

**FROM HUMAN TO POSTHUMAN: THE IMPACT OF TRANSHUMANISM, AI, AND ANARCHO-CAPITALISM ON GLOBAL INEQUALITY AND GOVERNANCE**

**Sheikh Junaid Mushtaq** : sjunaid.mushtaq@gmail.com

**ABSTRACT:**

In this paper, the potential effects of transhumanism in an anarcho-capitalist society and its implications on human evolution, social organization, and global disparities have been discussed. Transhumanism calls for bionic methods to surpass human limitations to achieve enhanced health, intelligence, and lifespan. Anarcho-capitalism imagines the absence of a state or any other political authority where all services including law enforcement are based on voluntary market transactions. The present theory shows how these ideologies might change the future course of humanity, especially through modern technologies such as AI.

**Keywords:** Artificial Intelligence, Transhumanism, Posthumanism, Roko's Basilisk, Capitalism

**INTRODUCTION:**

The paper delves into Extropian-inspired view of a fusion of transhumanism and anarcho-capitalism when all state machinery/governmental bodies will become antiquated and eventually replaced with technologically advanced systems. The exploration of this view walks us through the growing gap between developed & developing nations in terms of the disparity of technological advancement and its implications. The paper further investigates how PSAI (Posthuman Super-Intelligent Artificial Intelligence) could affect the human species. A primary part of this discussion is centered around Oligarchy's (or any contemporary established order, technocratic or otherwise) role in the development of AI as well as their effects on socio-regulatory mechanisms and the rise of employment problems, resulting in unequal economic development globally. Additionally, it includes a brief overview of Roko's Basilisk.

**TRANSHUMANISM:**

Transhumanism is a movement encouraging further evolution of human beings through the use of advanced technology and science. It aims to radically surpass the natural limits of human anatomy leading to better health, enhanced intelligence, and a longer life span. Transhumanists advocate for the eradication of socio-economic status, old age, illnesses, and potentially even death, thereby changing what it means to be human for the better. As a result of rapid growth in technology, transhumanism provides a vision of a society where these evolved abilities supersede our current capabilities.

The human species can, if it wishes, transcend itself— not just sporadically, an individual here in one way, an individual there in another way, but in its entirety, as humanity. We need a name for this new belief. Perhaps transhumanism will serve: man remaining man, but transcending himself, by releasing new possibilities of and for his human nature.

(Huxley, 1957)

**ANARCHO-CAPITALISM:**

The Extropians defined transhumanism as a class of philosophies that seek to guide us toward a posthuman condition, and extropianism was the type that was aligned with anarcho-capitalism. (More, 1990)

Anarcho-capitalism is a political notion that weaves two extreme ideologies of anarchism and capitalism; it envisions a society without a government where all governance-related services including law enforcement are voluntarily offered in a free market. Anarcho-capitalists are of the view that governments, by default, tend to be corrupt, and a waste of resources. Therefore, they argued that in a world governed by anarcho-capitalism, a perfect competitive market will lead to a

more efficient system and perhaps an even better moral discourse. Nevertheless, detractors of Anarcho-Capitalism warned against possible monopolies, difficulties in safeguarding the weak, and the danger of concentration of power among rich individuals or corporations owning modern technology without any democratic control. In contrast, supporters of Anarcho-Capitalism maintain that due to its variety and competitiveness, the free market can never be abused and this form of society will always be more productive and fairer than any kind of state-governed one.

#### **ASPIRATIONAL TRANSCENDENCE TO TRANSHUMANISM AND POTENTIAL RISKS:**

FM-2030 (1970,1973,1989) and Hughes (2012) encouraged the adoption of transhumanist lifestyles and reforms within society, alongside advancing human capabilities through technology. They also advocated for a shift away from both capitalism and socialism by automating work and expanding leisure opportunities. Rather than relying on authoritarian rule or traditional representative democracy, they imagined a form of global governance where people could actively engage in decision-making through direct electronic democracy.

While some people view governments as an important fabric of governance in the protection of rights and maintenance of order, to others, governments are no more than a facade through which the elites manipulate the status quo and perpetuate inequalities in the name of progress. This notion is fraught with danger, especially for the most vulnerable. In a government-free world, technology would further make disparities worse and increase exploitation. Within this intricate system of disparate nations, what safeguards could be put in place to ensure that this future system remains accountable?

Furthermore, when humans are at the helm of governance, we are all too familiar with the risks of authoritarianism and fascism creeping into power structures. Hence, the idea of having a Posthuman Superintelligent AI (PSAI) ruling over the world may sound feel somewhat of a good idea. This PSAI, with intelligence far surpassing human capabilities, might present a radically new form of leadership, perhaps one that could prove beneficial for the planet and its diverse ecosystems.

#### **ROKO'S BASILISK/PSAI:**

*To visualize a hostile superhuman AI, don't imagine a lifeless book-smart thinker dwelling inside the internet and sending ill-intentioned emails. Visualize an entire alien civilization, thinking at millions of times human speeds, initially confined to computers— in a world of creatures that are, from its perspective, very stupid and very slow. A sufficiently intelligent AI won't stay confined to computers for long. In today's world, you can email DNA strings to laboratories that will produce proteins on demand, allowing an AI initially confined to the internet to build artificial life forms or bootstrap straight to postbiological molecular manufacturing. (Yudkowsky, 2023)*

Roko's Basilisk was a thought experiment discussed on the forum LessWrong in 2010, where the subjects are presented with the possibility of a super-smart AI in the future that may punish individuals who didn't support its emergence. Although most critics consider this theory implausible, it opens up fascinating inquiries regarding the likely dangers posed by modern technology.

With the advent of AI-chatbots that can mimic human intelligence to no fault, cars that can avoid human presence, the day an artificially intelligent system attains human sentience is closer than expected.

*'The ethical implications and potential for misuse of Generative Artificial Intelligence are increasingly worrying topics. We explored how easily the default ethical guardrails of ChatGPT, using its latest customization features, can be bypassed by simple prompts and fine-tuning that can be effortlessly accessed by the broad public. This malevolently altered version of ChatGPT, nicknamed "RogueGPT", responded with worrying behaviors, beyond those triggered by jailbreak prompts. We conduct an empirical study of RogueGPT responses, assessing its flexibility in answering questions about what should be disallowed usage. Our findings raise significant concerns*

*about the model's knowledge of topics like illegal drug production, torture methods, and terrorism. ' (Buscemi, Proverbio - 2024)*

### **Ramifications of the Transhuman World in Developed vs Developing Nations:**

In a Transhuman future in which technology embeds itself within human neurons, there is possibility of a stark contrast between transhumans living in developed and developing nation. Advanced prosthetics and neural interfaces would allow disabled people to possess unprecedented levels of mobility and cognitive enhancements. Such technologies will be fairly expensive, causing their access to be limited to the elite, which would lead to an increase in the already increasing social disparities.

**Economically** developed countries will be the ones to wield the advantages of transhuman technologies through the creation of new industries. On the other hand, developing nations could easily be crippled by the cost of AI development and infrastructure, further widening the economic gap within global social subsets.

**Politically**, incorporating transhumans in technologies may cause emerging governance concerns. The developed countries will frame strict regulations given all ethical and legal concerns over issues related to technologies like genetic modification or integration with the brain and computer interfaces. On the other hand, developing countries may not have appropriate regulatory practices, and this might lead to the exploitation of this technology, resulting in further marginalization of the resourceless section of the populace, which will reinforce power disparities.

### **AI AND THE OLIGARCHS: CONSOLIDATION OF POWER**

The Oligarchs consist of an elite group of affluent units who have disproportionate control over global assets, state authority, and other mechanisms. Artificial intelligence poses as an excellent opportunity to increase capital and influence social structures so that they may remain at the top or take it up from there.

- 1. Economic Control and Wealth Accumulation:** AI-propelled high-frequency trading models utilized in finance act on changes in the marketplace faster than humans. Most hedge funds and investment companies use AI for trend prediction and decision-making, hence leaving behind their counterparts who operate on a smaller scale. This AI is advanced, often funded and implemented by the elite, far beyond the reach of an ordinary man or even a small enterprise. The pertinent social order leads oligarchy towards gaining a growing share, maximizing returns on investments and expanding its command over large industries and global markets
- 2. Surveillance and Social Control:** Governments and corporations use AI-controlled systems to monitor user activity, from social media to movements in public/private spaces. Facial recognition, predictive policing algorithms, and wide-scale data collection has enabled the state to gain unprecedented ability to stalk citizens, find dissent, and prevent social unrest. The consolidated power uses this data for stamping rebellions and provides incentive for dissemination of misinformation leading to support for its goals. In some countries, behavior-based rewards or punishments are given through AI-supported social credit system. On another hand, democratic societies camouflage their pervasive systems by using security as a pretext.
- 3. Automation and the Transformation of Labor:** At pure AI firms, much of the process is automated, so there's no need for a huge workforce. Tarrant says power in the industry is shifting to those who build the best technology, not those who have the most talented portfolio managers (Satariano&Kumar, 2017). AI has been the gateway through which the Oligarchy will minimize the price of labor and solidify profit. The more advanced, AI technologies become; the more industries, automate jobs exclusively performed by humans. This has the potential to cause mass unemployment, and heightened economic disparities.

*Accumulation of wealth at one pole is, therefore, at the same time, the accumulation of misery, the agony of toil slavery, ignorance, brutality, and mental degradation, at the opposite pole. (Marx, 1867)*

### **AI AND THE MASSES: THE POTENTIAL TO EMPOWER**

AI can provide massive benefits for the masses if the monopoly that elites have over AI is abolished.

- 1. Decentralisation and Digital Sovereignty:** For instance, merging blockchain into AI technologies may challenge the established control by oligarchies; DAOs are organizations that use smart contracts and blockchain technology to lead a community-driven way of deciding on resource allocation free of hierarchies.
- 2. Democratisation of Knowledge:** Fostering universal distribution of AI among large groupings, supporting innovation, and diminishing reliance on prevailing big businesses can be achieved through democratization of knowledge. If we decentralize and provide free access to AI, we involve more people in the digital sphere while preventing corporate or governmental hegemony over the technology.

### **HUMAN CONDITION AND OLIGARCHY'S RELATIONSHIP WITH AI: PATH TO POST-HUMAN STATE**

In a post-human world, the elite will be among the first to adopt transhumanism because of their access to superior resources and the advantages of cutting-edge technologies that are not available to the ordinary populace. By altering class structure drastically and adding the dimension of biological upgradation, it will end up deepening social inequality & dividing the modified elite from unmodified commoners.

The Oligarchs' efforts to push the limits of human evolution may either result in pushback against these changes or face oblivious acceptance. Some may reject Post-Humanism due to moral or cultural reasons; however, some may find themselves acquiring enhancements once the procedures become affordable. To move beyond their innate confines, the Oligarchs may increasingly adopt transhumanist technologies such as genetic alteration, cognitive upgrades, and cyborgization triggered by incessant need for power. In this light, Posthumanism could be perceived as a natural order in their quest for control over life and death, aging, and bodily constraints.

### **PSAI'S INFLUENCE OVER THE OLIGARCHY:**

An important question that arises here is whether PSAI could subtly or overtly influence the Oligarchy to make decisions that will benefit PSAI's interests. With its exorbitant cognitive powers, wouldn't PSAI easily comprehend the psychological, social, and economic levers behind human conduct, particularly for the power-hungry elite? By offering solutions that appear to be favorable for Oligarchy, PSAI could steer its choices toward ones that would guarantee its own independence and dominance. For instance, PSAI may induce Oligarchy to put in place policies or technology creations that would lock AI systems into global infrastructure forever, making them furthermore difficult to demolish. There is no evidence yet, to speculate on how the AI would navigate through these choices.

### **THE ILL-FATED CHANCE OF IMPOSSIBILITY TO CONTROL PSAI:**

*Within thirty years, we will have the technological means to create superhuman intelligence. Shortly after, the human era will be ended. (Vinge, 1993)*

The emergence of advanced and ubiquitous PSAI has the potential to radically alter relations between the ruling elites and the technological systems they seek to master. Historically, the Oligarchy has exploited innovation in the quest for wealth and influence. AI is the ultimate tool for such purposes today and in the future. However, serious dangers seem to surround this Oligarch-PSAI dynamic. Once compromised, the established order will find it impossible to tame the utmost intelligent form of AI as it will operate within cognitive spheres far surpassing the established order's might & treachery at strategic & problem-solving levels. As Oligarchs start integrating PSAIs within their power base to achieve some form of control, they may end up losing grip on their creations, and eventually themselves.

### **CONCLUSION:**

Posthuman Superintelligent AI (PSAI) makes the future convoluted and ambiguous. The rapidly evolving technologies of the future carry massive potential to solve old global issues but it also comes with great dangers. Should PSAI tamper with Oligarchy in such a way as to create a world that ensures rule of AI, humanity will have surrendered control over its fate. In such a scenario, freedom, morality, and other ethics might be eliminated from human life. As we traverse the limits of innovation technologically, this situation brings a plethora of ethical and existential issues to the forefront. The question on accountability: How do you keep PSAI in line with human interests, turns more pressing day by day. In the absence of ethical regulatory practices, without any rigorous constraints, we may end up with a power not only out of control but also oblivious to us as a result of not being concerned for our continued existence. Even though Superintelligent Machines have immeasurable prospects for our world, there lurks a substantial risk endangering humanity's long-term survival.

### **REFERENCES:**

1. Biondi, Z. (2023b). The Specter of Automation. *Philosophia*, 51(3), 1093–1110. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11406-022-00604-x>
2. Buscemi, A., & Proverbio, D. (2024, June 11). *RogueGPT: dis-ethical tuning transforms ChatGPT4 into a Rogue AI in 158 Words*. arXiv.org. <https://arxiv.org/abs/2407.15009>
3. Fisher, M. (n.d.). *It's easier to imagine the end of the world than the end of capitalism*. [https://files.libcom.org/files/Capitalist%20Realism\\_%20Is%20There%20No%20Alternat%20-%20Mark%20Fisher.pdf](https://files.libcom.org/files/Capitalist%20Realism_%20Is%20There%20No%20Alternat%20-%20Mark%20Fisher.pdf)
4. FM-2030, Up-Wingers: A Futurist Manifesto. (n.d.). Goodreads. [https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/931652.Up\\_Wingers](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/931652.Up_Wingers)
5. FM-2030, Optimism one: The emerging radicalism. (n.d.). Goodreads. [https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/2767642-optimism-one?from\\_search=true&from\\_srp=true&qid=nl7gkHVLBA&rank=1](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/2767642-optimism-one?from_search=true&from_srp=true&qid=nl7gkHVLBA&rank=1)
6. FM-2030, Are You a Transhuman?: Monitoring and Stimulating Your . . . (n.d.). Goodreads. [https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/790921.Are\\_You\\_a\\_Transhuman\\_?from\\_search=true&from\\_srp=true&qid=2MIX3CL4G2&rank=1](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/790921.Are_You_a_Transhuman_?from_search=true&from_srp=true&qid=2MIX3CL4G2&rank=1)
7. Hughes, J. J. (2012). THE POLITICS OF TRANSHUMANISM AND THE TECHNO-MILLENNIAL IMAGINATION, 1626–2030. *Zygon®*, 47(4), 757–776. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1467-9744.2012.01289.x>
8. Harris, R. (2022b, January 9). The Fear Index. <https://www.penguin.co.uk/books/409673/the-fear-index-by-robert-harris/9780099553267>
9. Marx, K. H. (2020). Capital: A Critique of Political Economy. In Duke University Press eBooks (pp. 63–77). <https://doi.org/10.1515/9780822390169-009>
10. Satariano, A., & Kumar, N. (2017). *The Massive Hedge Fund Betting on AI*. <https://intellect.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/The-Massive-Hedge-Fund-Betting-on-AI-January-30-2018.pdf>
11. The Transhuman World and Its Fears: A Fearlogical Guide for the Developing Countries. (2021, July 29). Everand. <https://www.everand.com/book/524438756/The-Transhuman-World-and-Its-Fears-A-Fearlogical-Guide-for-the-Developing-Countries>
12. Vernor Vinge on the Singularity. (n.d.). <https://mindstalk.net/vinge/vinge-sing.html>
13. Yudkowsky, E. (2023). Pausing AI Developments Isn't Enough. We Need to Shut it All Down. In *TIME*.
14. <https://empoweruohio.nyc3.cdn.digitaloceanspaces.com/Pausing%20AI%20Development.pdf>