What does it mean to be human in a world of technology and AI?

Wir leben in einer Welt, die von scheinbar intelligenten Maschinen beherrscht wird, und wir neigen dazu, unser eigenes Menschsein durch die verzerrende Brille von Technologie und KI zu betrachten. Digitale Technologien führen dazu, dass wir uns auf körperlose, abstrakte und quantifizierbare Informationen konzentrieren und dazu neigen, unsere menschliche Verkörperung zu entwerten. Der nach Gottes Ebenbild geschaffene Mensch ist wesentlich mit Gott verbunden und von Gott mit einer einzigartigen Berufung ausgestattet. Die Menschwerdung und Auferstehung Christi bieten eine reiche Grundlage, um die menschliche Verkörperung und Einzigartigkeit in einer Welt intelligenter Maschinen zu feiern, zu respektieren und zu schützen. Die Herausforderung, vor der wir stehen, besteht darin, innovative und kreative Wege zu finden, um hochentwickelte Technologien der Künstlichen Intelligenz nicht dazu zu nutzen, uns zu erniedrigen, zu entstellen oder zu schmälern, sondern uns zu befähigen, uns als menschliche Personen zu entfalten, die einzigartig geschaffen sind, um Gottes Charakter und Wesen widerzuspiegeln.

John Wyatt

Exploring human identity

What does it mean to be human? It sounds like a question in an undergraduate philosophy examination rather than anything to do with the real world. However, the question seems to have new urgency and relevance in the confusing and divided culture in which we find ourselves. Moreover, there is little doubt that the question about human identity is of renewed importance because of the growing power and potential of artificial intelligence technology. In a world that is going to be more and more dominated by intelligent machines, is there anything distinctive about human beings? If machines can increasingly take on most of the roles that human beings have filled, what are human beings for?

Of course, human beings have always reflected about their own identity and meaning within the vast cosmos. But whereas in the past the deep questions around human identity seemed merely of speculative and academic interest, now these questions have emerged into popular culture. Paperbacks like *Sapiens* and *Homo Deus* from the best-selling historian Yuval Harari have taken on cult status, selling tens of millions of copies worldwide. In 2017 over 200 million people watched online as an AI program called AlphaGo competed with Lee Sodol, a human world champion player of the ancient game of Go, with the event framed as an ultimate test as to whether "AI has become more intelligent than human beings".

What does intelligence mean?

There is a common narrative amongst AI technology enthusiasts that goes something like this: 'Everything human beings have ever achieved is a product of intelligence. But for the first time in human history our intelligence can be replicated in information processing machines which are constantly increasing in power and complexity. Therefore machines are going to achieve everything that human beings can do'.

Max Tegmark, an influential physicist who is President of the Future of Life Institute, says: *"[T]he conventional wisdom among AI researchers is that intelligence is ultimately about information and computation, not about flesh, blood or carbon atoms. This means that there's no fundamental reason why machines can't one day be at least as intelligent as us... Everything we love about civilization is a product of intelligence, so amplifying our human intelligence with artificial intelligence has the potential of helping civilization flourish like never be-*