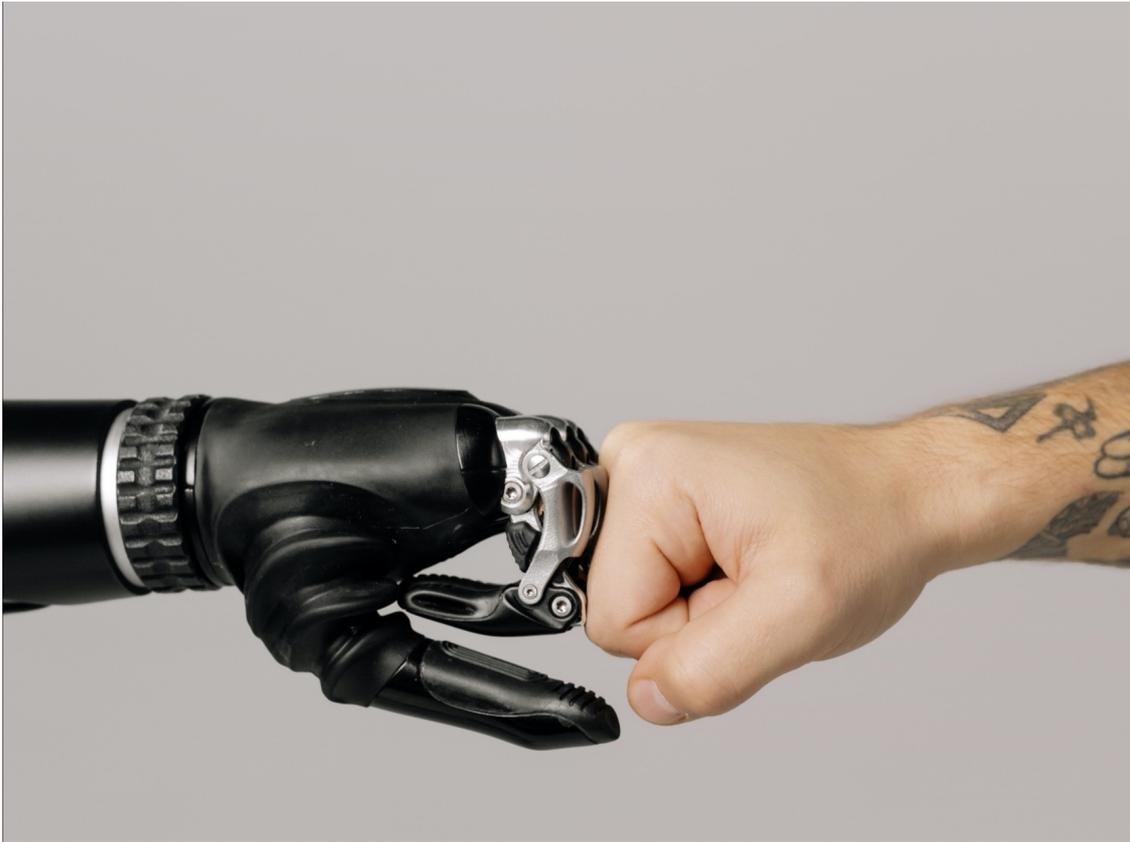


Oozy Robots and Weathering Finance

ESI Quicker Bites June 2022



Robots roll, climb and ooze

In addition to their by now familiar role on production lines, ground robots - as well as drones - are becoming increasingly valuable in a range of other contexts. Some are employed in circumstances in which it is either dangerous or impossible for humans to act directly: safety checks in unstable environments, reconnoiter and rescue work in collapsed buildings. Others provide support and relief to primary human actors, such as care workers.

Their design is frequently inspired by the shape and mobility of quadrupedal and bipedal animals, but a Chinese robot made of magnetised slime can ooze and squeeze its way on search and manipulate missions in, for example, the repair of electrical circuits.

Policing the pandemic: finding the right balance (ESI member)

Dealing with the pandemic necessitated widespread behavioural change that citizens were required to adopt (e.g., wearing masks), and these in their turn needed enforcement to be effective. As the police have the state-sanctioned capacity and licence to deploy non-negotiable force where necessary, they have been obliged to take on this role, bringing to centre stage the relationship between policing and public health.

The authors note that the earliest city policing in England in the early 1800s was expressly focused on prevention (including, of course, matters of public health) more than on enforcement and investigation, but that this mandate has over time been narrowed down to a heavy emphasis on enforcement, reinforced by the common definition of policing as being essentially an element of the 'criminal justice system'.

Taking account, however, of the contemporary pluralisation of the idea of security, it is no longer viable to design a police strategy in isolation - a community-based and problem-oriented approach is the necessary basis for joined-up solutions in law enforcement and public health.

The financial impact of climate change

Americans directly affected by extreme weather events such as heat-waves, fires, floods and hurricanes are more likely to recognise that these events are the consequence of climate change. However, many families cannot afford sufficient (or any) insurance coverage, and these disasters may have the result of increasing socio-economic inequalities.

Headlines

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