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The Challenge of AI for Human Society and the Idea of the Human Person

Rome | 21st October 2021



The Challenge of Artificial Intelligence for Human Society and the Idea of the Human Person

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PROGRAMME

- 10:00 – 10:30 **Registration and control**
- 10:30 – 11:00 **Welcome greetings and introduction**
- *H.Em. Cardinal Gianfranco RAVASI - Pontifical Council for Culture*
 - *Ambassador Dr. Bernhard KOTSCH – Federal Republic of Germany*
- 11:00 – 13:00 **Panel ONE – How the emergence of AI requires to rethink in the meaning of being human**
- AI and the human nature: can AI reproduce consciousness?
Dr. Christof KOCH – Allen Institute for Brain Science
- AI and philosophy: the philosophical challenges of AI
Dr. Matthias LUTZ-BATCHMANN – Goethe University
- AI and religion: what would AI mean to Catholic doctrine?
Dr. James KEENAN, SJ – Boston College, US
- Moderator: *Dr. Jens REDMER - Google*
- 13:00 – 14:00 Lunch at the Palazzo
- 14:00 – 16:00 **Panel TWO – Prescriptive and normative consequences that AI rises**
- AI and the law: could AI still be treated solely as an object or would AI assume the quality of a subject of law?
Dr. Michael O’FLAHERTY – EU Agency for Human Rights
- AI and ethics: would AI require new rules of ethics?
Dr. Helen ALFORD, OP – Pont. Univ. St. Thomas Aquinas
- AI and the society: how would we live as a community with AI?
Dr. Clara NEPPEL – IEEE Technology Centre
- Moderator: *Dr. Alessandra SMERILLI, FMA – Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development*
- 16:00 – 16:20 Break
- 16:20 – 17:30 **Roundtable with all speakers and conclusions**
- Moderators: *Dr. Michael KOCH – former Ambassador Fed. Rep. of Germany*
H.E. Mons. Paul TIGHE – Pontifical Council for Culture

Dr. Christof Koch

I'm a scholar and scientist best known for my experiments and writings exploring the brain and consciousness. As my parents were German diplomats, I had an itinerant but happy childhood, living in many cities in America, Africa, Europe, and Asia; I still retain a distinct Teutonic accent. Trained as a physicist in Germany, I worked for four years at MIT before becoming a professor of biology and engineering at Caltech in Pasadena, one of the nation's most preeminent science schools. I spent 27 productive years in its ivory tower.



In 2011, Paul Allen, the philanthropist and Microsoft co-founder, recruited me as Chief Scientist to the Allen Institute for Brain Science in Seattle, leading a massive ten-year effort in systems neuroscience. Subsequently, I became the president of the Allen Institute for Brain Science, overseeing the institute's growth to more than 300 scientists, engineers, and staff. At the beginning of the pandemic, I stepped down to focus on leading the MindScope Program at the Allen Institute. Simultaneously, I became Chief Scientist of Elizabeth Koch's Tiny Blue Dot Foundation in Santa Monica, seeking to understand consciousness, its place in nature, and how this knowledge can benefit all of humanity.

I've been the advisor of about 50 PhD graduate students and 60 post-doctoral fellows, the co-author of >300 academic articles, cited > 140,000 times, and the sole author of four academic books (with Oxford and MIT University Press) on biophysics, cortex and consciousness and write regularly for a variety of magazines (Scientific American, Technology Review, Wall Street Journal) and speak on many pod-casts.

For more information, see <http://www.christofkoch.com/>

Dr. Matthias Lutz-Bachmann

Prof. Lutz-Bachmann was born in Frankfurt in 1952 and has studies in Philosophy, Catholic Theology and Political Sciences. He is a professor of philosophy at the Philosophy Institute of the Goethe University of Frankfurt since 1994.



From 2009 to 2015 he was vice-president of the Johann Wolfgang Goethe University with special direction of the Faculties of Human Sciences.

Since 2012 he is director of the "Forschungskollegs Humanwissenschaften" in Bad Homburg.

Since 2011 he has been a member of the "Interuniversitären Forschungsverbund für Metaphysik und Religionsphilosophie München / Tübingen". Since 2010 he is a member of the Scientific Society of the Johann Wolfgang Goethe University. Since 2007 he has been a member of the executive committee of the Cluster of Excellence

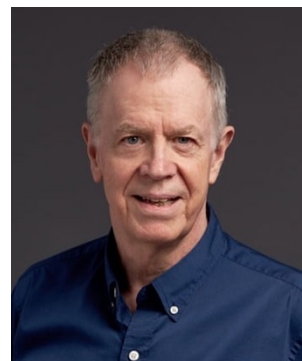
Special fields of research and publications are:

- Medieval philosophy and its historical influence
- Practical philosophy (in particular ethics and political philosophy)
- Philosophy of religion
- Kant
- Critical Theory

He is married to Gitta Marnach Lutz-Bachmann and has two grown children and five grandchildren.

Dr. James Keenan, SJ

James F. Keenan, S.J., is the Canisius Chair, Director of the Jesuit Institute, and Vice-Provost for Global Engagement at Boston College. He has been teaching at BC since 2003. A Jesuit priest since 1982, he received a licentiate and a doctorate from the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome.



He has edited or written 25 books and published over 400 essays, articles, and reviews. He has been a Fellow at the Institute of Advanced Studies at The University of Edinburgh, the Center of Theological Inquiry, Princeton, and the Instituto Trentino di Cultura, in Trent, Italy. He has been a visiting professor at the Ateneo de Manila (2001, 2003); at Dharmaram Vidya Kshetram in Bangalore (2007, 2008, 2012, 2015, 2017); Jnana Deepa Vidyapeeth, Pune, India, (2015, 2017); and the Pontifical Gregorian University (2002, 2003, 2019). He is the founder of Catholic Theological Ethics in the World Church (CTEWC) and co-chaired the international conferences in Padua (2006), Trento (2010) and Sarajevo (2018) as well as regional ones in Nairobi, Berlin, Krakow, Bangalore and Bogotá. Today CTEWC is a live network of over 1500 Catholic ethicists (www.catholicethics.com).

He has recently edited five books: with the late Yiu Sing Lúcas Chan and Ronaldo Zacharias, *The Bible and Catholic Theological Ethics*, with George Griener *A Lúcas Chan Reader: Pioneering Essays on Biblical and Asian Theological Ethics*, *Amoris Laetitia: A New Momentum for Moral Formation and Pastoral Practice* with Grant Gallicho; *Building Bridges in Sarajevo: The Plenary Papers of Sarajevo 2018*, with Kristin Heyer and Andrea Vicini and *Street Homelessness and Catholic Theological Ethics*, with Mark McGreevey. Recently he wrote *University Ethics: How Colleges Can Build and Benefit from a Culture of Ethics* and is finishing another book, *A Brief History of Catholic Ethics*. His next project is in developing an ethics of vulnerability.

Dr. Jens Redmer

Jens Redmer is Principal for New Products at Google. Jens joined Google in 2005 and was previously responsible for New Business Development for Google's efforts in Europe. Before that, Jens was heading up the Google Book Search Programme in EMEA.



Jens began his career with German publishing group Axel Springer in Hamburg. In the period 1995-98 he played a key role in establishing Springer's first new media operations before becoming regional Managing Director for the group's nascent internet service provider, a joint venture with fellow publishing houses Bertelsmann and WAZ.

Between 1998 and 2001, Jens was Board Member of publicly listed ricardo.de, the then-premier European online auction service which was bought out by qxl.com in 2000. He ran Premium/ Paid Services for internet service provider AOL in Germany between 2001 and 2004 and joined Google from Endemol Germany, the world's largest independent television producer, where he was director of multimedia between 2004 and 2005.

Jens holds a degree in computer science/ medicine from Kiel University. He is a member of the the Supervisory Board at PON Holdings, the Netherlands based mobility conglomerate and exclusive importer for Volkswagen, Porsche and Audi and a member of the scientific board at the think tank "Frankfurter Zukunftsrat".

Likes: H₂O in every aggregate state with water, winter and air sports. The smell of new hardware.

Dislikes: Inertia. The smell of taxis.

Dr. Michael O'Flaherty

Michael O'Flaherty is Director of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights since 2015. He is a former Professor of Human Rights at the University of Nottingham and the [National University of Ireland](#), Galway.

From 2004 to 2012 he was a member of the United Nations Human Rights Committee, latterly as Vice-Chair. Mr O'Flaherty has held a variety of other positions at the United Nations, both at headquarters and in the field, in which connection he witnessed, reported on, and sought to mitigate human rights abuses in such places as Bosnia and Herzegovina and Sierra Leone.



He has also served as Chief Commissioner of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission, as Chairperson of the Irish Penal Reform Trust, and as Vice-Chair of the Universal Rights Group. A solicitor of the Irish Courts, O'Flaherty received his Doctor of Laws from the National University of Ireland and holds degrees in international relations, philosophy, and theology.

Dr. Helen Alford, OP

Helen Alford studied Manufacturing Engineering at Cambridge. After finishing a PhD thesis on “human-centred technology,” she joined the Dominicans and was sent to teach at the Dominican University in Rome, the Pontifical University of St Thomas (Angelicum). She is now an Ordinary Professor of Economics and Ethics and Vice Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences.



Her research mostly looks at the role and impact of ethics and Christian social thought in the field of management, sustainability and artificial intelligence. She is an Ordinary Member of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences, a Consultor to the Dicastery for the Promotion of Integral Human Development and Senior Adviser to the “Blueprint for Better Business” based in the UK.

Dr. Clara Neppel

Dr. Clara Neppel is responsible for the growth of IEEE's operations and presence in Europe, focusing on the needs of industry, academia, and government. She serves as a point of contact for initiatives with regard to technology, engineering, and related public policy issues that help to implement IEEE's continued global commitment to fostering technological innovation for the benefit of humanity.



As the European head of the world's largest technical professional organization, Dr. Neppel is dedicated, under a scientific and technological prism, to supporting and advancing human-centric and sustainable innovation. She contributes to issues regarding the technology policy of several international organizations, such as the OECD, European Commission, and Parliament or the Council of Europe. She is involved in efforts related to emerging technologies, entrepreneurship, education, as well as societal implications of technology.

Dr. Neppel is also a member of the Supervisory Board of EIT Digital, the Scientific-Industrial Advisory Board of Research Studios Austria FSG, the Software Competence Center Hagenberg Strategy Board, as well as the Independent Advisory Board of the UK RI Centre for Doctoral Training in Accountable, Responsible and Transparent AI.

She joined IEEE after many years with the European Patent Office where she was involved in various aspects relating to innovation, intellectual property, and public policy in the field of information and communication technologies.

Dr. Neppel holds a Ph.D. in Computer Science from the Technical University of Munich and a Master in Intellectual Property Law and Management from the University of Strasbourg.

Dr. Alessandra Smerilli, FMA

Sr. Alessandra Smerilli is a religious sister in the Salesian order. She is professor of Economics at PFSEAuxilium, a Vatican University in Rome. She is also a lecturer at the Pontifical Lateran University.

Sr. Alessandra holds a PhD in Political Economics from La Sapienza University in Rome, and a PhD in Economics from the University of East Anglia (UK). She is the author of various books and articles on behavioral economics, economic theory of values-based organizations, we-rationality, and team reasoning.



Since 2016, Sr. Alessandra has served as a visiting professor at the University of Pennsylvania in the Behavioral Ethics Lab. Sr. Alessandra is founder and member of the scientific committee of the S.E.C., or *Scuola di Economia Civile*, (School of Civil Economy). She has also been a member of the *Consiglio Nazionale del Terzo settore* (National Council of the Third sector) since 2018 and member of *Comitato scientifico e organizzativo delle Settimane Sociali dei Cattolici*, (Scientific Committee for Catholic Social Weeks), promoted by the Italian Bishops Conference (C.E.I.) since 2008.

Sr. Alessandra is a member of the Permanent Women's Consultation Group of the Holy See's Pontifical Council for Culture and in 2019, she was appointed by Pope Francis as an advisor to Vatican State. Currently, she serves as Interim Secretary of the Dicastery for Integral Human Development and as Delegate of Vatican Covid-19 Commission.

Dr. Michael Koch

Michael Koch was born as the son of a German diplomat in Kansas City (USA) on September 30, 1955. After schooling in the Netherlands, Germany and Canada, he graduated from a French government school in Rabat (Morocco) with the Baccalaureate. He studied law at the Universities of Tübingen and Bonn, finishing with the First Juridical State Examination in 1978. He continued his education with a Postgraduate Legal Traineeship to complete the Second Juridical State Examination in 1981. After interning with a law firm in Toronto (Canada) he joined the Institute of International Law at the University of Kiel (Germany) in 1982, where he worked as a research assistant until 1986. In 1990 he was awarded a Doctor of Law (*Dr. iur.*) by the University of Bonn.



Dr Koch joined the German Foreign Service in 1986. His first posting was as desk officer in the subdivision European Community, followed until 1991 by service with the German Consulate General in San Francisco (USA). Until 1995 he was Personal Private Secretary to the Coordinator for German-American Cooperation in the Foreign Office. In his next posting to the German Embassy in Rangoon (Myanmar) he served as deputy head of mission until 1998, then until 2001 as Director of a Task Force for Internal Reforms of the Foreign Service.

Between 2001 and 2004 Dr Koch headed the Political Department of the German Embassy New Delhi (India). From there he moved on to be Director of the Special Task Force Afghanistan until 2008, when he became German Ambassador in Islamabad (Pakistan). From there, he assumed again responsibility for Afghanistan as Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan with the Foreign Office, Berlin, a function he held between 2012 and 2015. He then was appointed Legal Adviser for Public International Law and Director-General of the Legal Department of the Foreign Office. In 2018, Dr Koch was appointed German Ambassador to the Holy See in Rome (Italy). He retired from the Foreign Service on June 30th 2021 after reaching the mandatory age limit and is now residing in Berlin (Germany).

Dr Koch is married to Ingrid Jahn-Koch, a lawyer; the couple has three children.

Bishop Paul Tighe

Mgr. Paul Tighe is Secretary of the Pontifical Council for Culture. A native of Navan, County Meath in the Republic of Ireland, Mgr Tighe graduated from University College Dublin in 1979 with a degree in Civil Law. Having studied for the priesthood in Holy Cross College in Clonliffe and at the Irish College in Rome, he was ordained a priest of the Dublin Diocese in 1983. His first appointment was as parish chaplain and teacher in Ballyfermot. Later, he went on to study Moral Theology at the Gregorian University in Rome. From 1990 he was a lecturer in Moral Theology in the Mater Dei Institute in Dublin, where he was appointed head of the Theology department in 2000. Mgr Tighe has a particular interest in the interface between politics and religion. He was advisor to the Irish Episcopal Conference on a range of social and ethical issues of national and international interest.



In 2004, he was charged with overseeing the restructuring of the Archdiocese of Dublin Communications Office and also established for the first time in the Diocese an Office for Public Affairs, providing a more effective link between the Dublin Diocese, government, public bodies and non-governmental organisations in Ireland and Europe.

In 2007, he was appointed as Secretary of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications. In that capacity, he was involved in promoting Church reflection on the importance of digital culture and in the launch of some of the social media initiatives of the Holy See.

In 2015, he was nominated to the Pontifical Council for Culture and as titular Bishop of Drivastum. At the Council, where he serves as Secretary General, he follows questions related to digital culture (impact of technology on social and political discourse), ethics and contemporary literature.

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