Religiously Human in a Techno-Scientific World

Theological, Missional, and Pastoral Perspectives

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The SCD Theology Research Network (TRN) and ISCAST (Institute for the Study of Christianity in an Age of Science and Technology) invite you to **join us in the 5th seminar of our series**: *Religiously Human in a Techno-Scientific World: Theological, Missional, and Pastoral Perspectives.* Learn more about the series here.

Robotics, Artificial Intelligence, & Transhumanism: Can Technology Enhance the *Imago Dei*?

Ted Peters
26 May 2023, 2–4 p.m. AEST

Abstract

Can the human race use bio-nano-technology to elevate us from creatures into gods? The wildfire speed of gene modification, robotics, AI (artificial intelligence), IA (intelligence amplification), plus transhumanism (H+) dizzy us with the prospects that the next generation will alter human nature, perhaps even give birth to a posthuman species. How should Christians think about the *imago Dei* (the image of God in us) and the divine promise of redemption for the whole creation? Is technological transformation a substitute for God's action, a partner in God's providence, or an idolatrous temptation?

SPEAKER

Ted Peters is Distinguished Research Professor Emeritus of Systematic Theology and Ethics at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary and the Graduate Theological Union. He co-edits the journal, *Theology and Science*, published by the Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences. His single volume systematic theology, *God—The World's Future* (Fortress 2015) is now in its third edition. He has just published a collection of his essays, *The Voice of Public Theology: Addressing Politics, Science, and Technology* (ATF 2023). Visit his Patheos blogsite on Public Theology and his website.

RESPONDENT

Marius Dorobantu is a lecturer in theology & science at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam and a fellow of the ISSR (International Society for Science & Religion). His prize-winning doctoral dissertation (at the University of Strasbourg) investigated the potential challenges of human-level AI for the theological understanding of human distinctiveness and the image of God. His current research project—carried out within an interdisciplinary team of psychologists, computer scientists, and theologians at the ISSR—is entitled "Understanding spiritual intelligence: Psychological, theological and computational approaches". His first monograph, *Are We More than Just Intelligent Machines? Human-Level Artificial Intelligence and the Relational Image of God*, is currently under peer review.

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