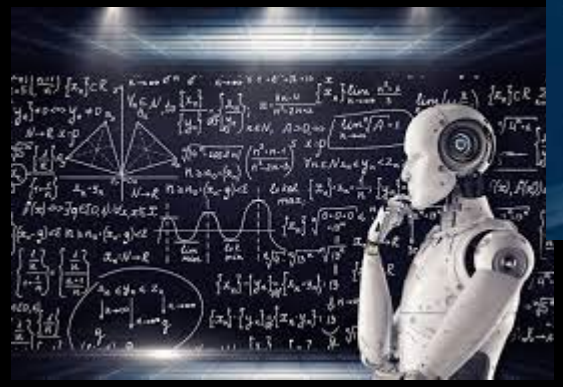


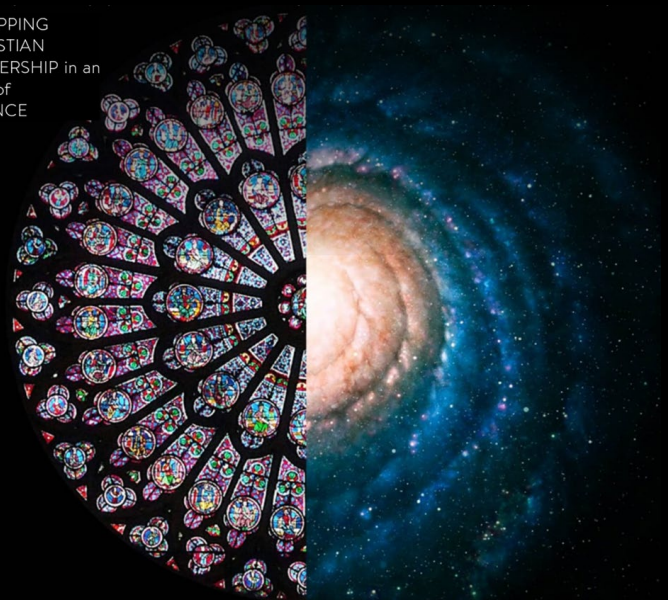




Theological Reflection

AI

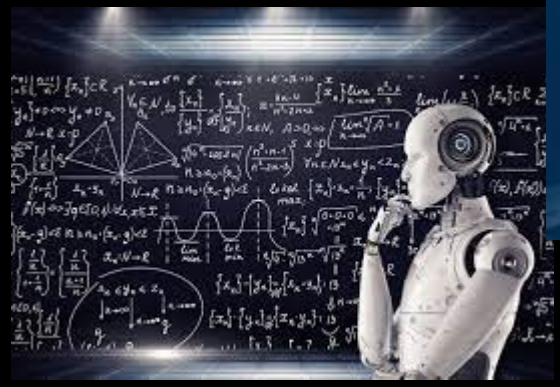
EQUIPPING
CHRISTIAN
LEADERSHIP in an
AGE of
SCIENCE



www.eclasproject.com

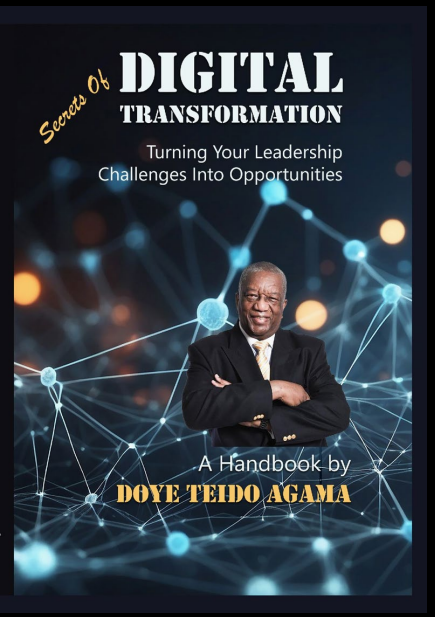






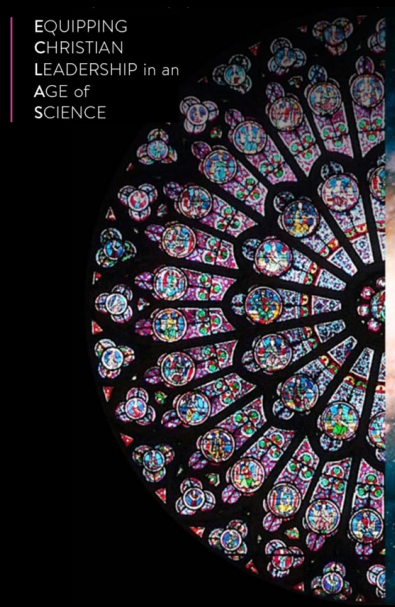


Revd Dr Kathryn Pritchard



Archbishop Doye Agama

www.eclasproject.com









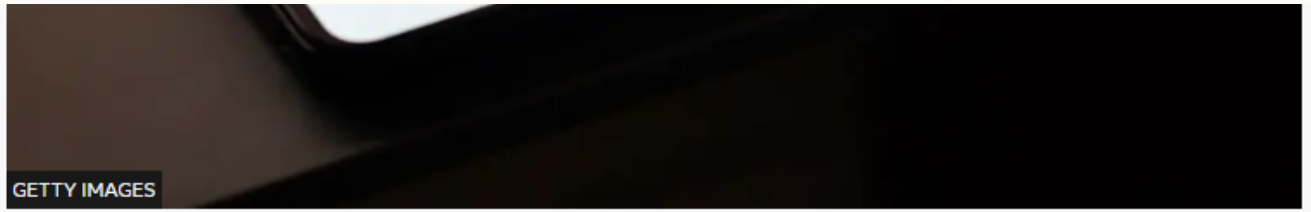
News Article

Who Is Jacob Coxon? Anthropic Researcher Quits—Warns AI Could Kill Everyone

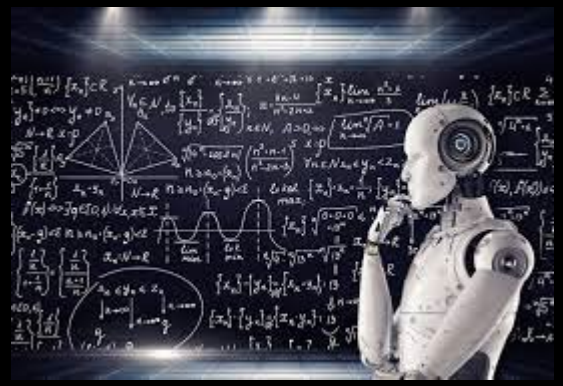
PUBLISHED
SEP 09, 2026 AT 02:40 AM EDT

UPDATED
SEP 10, 2026 AT 06:21 AM EDT



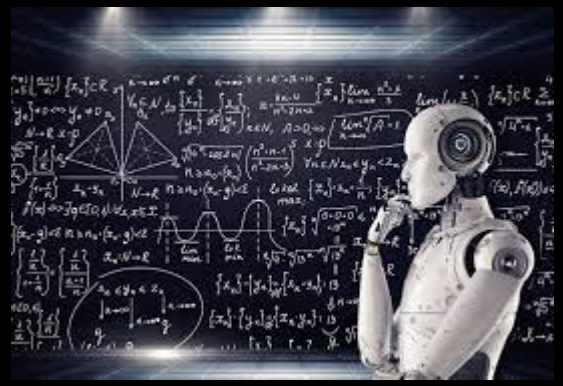


Anthropic makes the AI tool Claude, which is used as a chatbot and as a tool to help coding



What excites you about AI?

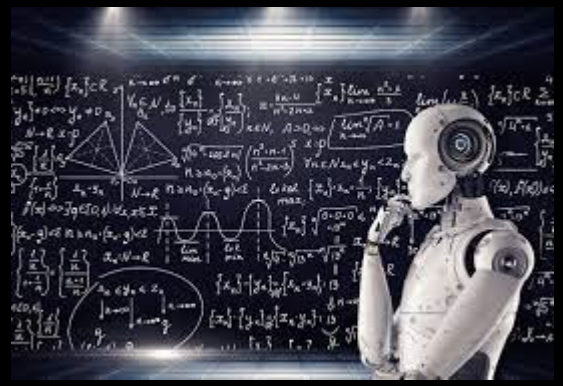
What worries you about AI?



I use ChatGPT frequently

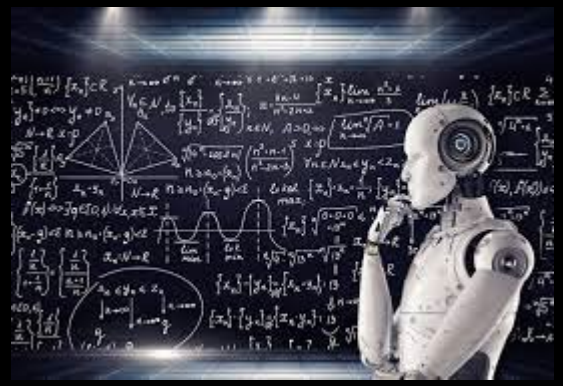
Agree **Disagree**





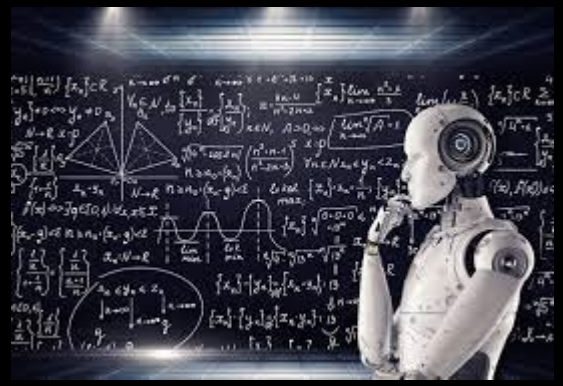
AI is being driven forward by irresponsible scientists and entrepreneurs

Agree **Disagree**



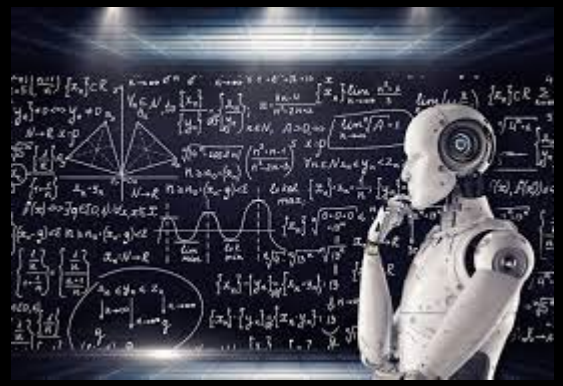
It is fine to use Chat GPT to produce church meeting minutes

Agree **Disagree**



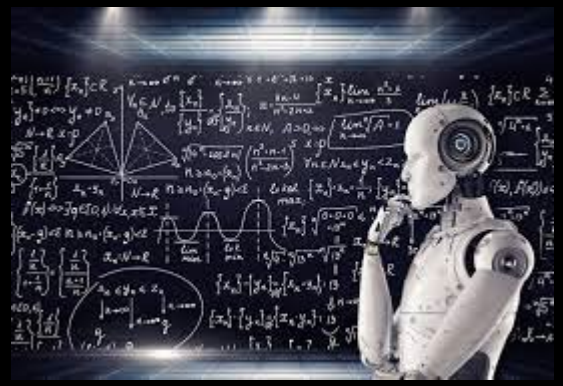
It is fine to use Chat GPT to produce church meeting minutes

Agree **Disagree**



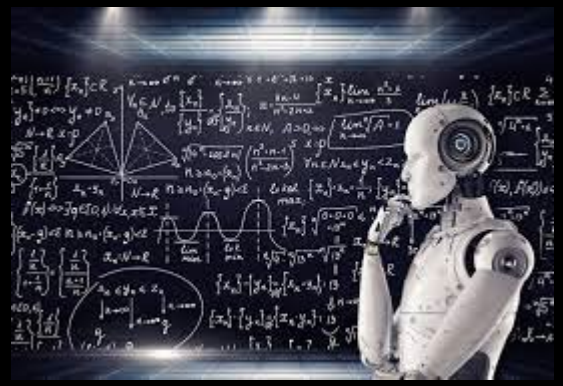
Chat GPT produces better church meeting minutes than my church meeting secretary

Agree **Disagree**



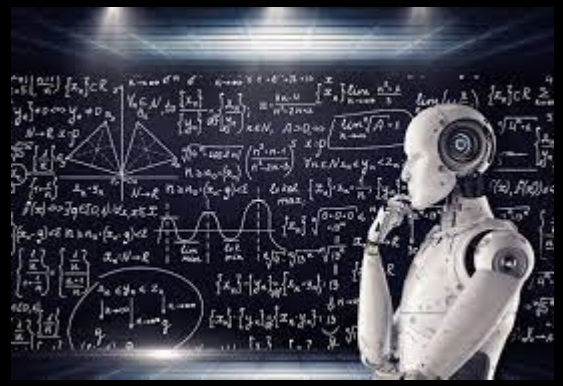
The development of AI is environmentally irresponsible

Agree **Disagree**



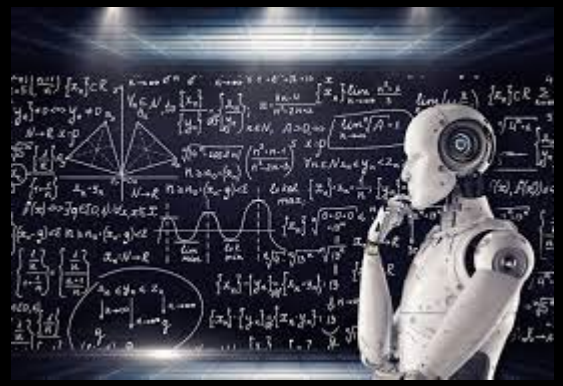
The development of AI is crucial for the future of the NHS

Agree **Disagree**



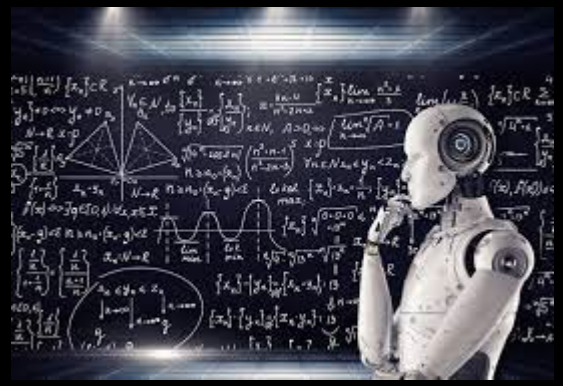
If I had to write an essay for school or university I would use Chat GPT

Agree **Disagree**



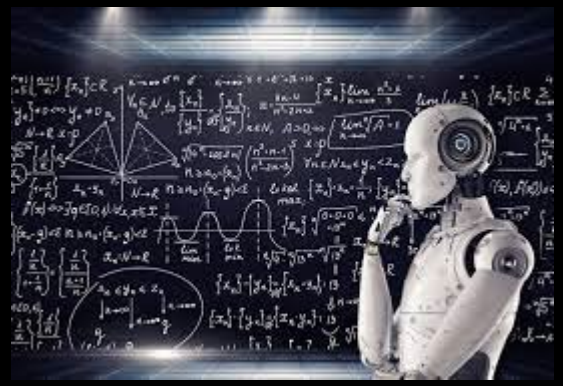
I find the whole issue of AI difficult to understand

Agree **Disagree**



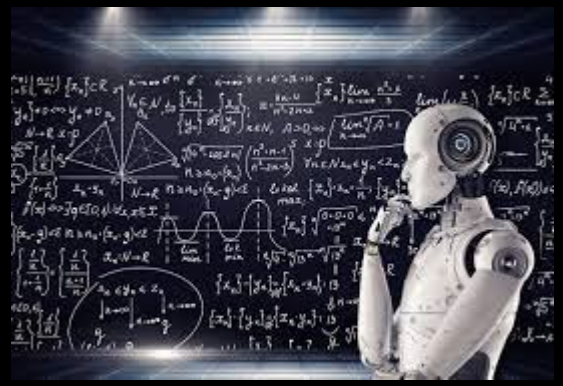
I am worried that AI will become conscious

Agree **Disagree**



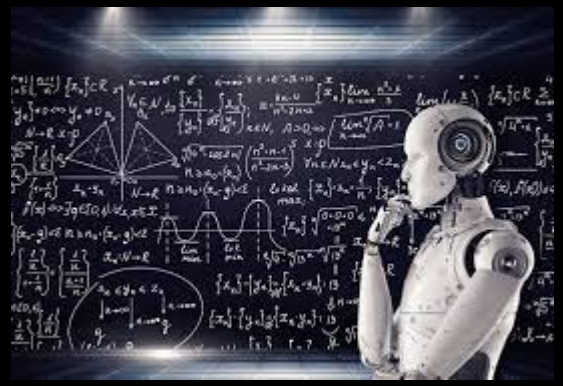
I am worried that AI will become conscious and make slaves of humans

Agree **Disagree**



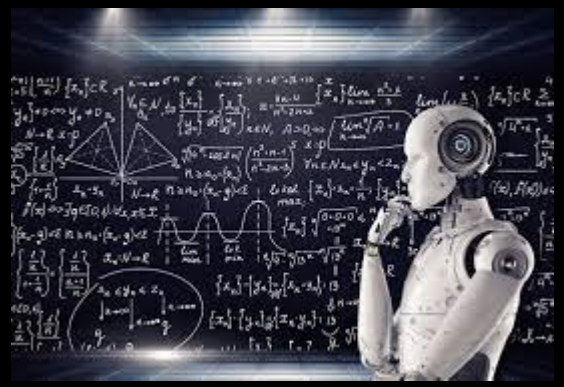
I think self conscious AI will have a relationship with God

Agree **Disagree**



It is fine to use Chat GPT for my sermons

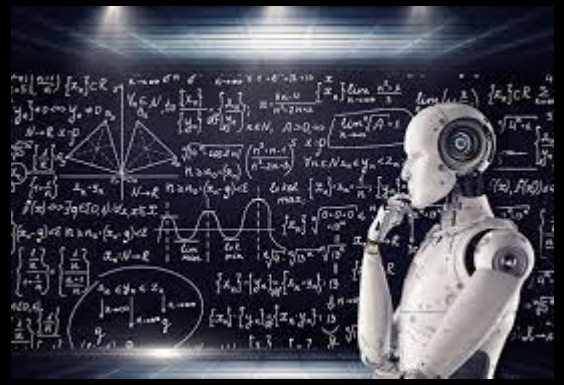
Agree **Disagree**





Theological Reflection on AI

1. Theological engagement with culture
2. Theological engagement with technology
3. Theological engagement with creativity





Theological Reflection on AI

1. Theological engagement with culture

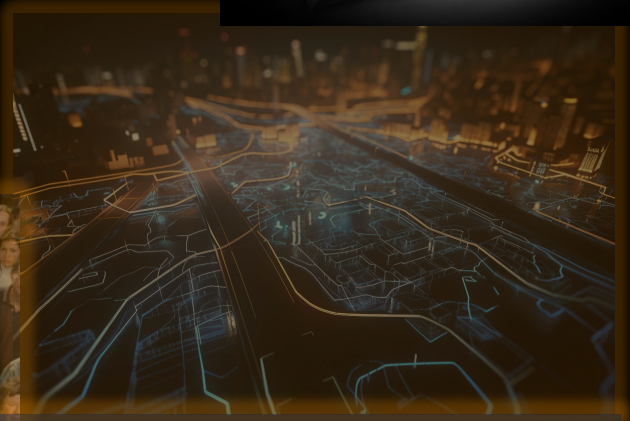
Theological Engagement with culture











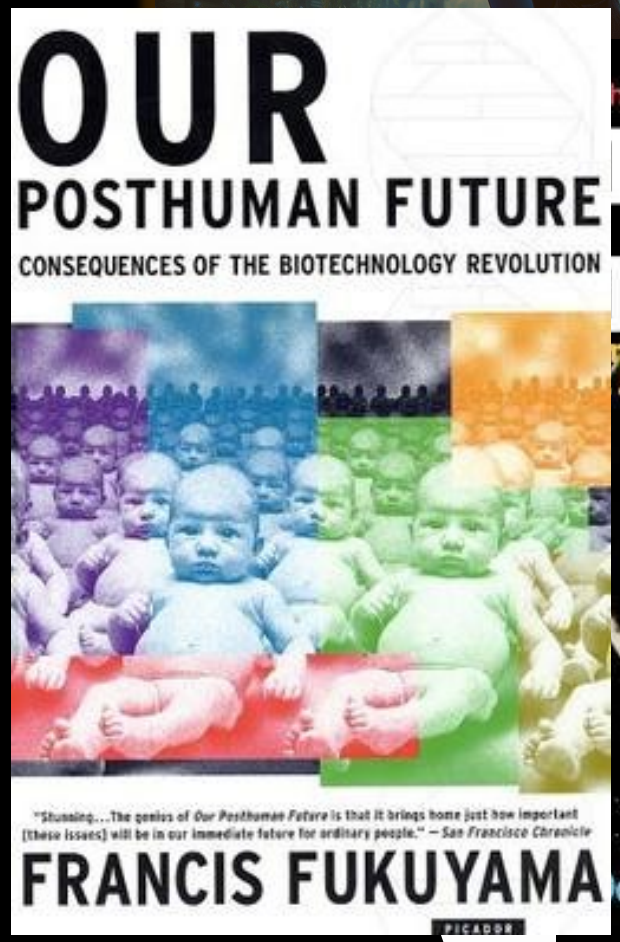


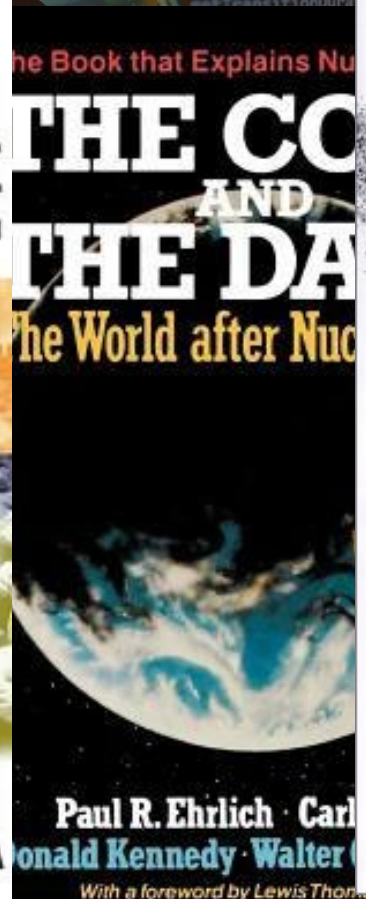


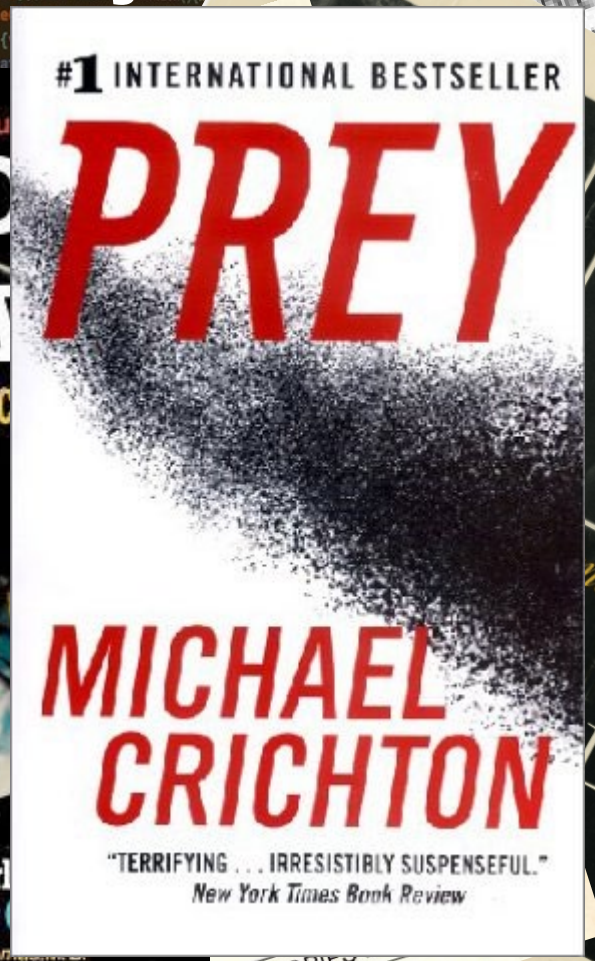
Theological Engagement with culture

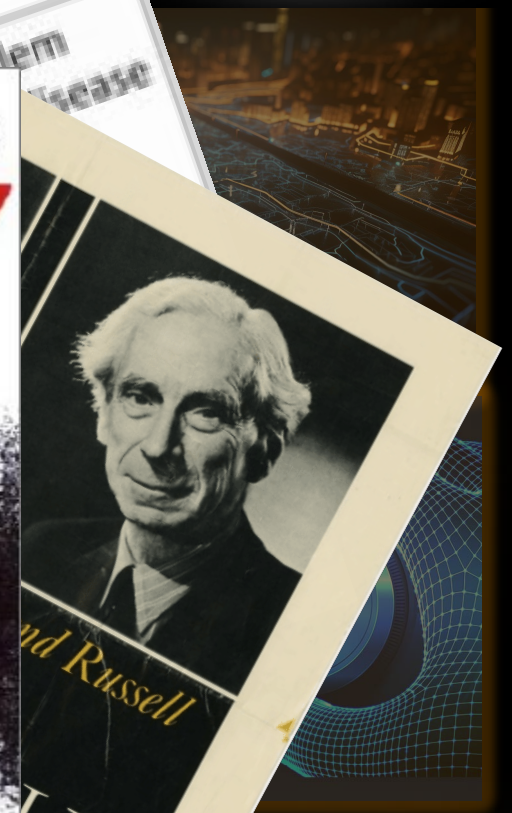
- Eschatological humility

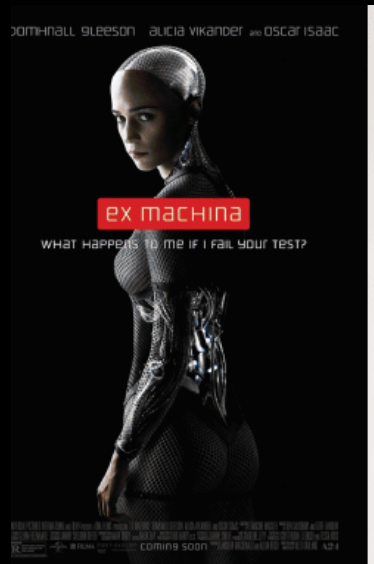











DOMHNALL GLEESON ALICIA VIKANDER AND OSCAR ISAAC
ex machina
WHAT HAPPENS TO ME IF I FAIL YOUR TEST?
COMING SOON


STAR WARS


GHOST IN THE SHELL


METROPOLIS
Directed by FRITZ LANG


FROM THE HUMANS WHO BROUGHT YOU 'FINDING NEMO'
DISNEY · PIXAR
WALL·E
JUNE 27

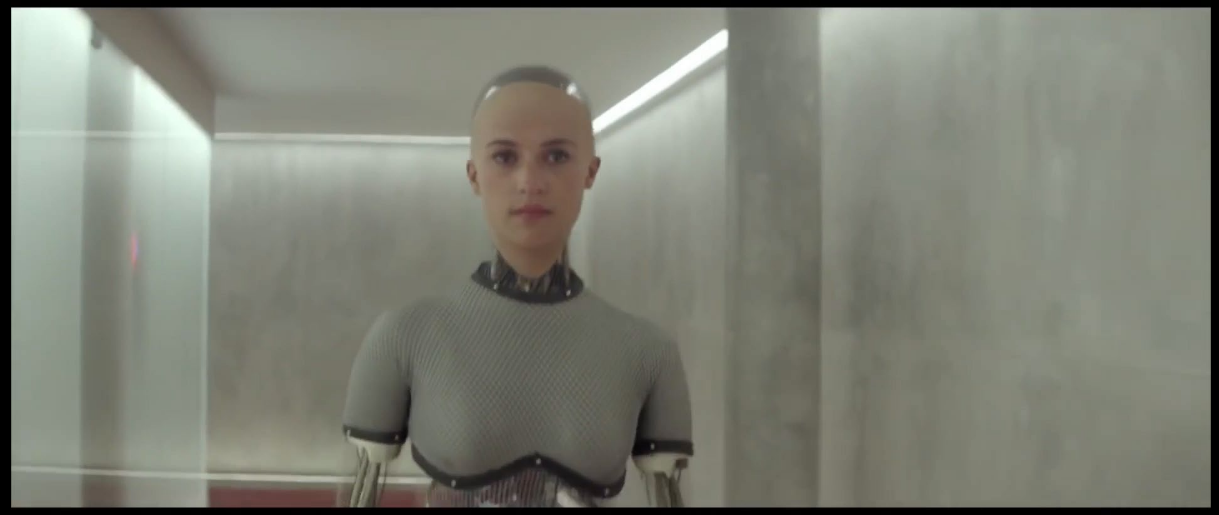

PROMETHEUS


RYAN GOSLING HARRISON FORD
BLADE RUNNER 2049


KEANU REEVES LAURENCE FISHBURNE
THE MATRIX
ON MARCH 31ST THE FIGHT FOR THE FUTURE BEGINS.


WILL SMITH
I,ROBOT
ONE MAN SAW IT COMING

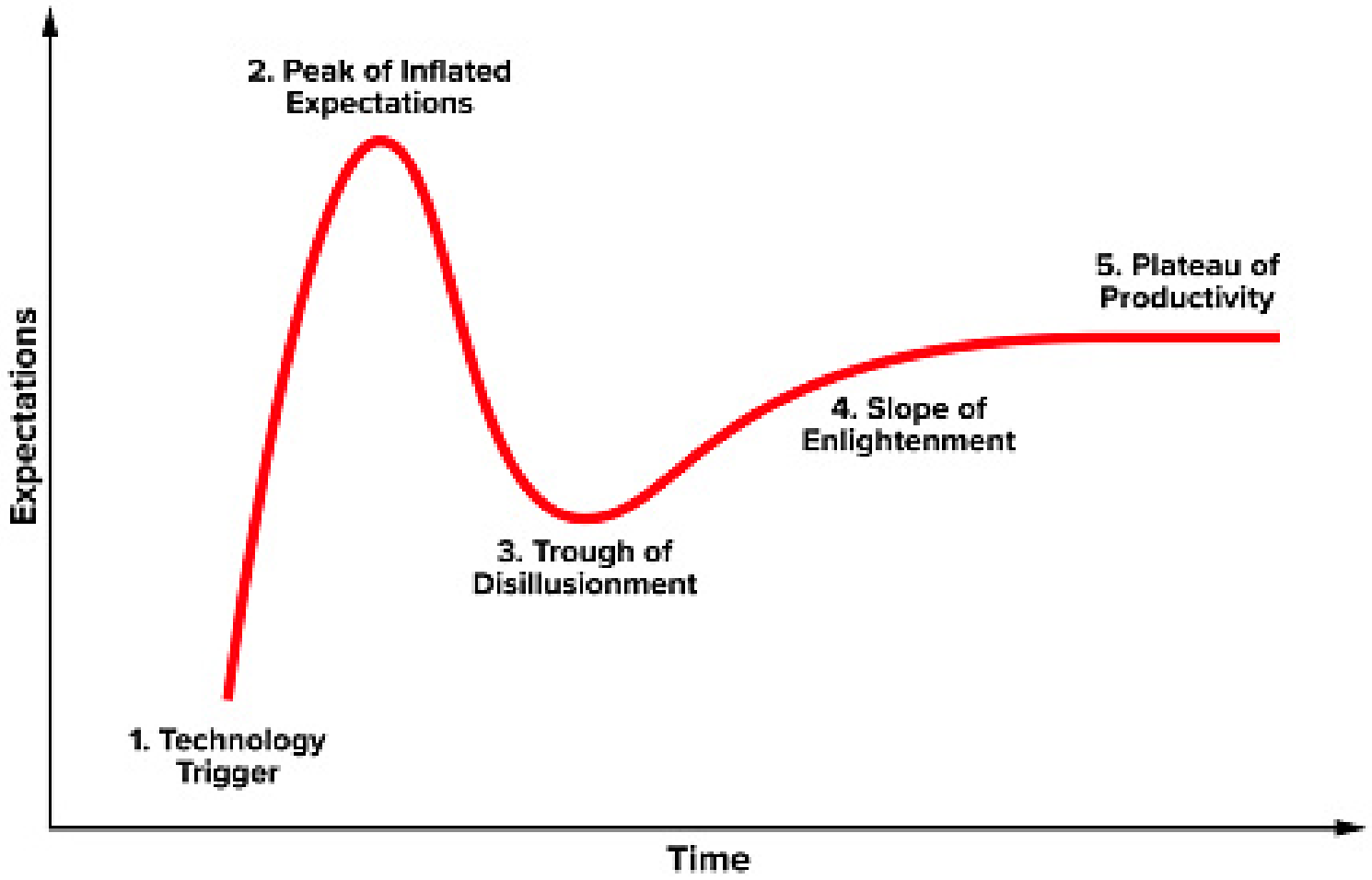




Source: Ex Machina (2015) / DNA Films



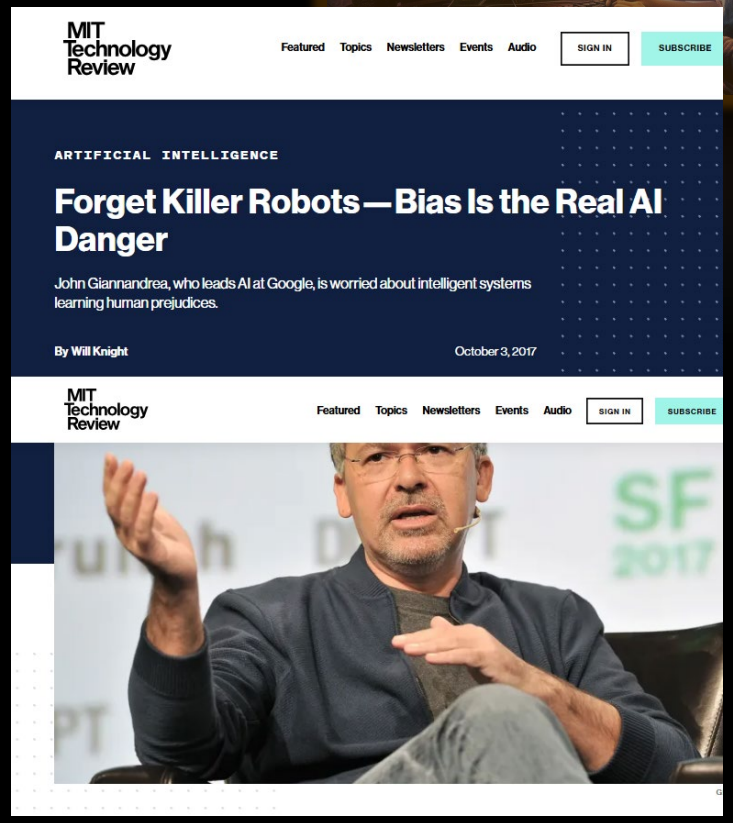
Gartner Hype Cycle



Theological Engagement with culture



- Eschatological humility
- Drawn to splinters not planks



John Giannandrea

The real safety question, if you want to call it that, is that if we give these systems biased data, they will be biased

Theological Engagement with culture









- Eschatological humility
- Drawn to splinters not planks
- The church as global hermeneutical community



Bishops urged to fight to protect 'human dignity' amid AI development race

21/09/2026

Churches and faith groups are uniquely placed to challenge Artificial Intelligence companies on the ethics of the technology's development, Church of England bishops have heard.



Theological Engagement with culture



- Eschatological humility
- Drawn to splinters not planks
- The church as global hermeneutical community
- Kingdom and culture





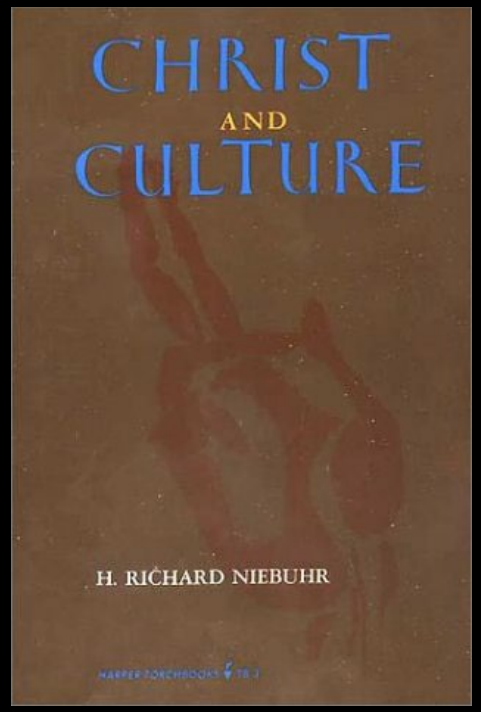






Christ and Culture

- Christ Against Culture
- The Christ of Culture
- Christ Above Culture
- Christ and Culture in Paradox
- Christ the Transformer of Culture




Kingdom of God
Culture
Affirm

Kingdom of God

Critique Affirm

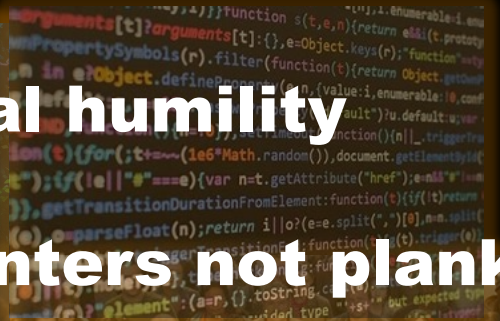
Culture


Kingdom of God
Critique
Affirm
Culture
Subvert

Theological Engagement with culture











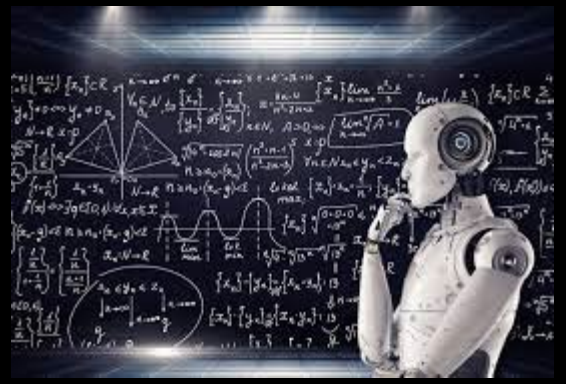


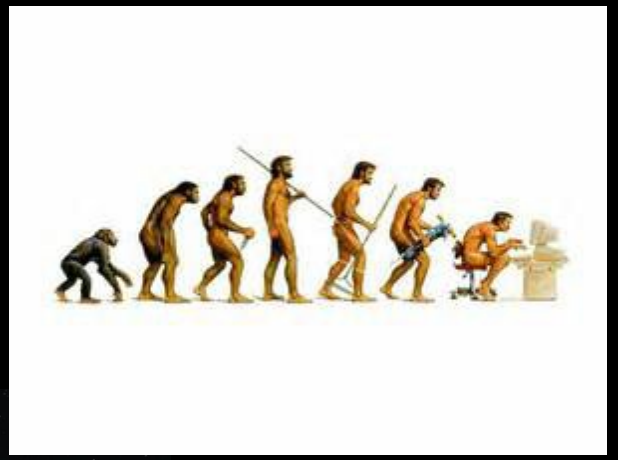


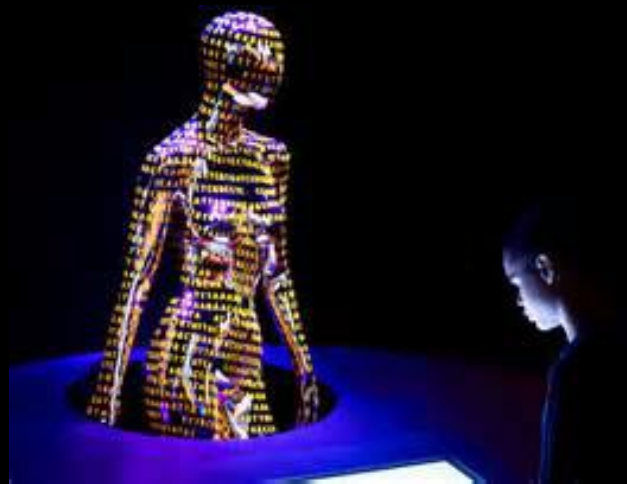
- Eschatological humility
- Drawn to splinters not planks
- The church as global hermeneutical community
- Kingdom and culture
- Listening for the key questions

What does it mean to be human?

- Defined by abilities?
- Defined in othering?
- Defined by a soul?
- Defined by the image of God?



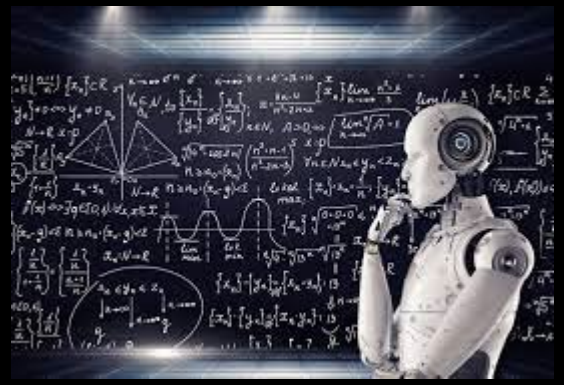








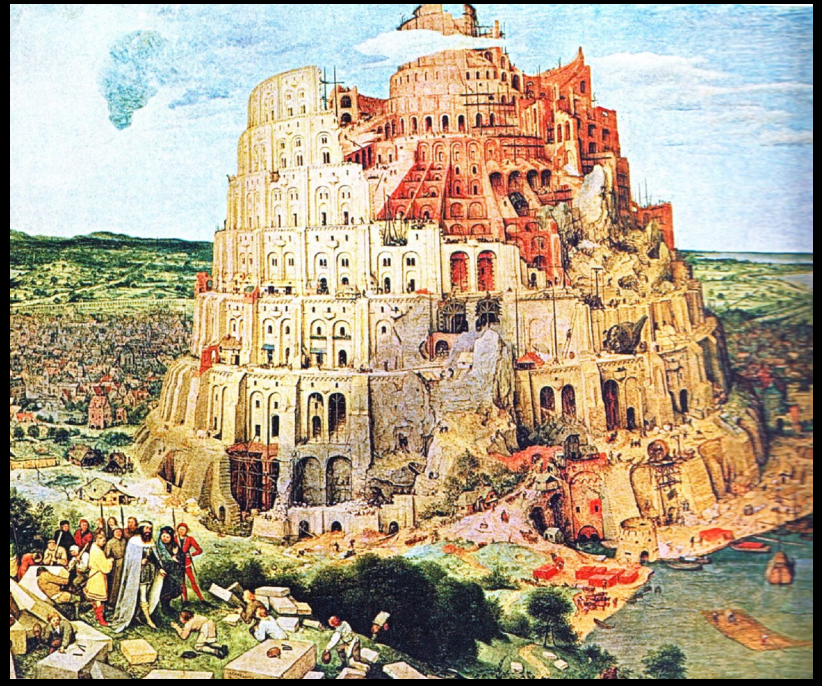






Theological Reflection on AI

1. Theological engagement with culture
2. Theological engagement with technology



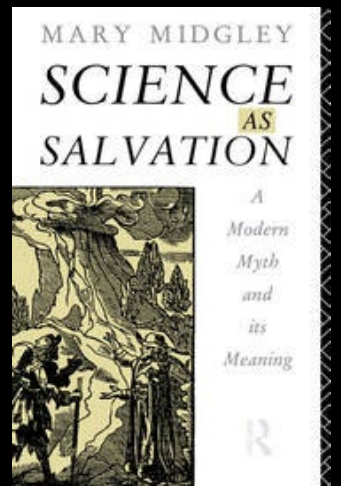
Tower of Babel
Pieter Bruegel the Elder 1563
Genesis 11.1-9

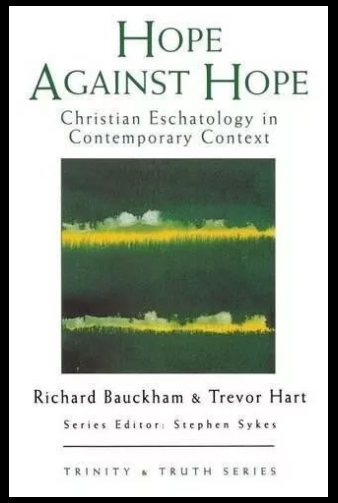
Science as saviour

Science as source of power and division

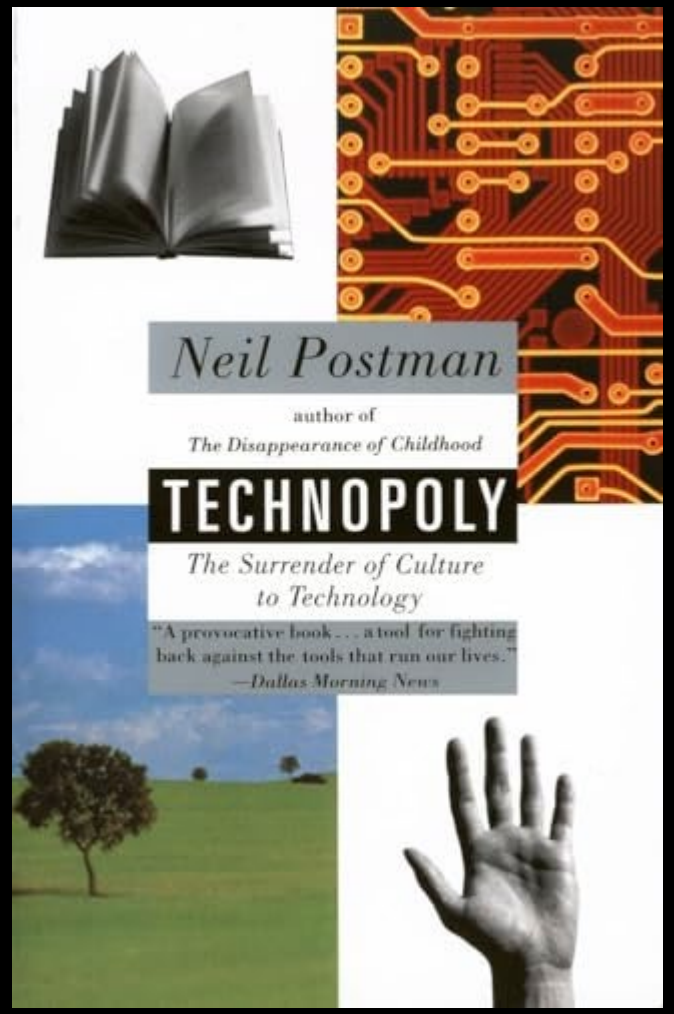
Science as gift

Science as healing



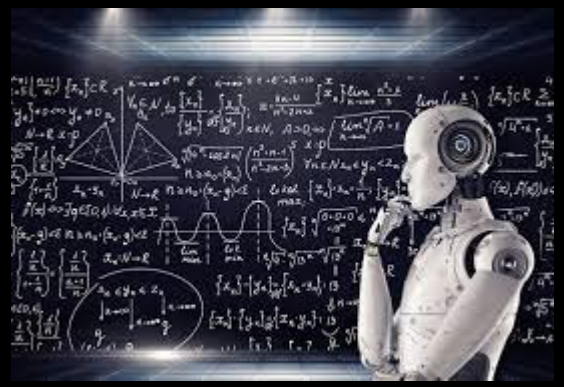






Every technology is both a burden and a blessing;

not either-or, but this-and-that





Theological Reflection on AI

1. Theological engagement with culture
2. Theological engagement with technology
3. Theological engagement with creativity

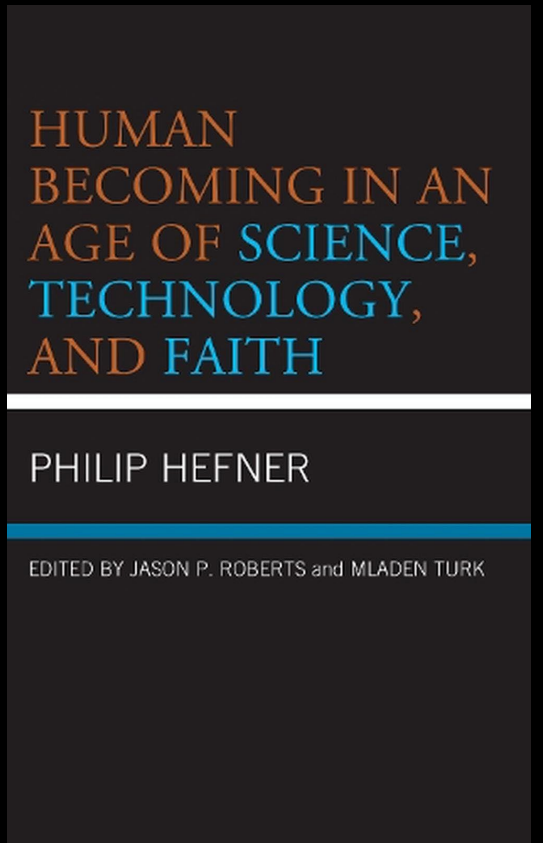
Theological Foundations



- God's gift of creativity







Theological Foundations



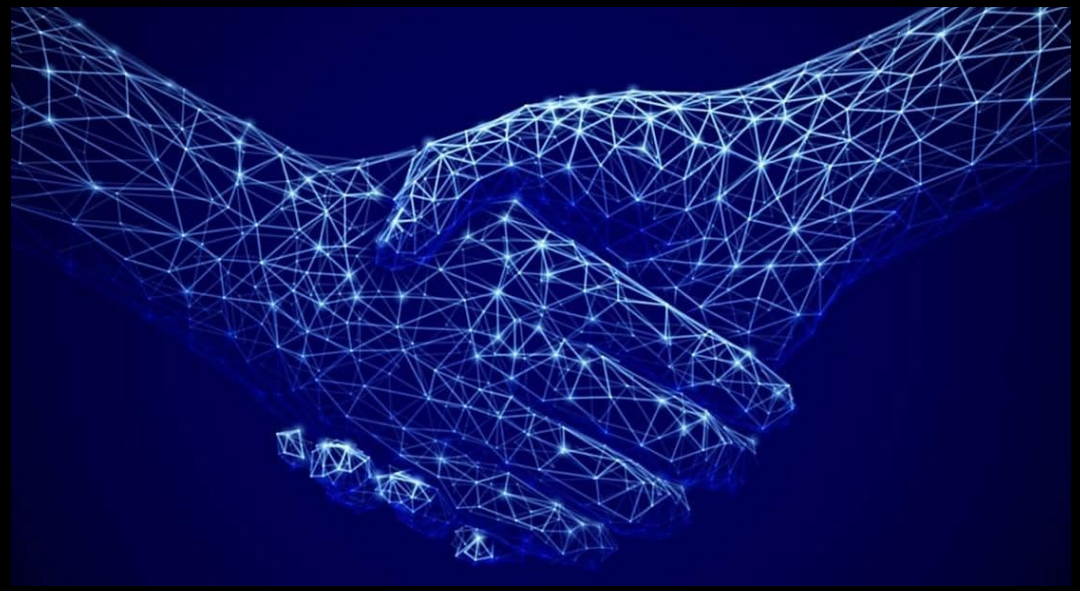
- God’s gift of creativity
- Creativity in work, play and rest



Theological Foundations



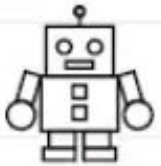
- God’s gift of creativity
- Creativity in work, play and rest
- Creativity is given in community



CO2 emission benchmarks

800

700



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Targets inhibited by AI Targets enabled by AI

	Targets inhibited by AI	Targets enabled by AI
Environment	30%	93%
Economy	33%	70%
Society	38%	82%

Data compiled Oct. 9, 2019.
An "American life" has a larger carbon footprint than a "Human life" because the U.S. is widely regarded as one of the top carbon dioxide emitters in the world.
Source: College of Information and Computer Sciences at University of Massachusetts Amherst

Human-Centred Design

Good technology begins with with people, not code

Ethical Responsibility

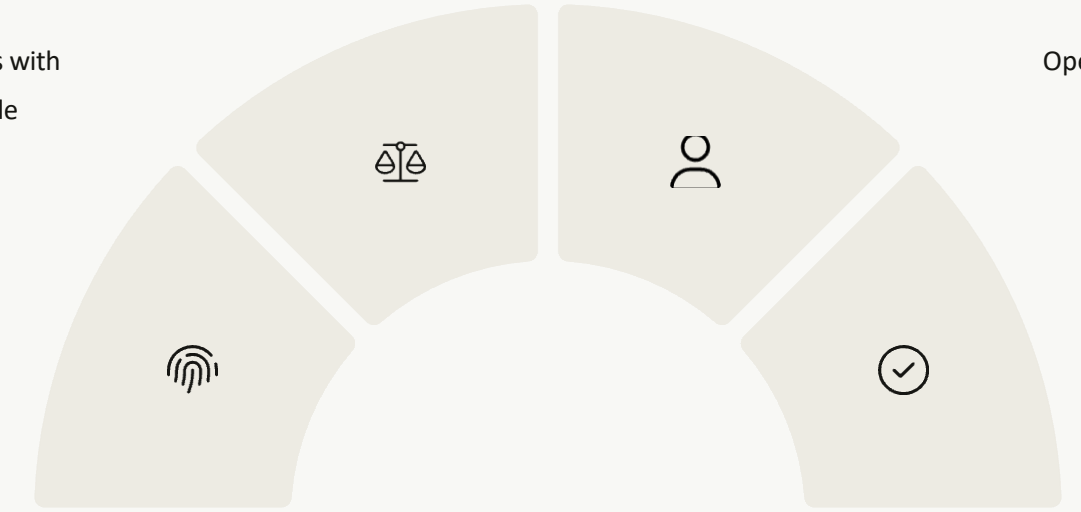
Prioritise dignity, privacy, and consent

Equity & Accessibility

Reduce disparities, accessible to all

Transparency & Accountability

Open communication about AI use



Theological Foundations



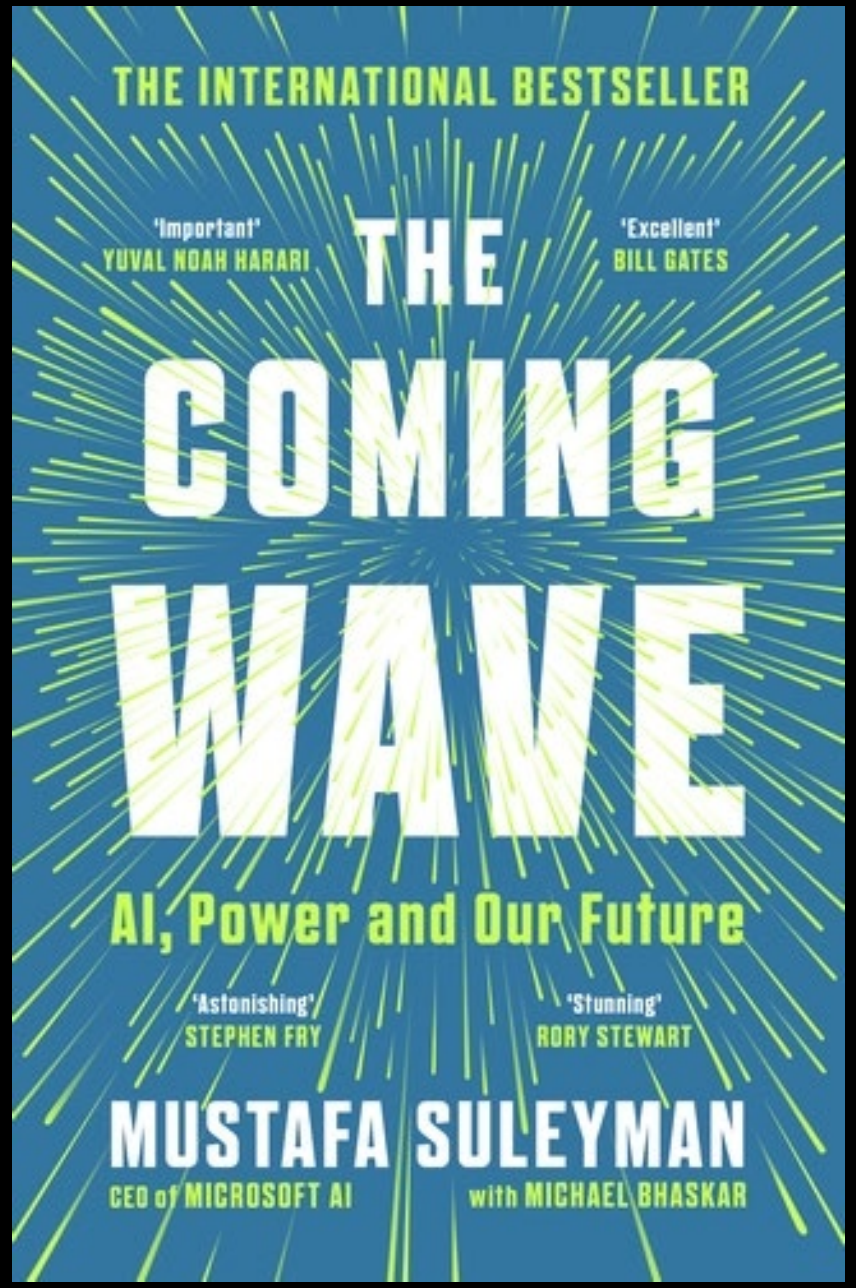
- God’s gift of creativity
- Creativity in work, play and rest
- Creativity is given in community
- Creativity involves risk











[AI]…might disrupt or even overturn the current geopolitical order …
[yet] to ban development of new technologies is itself a risk…
[since] technologically stagnant societies are historically unstable and prone to collapse

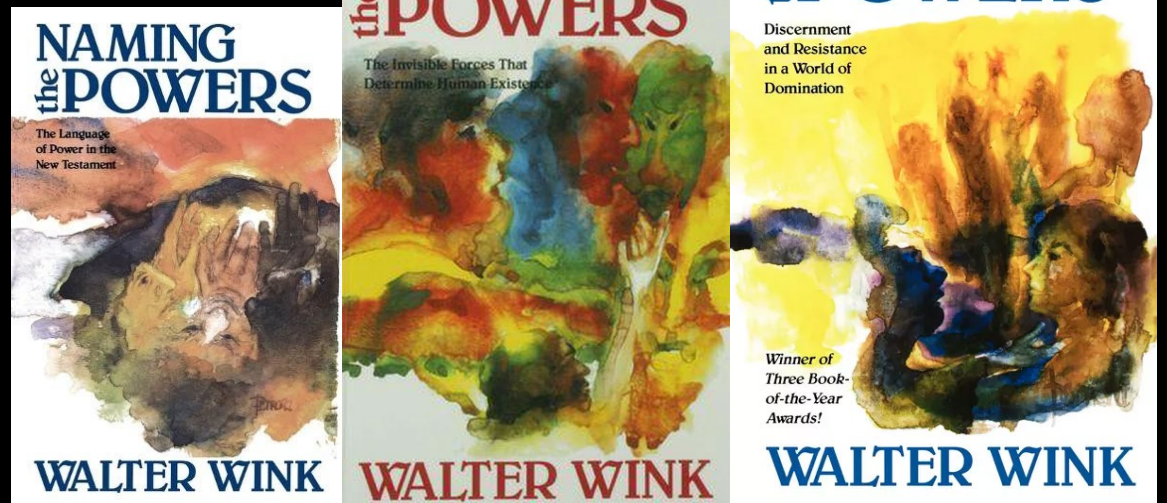
Theological Foundations



- God's gift of creativity
- Creativity in work, play and rest
- Creativity is given in community
- Creativity involves risk
- Creativity exists in a fallen world



Any attempt to transform a social system without addressing both its spirituality and its outer forms is doomed to failure



Theological Foundations



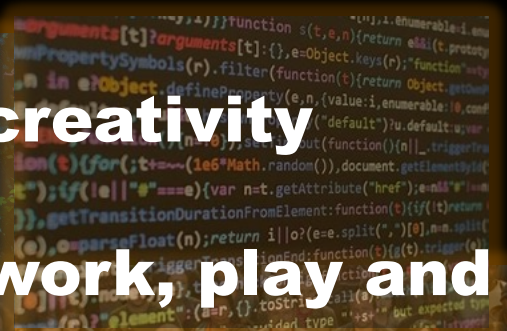
- God's gift of creativity
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- Creativity involves risk
- Creativity exists in a fallen world
- Creativity needs to be seen in the light of new creation



Theological Foundations



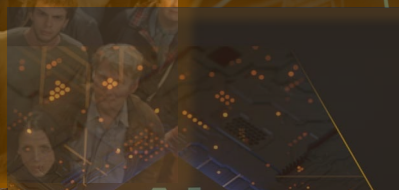














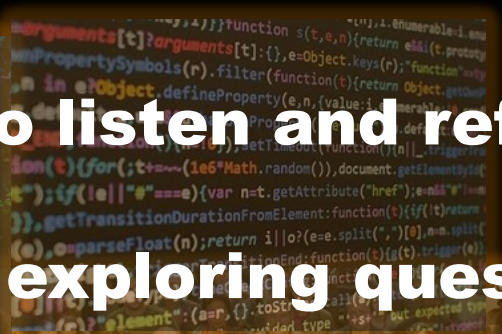
- God's gift of creativity
- Creativity in work, play and rest
- Creativity is given in community
- Creativity involves risk
- Creativity exists in a fallen world
- Creativity needs to be seen in the light of new creation

Hopeful realists

The church in the midst



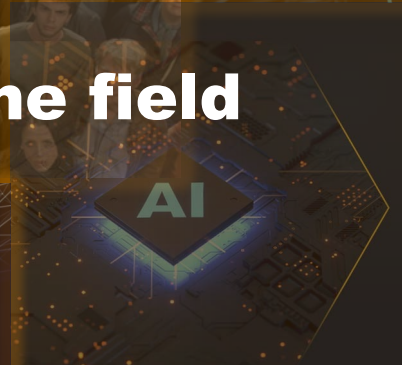














- Taking time to listen and reflect
- A context for exploring questions
- Modelling good practice
- Engaging with leaders in the field
- Standing for justice
- Resisting misleading narratives

Hopeful realists

“There is no single solution to the challenges ahead. But there is a path—one that keeps human dignity at the center of technological change. Whether AI becomes a force for shared prosperity or deepening inequality will depend not on the technology itself, but on the choices we make now”

Kinder, M. (2025, April 29). The unexpected visionary: Pope Francis on AI, humanity, and the future of work. Brookings Institution.

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