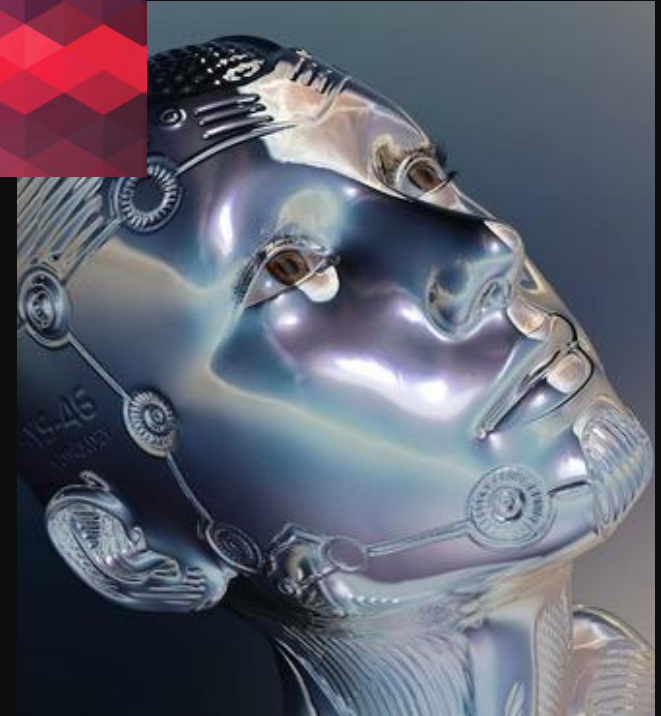


The Ideologies Behind GenAI - Workshop

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Outline of Workshop

- Ethics of GenAI
- AI Ethics v AI Safety
- The question of intelligence
- The new media ecology
- TESCREALism
- Postdigital Learner Agency

Workshop Question

In pairs or small groups, spend 5 minutes discussing:

What ethical challenges does GenAI present in the classroom and beyond?

GenAI Ethics

Mental Health/addiction

Labour practices of GenAI development

Environmental costs of GenAI

Algorithmic bias

Data Harvesting/ Surveillance

AI as tool for social ordering

Epistemological dangers

Massive intellectual property theft

Automation (especially of creative work)

AI Ethics

- Mental health crisis (first contact with AI), polarity, political instability

The Center for Humane Technology lamented that the impact of our 'first contact' with AI had broken humanity with addiction, doom scrolling, mental health crisis in our young people, shortened attention spans, polarization, fake news and the breakdown of democracy. None of this was intentional.

AI Ethics – Labour and Environment

- Labour practices

OpenAI paid its Kenyan workers less than \$2 an hour to conduct traumatic RLFH work

- Environmental impacts

Carbon emissions, water usage, e-waste.

- AI will require almost **twice the power needed by The Netherlands by the end of 2025** ([Alex de Vries-Gao – Joule, 2025](#)).
- The computing power required for AI is doubling every 100 days and is projected to **increase by more than a million times over the next 5 years.** ([SPJ, 2023](#))

AI Ethics - Algorithmic bias / social ordering

AI currently produces biased algorithmic outcomes that reproduce exclusions of marginalised communities along racial, classist and gendered lines (Eubanks, 2018; Benjamin, 2019).

‘One can’t build justice and equity on a culture that served the purpose of social hierarchy and imperial subjugation: that system has to be reformed first’ (Adib-Moghaddam, 2023, p.35).

AI Ethics – Algorithmic bias / social ordering

AI's 'very efficiency drives out the spaces of ambiguity, by means of which people have previously navigated the gap between their particular situations and the demands of institutional order...The computations of AI act as a form of cultural violence; that is, a form of culture that makes structural violence look and feel right (McQuillan2022, p.64).

An algorithmic haze of 'computational opacity and technical authority' (McQuillan, 2022, p.62) that enables systemic marginalisation at scale and without recourse.

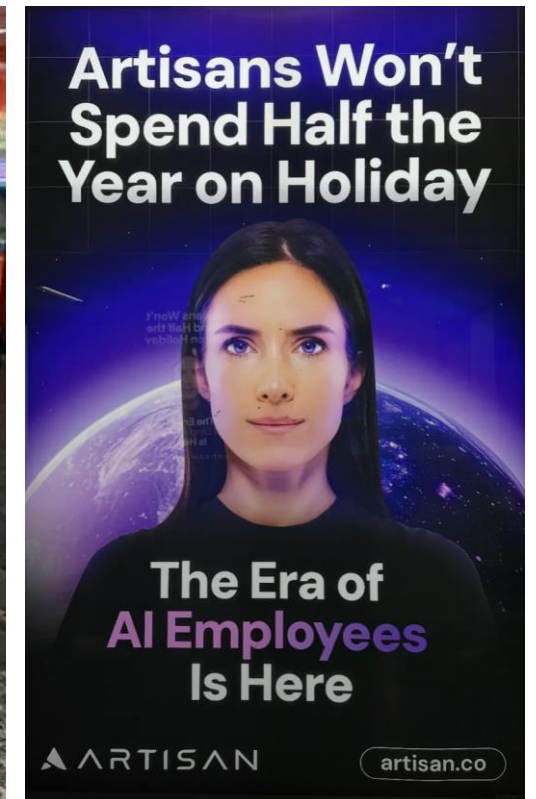
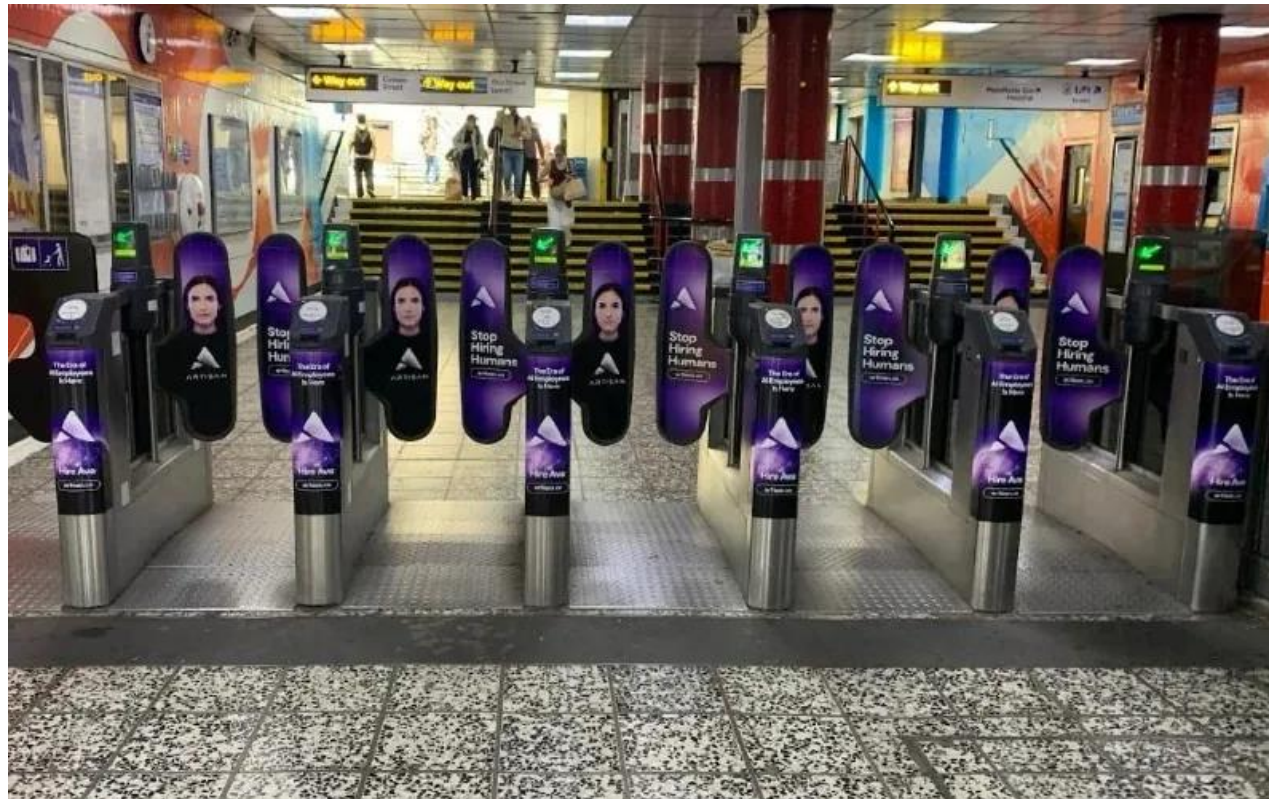
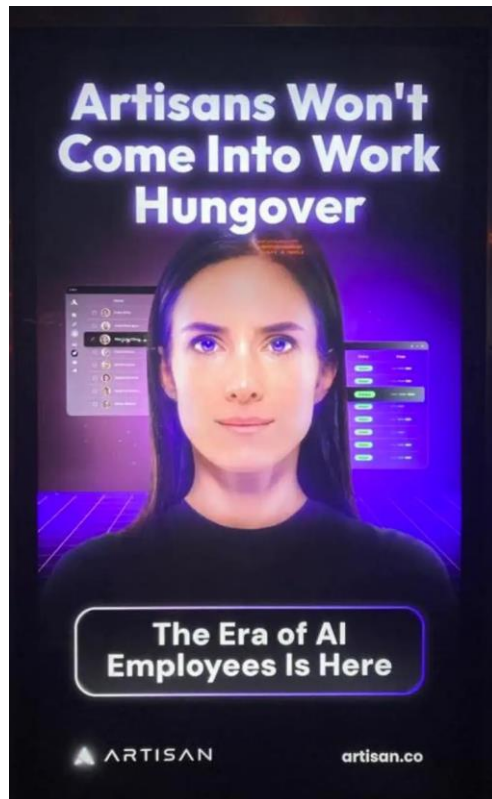
AI Ethics - Surveillance

- Surveillance capitalism/data colonialism/technofeudalism

‘Forget the cliché that if it’s free, “You are the product”. You are not the product; you are the abandoned carcass. The product derives from the surplus that is ripped from your life’ (Zuboff, 2017, p377).

‘Data colonialism combines the predatory extractive practices of historical colonialism with the abstract quantification methods of computing’ (Couldry & Mejias 2019, p.336).

AI Ethics - Automation



Open Question

What is the difference between AI Ethics and AI Safety?

Open Question

What's the difference between GenAI and AGI?

Artificial General Intelligence

‘Artificial general intelligence (AGI) is a hypothetical stage in the development of machine learning (ML) in which an artificial intelligence (AI) system can match or exceed the cognitive abilities of human beings across any task’ IBM

‘a highly autonomous system that outperforms humans at most economically valuable work’ OpenAI. The stated aim of OpenAI is to build ‘safe’ AGI.

Solve intelligence – then use intelligence to solve everything else

Artificial General Intelligence

AGI is a highly dubious notion, the definition of which keeps shifting.

Sometimes called Strong AI or Human-level AI.

May lead to superintelligence, the Singularity or intelligence explosion (existential risks hence AI ‘safety’)

Workshop Question

What is intelligence?

In groups or pairs, discuss what intelligence and attempt to come up with a working definition.

Workshop Question

What is intelligence?

Intelligence is the ‘ability to solve complex goals’ (Tegmark, 2017)

Intelligence is ‘relational and emerges from our encounters with other beings and other bodies in the world’ (Bridle, 2022)

Up/Down Politics and Cybernetics

Norbert Wiener founded cybernetics with his 1948 book *Cybernetics: or Control and Communication in the Animal and the Machine*.

Cybernetics is the study of human/machine interaction in which different types of systems can be studied according to principles of feedback, control, and communications. Everything is an interconnected *complex information processing system*.

Cybernetics marked a postanthropocentric turn: ‘Dissolving distinctions between human and nonhuman and organism and mechanism made it newly possible to link everything from human-built machines to single celled organisms, slime mold, insect swarms, rats, simian cousins, human families, computer programs, firms, economies, and ecological networks as part of a continuous arc of interacting systems that process information to sustain their complex organization’ (Zimmer, 2025, p.5)

Up/Down Politics and Cybernetics

A new political divide emerges from the cybernetic revolution.

Up wing: - privilege '*information processing*' aspect of *Life*. Cardinal virtue: intelligence. Attitude: hubristic, control-based, Utopian, totalising (Transhumanism)

Down wing: - privilege '*complex systems*' aspect of *Life*. Cardinal virtue: wisdom. Attitude: humble, recognises embeddedness, embodied being, relational complexity and limitation (posthumanism)

Complex Media Ecology

Cybernetics was prescient as it is now evident cognition is distributed between machines and humans.

There is a new complex cognitive infrastructure comprised of hundreds of millions of servers, billions of internet connected objects, over a trillion sensors, billions of humans and AI is integral to mediating this complexity.

Infocolypse (Schick). Objectification.

TESCREALism and AGI ideologies

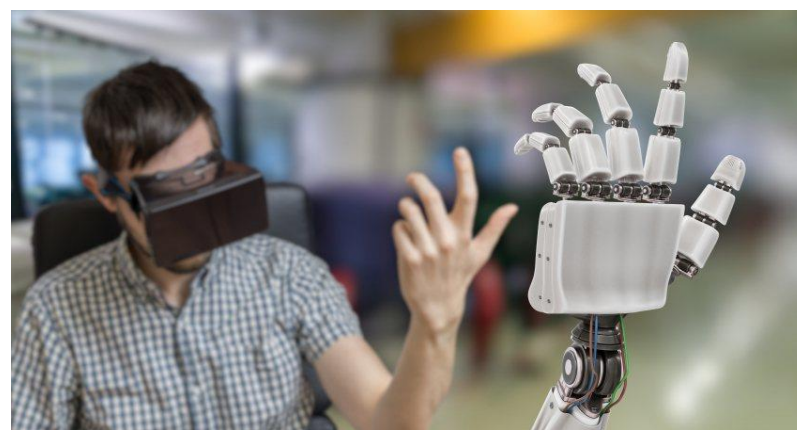
Transhumanism, Extropianism, Singularitarianism, Cosmism, Rationalism, Effective Altruism, Longtermism

New/related ideologies: Effective Accelerationism, Neoreaction (NRx and the Dark Enlightenment)

Transhumanism – The Three Supers

- Super-longevity
- Super-intelligence
- Super-wellbeing

Central aims: Radical abundance, superintelligence, immortality, space colonisation.

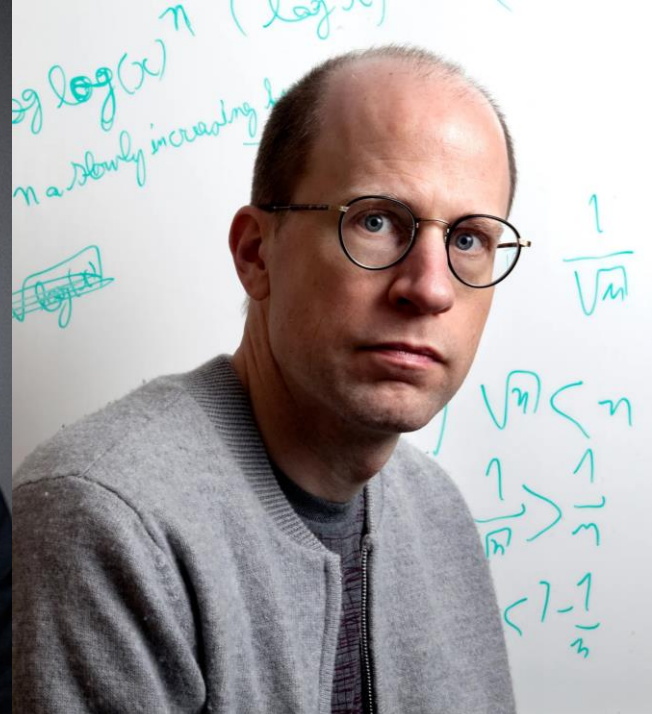


TRANSHUMANISM

Meet the extropians



Meet the extropians



Longtermism

Longtermism: positively influencing the longterm future is the key moral priority of our time.

Radical longtermism ‘may be the most influential ideology in the world today that most people have never heard about’ (Torres, 2024, p.388).



NRx / The Nerd
REich



Eugenics, dysgenics and Soma/VR

The ‘gods and the useless scenario’ (Harari) – what do we do with all the surplus humans?

- ‘how scant and poorly remunerated the tasks left for people with average or below average intelligence will be’ (Bohan, 2022, p.228)
- ‘almost half the human population has an IQ below 100’ and so cannot be trusted to ‘decide what to do with their lives’ (Bohan, 2022, p.221).
- ‘Low-status, low-skilled, low-IQ and unemployed people...have the weakest buy-in to reality (Bohan, 2022, p.229)
- ‘We need better drugs and better virtual worlds’ (Bohan, 2022, p.228).

Who Gets to be Human?

The Republic of Humanity (Fuller)

Necronomics and the economics of death making

Postdigital Learner Agency

Agency at the centre of education. This requires a critical, reflexive, relational understanding of the complex, postdigital classroom.

If we bring AI into the classroom, teaching students about these aims, logics, societal structures, and acknowledging our complicity in this process is ethical and necessary.

‘The postdigital era is not merely shaped by technology but is co-constructed by social identity, algorithmic systems, and data-driven knowledge’ (Code, 2025)

‘The entanglement of social and technological factors...institutional structures are shaped by the intersection of academia, market forces, and government policies (Jaldemark 2024). This interconnected landscape redefines learner agency, necessitating a shift beyond individual autonomy to include collective, relational, and networked dimensions’ (Code, 2025)

Postdigital Learner Agency

‘Traditional conceptions of learner agency, defined as the ability to make informed choices, regulate learning, and act purposefully, fail to account for the relational, contextual, and ethical complexities of [postdigital] learning. As a result, agency must be redefined to encompass critical capacities such as relational agency, which acknowledges the interconnected nature of learning within social and technical systems; ethical engagement, which emphasizes critical awareness and responsibility in navigating opaque algorithmic environments; and adaptability, which is necessary for negotiating the fluid and dynamic interactions between human and algorithmic actors. Agency is not solely an individual capacity but it emerges through interactions within social, cultural, and technological contexts’ (Code, 2025)



THE POLITICS AND ETHICS OF TRANSHUMANISM

TECHNO-HUMAN EVOLUTION
AND ADVANCED CAPITALISM

ALEXANDER THOMAS

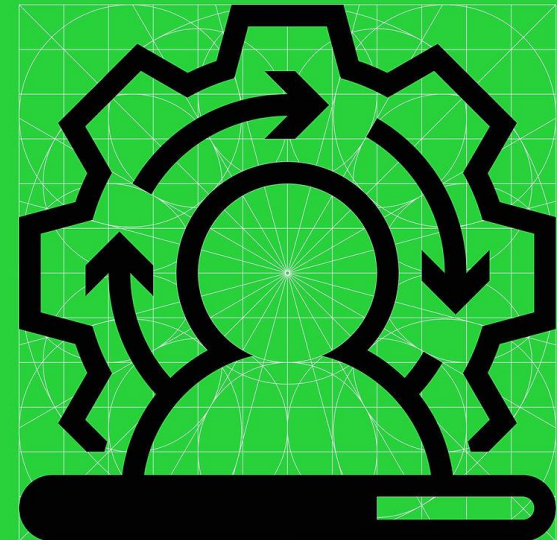


INTO THE
FUTURE

A-Z OF THE FUTURE

Tt

Transhumanism



Website / Socials

www.posthumanfutures.com

@PosthumanTheory – Twitter/X

<https://www.instagram.com/intothefutureio> -
Instagram

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