Digital Transformation

Philosophical and theological approaches

ENGLISH

The "digital transformation" is an unstoppable force of power that has become an omnipresent element in contemporary culture. It poses the question in how far philosophy and in particular theology can respond to core aspects of this transformation. LIMINA 3:2 aims to provide a synopsis of selected topics pertinent to our high-tech, information-based civilisation. It critically investigates the transformation of individual and collective norms of *humanity* in the wake of the digital age. Especially from a theological perspective, the subject of digitisation cannot be fully understood solely through a (socio-)ethical, technological or political lens. Therefore, LIMINA endeavours to explore the following issues:

- Ontology: How does digital content "exist"? How is the existence of empirical reality different from digital reality? Can digital copy be classed in a hierarchy of being? If so, which one and where?
- Creation: How can digitalisation-related discourses on the creation of digital worlds, digital intelligence and human-like machines be approached philosophically and theologically? Is it just science fiction or does it herald a new self-empowerment of humans as a second creator?
- Eschatology: In Christian theology, the consummation of humankind and the world is in God's hands. In contrast, digitality and technology open up ways (of thinking, for now) towards self-consummation, immortality and salvation, for example in posthumanism. What does this mean from a theological viewpoint? Does this not establish new elites in opposition to a newly formed *massa damnata*, which is excluded from the digital paradise through lack of resources, knowledge and skills?

- Anthropology: What conditions would make a digital entity a "person"? And are classical philosophical and theological attributes of personhood such as reason, dignity, responsibility, culpability, creatureliness etc. even still valid categories? How does digitisation effect our understanding and valuation of corporeality, including nature, sex and gender, sin, vulnerability or the resurrection of the body?
- Religion: Digitalisation has step by step secured its position in our lifeworld; if its ontological and anthropological effects are not thoroughly examined, it has the potential to re-enchant the world (as according to Max Weber). Do increasing complexity, surrendering the power to control and decide, and the incomprehensibility of interdependencies give rise to "total dependency" on a digital system and its creators characterised by religious aspects such as trust, faith, hiddenness/revelation, hope, fear etc.?

We are looking for topical and innovative scientific articles for our next special issue of LIMINA – Theological Perspectives from Graz. Please submit your outline (max. 4,000 characters) to redaktion@limina-graz.eu.

The final article should be approx. 40,000 characters. For more information about the journal and publication guidelines please visit: http://uni-pub.uni-graz.at/limina.

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