

Digital Research Forum for Religion and AI

biweekly, April to July 2024

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has a vast potential for causing disruptions: From an epistemic perspective, it has the ability to revolutionize how we create and define knowledge. On a societal level, it shapes our interactions and redefines our understanding of communication. Broadly speaking, it transforms our work culture, recreational activities, interpersonal relationships and the religious sphere. It is crucial to comprehend and analyse these transformative changes in order to classify them in advance and discuss their implications.

A thriving research community that explores various aspects of religion and AI already exists. To foster collaboration among researchers and advance shared research interests, we are launching an international digital Research Forum starting in the summer term of 2024. This biweekly forum will provide researchers with a platform to present their ongoing projects, research methodologies, and findings in the intersection of religion and AI through concise virtual presentations (20-30 minutes). Participants will have the opportunity to engage in scholarly discussions with peers in their respective domains and receive valuable feedback.

The primary aim of this research forum is to facilitate the exchange of ideas, and to promote future collaborations and innovative research endeavors. The discussions will explore a range of topics, including but not limited to:

- In what manner is our understanding of central theological ideas, such as the imago Dei or eschatology, influenced by AI?
- How might large language models impact our interpretation of religious texts and traditions?
- By what ways could robotics alter religious practices or the role of religious institutions within society?
- How can theology contribute to the ethical discourse surrounding the development of autonomous weapons systems and advanced medical technologies?
- At which point could AI technologies be utilized to enhance theological education and religious practice?
- How are philosophical movements such as transhumanism and posthumanism reshaping our understanding of humanity?

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We welcome additional topics and research questions that align with the topic of the research forum. Researchers from all disciplines and academic levels are invited to submit an **abstract of 300-450 words** to: mail@forum-religionandai.com by **July 23, 2023**. Participants will receive notification about the acceptance of their contribution by **August 1, 2023**, along with preliminary information about the scheduled dates.

We intend to publish the submissions resulting from this forum in 2025. To reflect the dialogic nature of the forum, we aspire to include responses from fellow researchers after each contribution.

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