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Personhood, Animals And Robots In African Philosophy

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This essay considers the moral status of robots in the light of the idea of personhood salient in African philosophy. Specifically, I aim to consider whether robots can be objects of moral concern. To do so, I will first consider the place and status of animals in the light of personhood. I will consider moral reasons offered by the ethics of personhood to exclude animals from the moral community. I will proceed to consider whether robots can have moral status in light of personhood. I will conclude by observing that robots will be excluded from the moral community on more or less the same reasons that animals are excluded.

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