



Call for Research Proposals

Theme One: The Adaptive Horizon – Navigating the Age of Artificial Intelligence

OVERVIEW

We are entering an era of unprecedented technological acceleration. As Artificial Intelligence systems become more sophisticated and integrated into the fabric of daily life, they aim to solve complex global challenges while simultaneously introducing profound disruptions to established social, economic, and political orders. While technical innovation abounds, there is a critical gap in understanding the broader societal and anthropological implications of this shift. This call for proposals seeks to fund interdisciplinary research that looks beyond the code to examine how AI is reshaping what it means to be human, how we organize our societies, and how we define value and purpose in a post-labor future. We are looking for bold, rigorous, and forward-thinking inquiries that can guide policy, ethical frameworks, and public understanding.

CHALLENGE

The central challenge of this epoch is the decoupling of economic output from human labor and the increasing delegation of cognitive processes to non-human agents. Current discourse is often polarized between utopian and dystopian extremes, lacking nuanced data on how human behavior is actually adapting in real-time. We face the risk of building systems that outpace our legal, ethical, and social infrastructures. Furthermore, the concentration of AI power can threaten to destabilize global geopolitics and environmental goals. Research is urgently needed to understand not just what AI *can* do, but what humanity *should become* in a world where human dominance in intellect and creativity is no longer guaranteed.

OBJECTIVES & SCOPE

The primary objective of this funding program is to generate actionable insights and predictive models regarding the co-evolution of humans and intelligent machines. Proposals should aim to:

- **Map and Forecast:** Track early behavioral shifts across different demographics to forecast long-term societal changes.
- **Analyze Structural Impact:** Evaluate how AI will disrupt global power structures, economic models, and environmental sustainability.
- **Explore the Human Condition:** Investigate the psychological and philosophical implications of a society where human purpose is disconnected from traditional work and cognition.
- **Inform Governance:** Provide evidence-based recommendations for policymakers to mitigate risks while maximizing human flourishing.

Scope: We welcome proposals from the fields of sociology, economics, political science, anthropology, psychology, philosophy, environmental science, and complex systems research. We encourage mixed-method approaches, combining quantitative data analysis with qualitative inquiry.

FOCUS AREAS

Proposals must align with one or more of the following focal pillars:

1. **Societal Transformation and the Future of Cognition**

- **The Future of White Collar Work:** Moving beyond job displacement statistics to analyze the transformation of professional identity, the devaluation of expertise, and the rise of human-AI hybrid workflows.
 - **Education and Truth:** How AI alters learning, memory, and the acquisition of skills; the impact of generative content on belief systems, political discourse, and the shared concept of objective truth.
2. **The Evolution of Human Behavior**
- **Data-Driven Anthropology:** Utilizing early data to analyze how different segments (Gen Z vs. Boomers, Global North vs. South) are adapting their behaviors, attention spans, and social interactions in response to algorithmic mediations.
 - **Cognitive and Social Atrophy vs. Adaptation:** Investigating potential declines in critical thinking or social skills, versus the emergence of new forms of collective intelligence and social cohesion.
3. **Economic Realities and Geopolitical Power**
- **The Post-Labor Economy:** Structural changes to capitalism, wealth distribution, and the social safety net in an era of automated intelligence.
 - **Resource Strain and Sustainability:** The geopolitical scramble for compute power and rare earth minerals; analyzing the carbon footprint and environmental costs of scaling AI; potential AI solutions for energy grid management and climate mitigation.
4. **The Search for Purpose**
- **Meaning in a "Zero-Marginal Cost" World:** Philosophical and psychological investigations into how humans define meaning, status, and happiness when economic output is no longer tied to human effort.
 - **The new class warfare:** Analyzing the mental health and societal stability risks for populations displaced from the workforce, and exploring new paradigms for human contribution (e.g., care economy, creative arts, community building).
 - **Universal Basic Income:** Effect of UBI and analyzing its effect on purpose.

Note that for all research themes, we welcome novel research ideas and approaches to the problem that may not be outlined in the brief.

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