

Steve Fuller and
Käte Hamburger Kolleg Aachen:
Cultures of Research (c:o/re)
RWTH Aachen University



c:o/re Workshop: The Human Measure and the Measure of All Minds
Two-day workshop May 18 & 19, 2022

Location: c:o/re, Theaterstraße 75
To take part of the workshop online, please join via this link:

<https://rwth.zoom.us/j/98453575697?pwd=VWJ1NndlNUh2UHUrTVlGdkdZVGJLQT09>

Meeting ID: 984 5357 5697
Passcode: 934562

Program:

May, the 18th

12:00-02:00pm

Introductory seminar to the issues by

Steve Fuller (Warwick/KHK Aachen)

Four general questions are at play in this workshop: (1) What does it mean to be 'human'? (2) To what extent does being human depend on the existence of the 'non-human'? (3) Can a being transition in and out of being 'human'? (4) Can qualities such as mentality and personhood, which have been seen as distinctly human, be realized – perhaps even more fully -- in non-human beings?

The Turing Test looms large in the workshop as a benchmark for dealing with these questions. Jose Hernandez Orallo's recent book *The Measure of All Minds* (Cambridge U Press, 2017) is a key moment in the discussion because it proposes a research program aimed at discovering a universal standard for judging mentality that cuts across the animal/human/machine divides. The very idea of a 'universal human standard' recalls Kant's conception of 'anthropology' as involving gradations of the human, the 'judgmental' character of which has increasingly dogged the Kantian legacy since Foucault's *The Order of Things*. I have tried to offer an alternative, more open-minded take on this legacy in [my opening statement](#).

02:00 – 03:00pm

Lunch

03:00 – 05:00pm

A Conversation about ‘Transitioning’ within Humanity

Rebecca Tuvel (Rhodes College, Memphis), **Adam Briggie** (University of North Texas) *via zoom*, and **Amanda Boetzkes** (University of Guelph/KHK)

Adam Briggie (University of North Texas) and Rebecca Tuvel (Rhodes College, Memphis), both via Zoom, with Amanda Boetzkes at the KHK as interlocutor. The two sorts of ‘transitions’ of direct concern are transgender and transrace. Both Briggie and Tuvel have been involved in the struggle – both philosophically and culturally – to have these transitions recognized. The controversial nature of these transitions hint at the various ways in which they destabilize default conceptions of ‘humanity’.

05:00 – 07:00pm (Keynote)

Calibrating expectations about AI: A renewed endeavour towards the measurement of behaviour (part of lecture series on optimistic and pessimistic views of AI)

Jose Hernandez Orallo (Universitat Politècnica Valencia) *via zoom*, and **Markus Pantsar** (Helsinki/KHK Aachen) as interlocutor.

A lecture series on optimistic and pessimistic views of AI can serve to calibrate our expectations. There are questions such as how intelligent AI systems really are, and will be, or how they are going to change the world, starting from our own cognition and the very concept of intelligence. One major way of addressing these questions is through measurement. Indeed, dealing successfully with AI and the future of cognition more broadly depends on a renewed perspective on the evaluation of behaviour in all its varieties. In this talk, I will introduce a series of endeavours about the present and future measurement of AI, such as the evaluation of capabilities rather than task performance, the evaluation of general-purpose systems rather than specialised ones, the evaluation of AI extenders rather than externalised systems, the evaluation of the transformative effect on skills in the workplace, etc. The sheer complexity of these challenges and the pace in which AI is developing suggests a pessimistic view on intelligence evaluation: the theory and tools for the measurement of behaviour would be doomed to lag behind the cognitive transformation in the decades ahead. However, to counterbalance this

gloomy view, I will vindicate some key elements: the identification of the dimensions of difficulty to determine capability and generality profiles, the proper study of instance variation to ensure robustness in evaluation, the need of more ambitious meta-analyses of experimental data about AI measurement and the radical proposal that every deployed AI system should come with an assessor, an external model predicting and explaining its behaviour.

May, the 19th

10:00am – 12:00pm

Sarah Chan (Edinburgh) and **Aleksandra Łukaszewicz** (University of Szczecin)

Do We Need More or Less ‘Humanization’ of the World?

Sarah Chan (University of Edinburgh) and Aleksandra Łukaszewicz (Szczecin Institute of Art) will discuss this question from two rather different angles, with Steve Fuller as interlocutor. Chan will discuss the cognitive and moral issues surrounding the greater incorporation of animals into the human lifeworld through ‘uplift’ prosthetics designed to improve cross-species communication. Łukaszewicz will discuss her research on people’s judgements of personhood, agency and humanity among an array of candidate entities that range across the natural and artefactual worlds, including cyborgs.