



Artificial Intelligence - Young Researchers Conference Harvard University, Boston - 11/12 October, 2019

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

OCTOBER 11TH, 2019 - THE SCIENCE
Location: Abigail Adams Institute

7:00PM Introduction to the Conference & Meet and Greet
7:30PM Advances in Robotics and Artificial Intelligence and the Theory of How it Works Speaker: Samuel Cerqueira
8:30PM Q&A / Discussion

OCTOBER 12TH, 2019 - THE PHILOSOPHY AND ANTHROPOLOGY
Location: Smith Campus Center

9:00AM Philosophical Anthropology: What does it mean to be human? Can a Robot be a Person? Speaker: Roberto Dell'Oro
10:00PM Can a Machine Act Ethically? Human action vs machine agency Speaker: Roberto Dell'Oro
11:00PM AI and Human Flourishing Speaker: Mike Bocamazo
12:00PM Q&A with Speakers Moderator: Roberto Dell'Oro
1:00PM Lunch Break
Location: Abigail Adams Institute
2:00PM Taking Responsibility for Decisions about Technological Development and Resisting the Ideology of Technological Determinism Speaker: Robert Marsland
3:00PM Consciousness: What's possible and what's not? Speaker: Fernando Cerullo
4:00PM Q&A with Speakers Moderator: Roberto Dell'Oro
4:30PM Discussion Groups
5:30PM Closing Remarks
6:00PM Free Time to Enjoy Boston

ROBOTICS & ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE


A CHANCE TO REDISCOVER HUMANITY?

2019 OCTOBER 11-12
HARVARD University


PRESENTED BY
THE YOUNG RESEARCHERS OF THE PONTIFICAL ACADEMY FOR LIFE

CO-SPONSORED BY
Harvard RIGHT TO LIFE World Youth Alliance ABIGAIL ADAMS INSTITUTE


The Pontifical Academy for Life, in partnership with the World Youth Alliance, Abigail Adams Institute, and the Harvard Students for Life, has organized a conference for young professionals and students on the weekend of October 11-12, 2019, at Harvard University (Boston, USA). This conference was open to young professionals and students <35 years old.




Robert Marsland (Bobby) is currently working as a postdoctoral fellow in the Theoretical Biophysics Group at Boston University, comprised by Professors Pankaj Mehta, Kirill Korolev and Daniel Segrè, with their students and postdocs. He obtained his PhD in Physics from MIT in 2017, where he studied nonequilibrium statistical mechanics with Professor Jeremy England. Before starting his doctoral work, he obtained a Master of Studies in Philosophy of Physics from Oxford University, where he did some work on foundations of classical thermodynamics with Professor Harvey Brown. When not doing physics, he enjoys studying metaphysics and philosophy of science.




ROBERTO DELL'ORO (Dr. Dell'Oro) is the Director of the Bioethics Institute and a Professor in the Department of Theological Studies at Loyola Marymount University. He studied philosophy and theology at the Facoltà Teologica dell'Italia Settentrionale and the Catholic University of Milan (Italy), the Hochschule für Philosophie in Munich (Germany), and the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. In 1992, he earned a doctorate in theological ethics, under the direction of Klaus Demmer, with a dissertation on Dietrich von Hildebrand's phenomenology of moral experience. From 1993 to 1995, he was a post-doctoral fellow in bioethics at the Kennedy Institute of Ethics, Georgetown University -- with the late Edmund Pellegrino, the former chair of the President's Council of Bioethics, as a mentor. In 1995, he became a Senior Scholar at the Center for Clinical Bioethics at Georgetown University, with teaching appointments in the Medical School and the Department of Philosophy. In the fall 2003, Roberto moved to the Department of Theological Studies at LMU, where he is a full professor and the Director of the Bioethics Institute. From 2003 to 2006, he served as a clinical bioethicist at St. Francis Medical Center in Lynwood, CA, concentrating especially on ethical issues in obstetrics, perinatology and neonatology; from 2001 to 2007, he was the medical ethicist for the "Data and Safety Monitoring Board" at the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development at N.I.H. in Bethesda, Maryland; from 2007 to 2011, he chaired the bioethics committee at St. John's Medical Center in Santa Monica, CA. In 2010, he was selected for a sabbatical as Erasmus Mundus Professor of Bioethics at the University of Padua (Italy). Since 2003, he has been an Affiliate Scholar at the Kennedy Institute of Ethics at Georgetown University in Washington D.C. Recently he has appointed on another Data and Safety Monitoring Board at N.I.H. Since 2014, he is also a member of the Theological Commission of the Diocese of Los Angeles

ABIGAIL ADAMS INSTITUTE 

The Abigail Adams Institute (AAI) is a scholarly institute dedicated to providing supplementary humanistic education to the Harvard intellectual community. We foster shared intellectual life by exploring questions of deep human concern that cut across the boundaries of academic disciplines. Throughout the year, we provide a range of programming for Harvard students and Cambridge young professionals including reading and discussion groups, workshops, lectures, conversations with faculty, intellectual retreats, and mentoring, while our summer seminars attract students and scholars from around the world.


WORLD YOUTH ALLIANCE 

World Youth Alliance (WYA) is an organization of young people from every part of the world who are committed to promoting the dignity of every human person. WYA engages young people in its work to build free and just societies and a culture of life.


HARVARD RIGHT TO LIFE 

Harvard Right to Life is a student-run, non-sectarian organization dedicated to the principle that all human life is of inestimable value and must be respected from conception to natural death. They work for the legalization of all practices that deny this principle, like abortion and euthanasia, and try to reduce the instances of these in a society where they are legal.


PHILOSOPHY & ANTHROPOLOGY OF ROBOTICS AND A.I.



Michael Bocamazo is a software engineer for Amazon Robotics. He graduated from Olin College of Engineering with a degree in Electrical and Computer Engineering. His work focuses on machine learning and he is interested in its interplay with the philosophy of science and metaphysics more broadly. He is an AAI Fellow and led the "Internet and the Good Life" AAI discussion group series in Fall 2.



Fernando Cerullo is currently a Data Engineer at SmartSense by Digi, a company that delivers data-driven IoT solutions for food safety, facilities monitoring, and supply chain visibility, by providing actionable insight. He previously worked as a Director of Analytics at Sharp Action, and as a Technical Data Consultant and Software Developer for Waterfall Media Group. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Physics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.



Samuel Cerqueira Pinto is currently a doctoral student at Boston University Robotics Laboratory, where he pursues research in multi-agent robotic systems. He holds special interest in the topic of how autonomous systems make decisions in uncertain environments, especially when the sensors are subject to faults. He participated multiple times in international autonomous soccer competitions, where teams of robots had to play soccer without any form of human intervention. As a robotics enthusiast, he is very interested in the recent advances in robotics and their impacts in our society.

The purpose of this conference is to help young professionals and student to reflect more deeply about what it means to be human in the face of advances in robotics and artificial intelligence. With advances in these technologies, especially with researchers attempting to mimic the human mind and consciousness in inorganic material, it is important to think about how we use technology and how advances in technology deeply affect who we see ourselves to be and how we interact with those around us. This conference will be an opportunity to discuss on these important topics, and we, as the Young Researchers of the Pontifical Academy for Life, also believe that the question of what it means to be human is one that many young people are seeking answers to, and when misunderstood, drives many of the current ills of our society today.

Can a Robot be a person?



PHILOSOPHICAL ANTHROPOLOGY: WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE HUMAN? CAN A ROBOT BE A PERSON?

Roberto Dell'Oro Loyola Marymount University

THE QUESTION

Science and technology: the “and” is central for at stake is not only the theoretical study of reality, but our capacity to effect changes upon it.

Technology no longer points to a set of tools at our disposal (as in the old version of techne), but to the very nature of the world within which we now live. Our world has become the abode of homo technologicus (confront Heidegger on the essence of technology as Gestell, as framework through which we look at reality. Our outlook has become a doing). This realization is at the heart of the development of bioethics as a field: the issue is not only what science can study, but what it can do.

Read the full text

