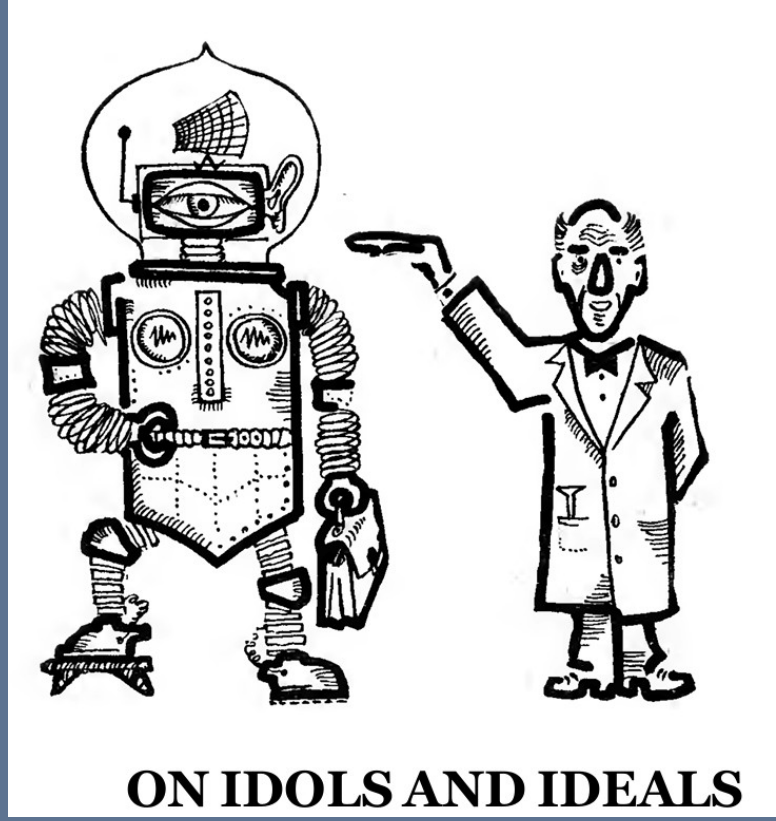
- AI raises questions about intelligence, consciousness and agency
- Alternating demonisation or hype
- Ilyenkov offers a different framework
- AI may be understood as **alienated** rather than **artificial** intelligence
- The product (AI) conceals billions of people's labour

The Hegelian-Marxist Foundation

- Reality is process, contradiction and transformation
- Human consciousness develops through social practice
- Knowledge is produced in a reciprocal relationship with collective activity
- Marx's general intellect anticipates today's AI

Ilyenkov versus technocracy

- Technology is fetishised
- Social relations appear as technical relations
- Appears as an alien power
- AI is frequently presented as a universal solution
- Political problems cannot be solved by technology alone



What is Ilyenkov's Ideal?

- Entire realm of human culture: language, law, economy, state, technology, science, the arts
- Exists in AND beyond individual minds
- A self-relation of mind and matter
- Arises and exists through social practice
- Representation of activity (subjectivity) simultaneously objective and social

How Ilyenkov's Ideal relates to today's AI

- Large Language Models operate on objectified human culture
- They process language and representations
- LLM training involves self-learning from these processes
- It appears self-conscious and even autonomous

From Symbols to Relations

Earlier AI focused on rules and symbols

Neural networks focus on relations and patterns

Meaning emerges through connections

Echoing aspects of Marx’s ‘General Intellect’

Conclusion: The Power and Limits of AI

- AI embodies accumulated human knowledge
- It is an expression of the general intellect
- It amplifies and recombines human culture **under the class relations of our epoch**
- It recognizes the frozen results of activity
- Understanding AI requires analysing human activity, not machines alone