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RESPONSIBLE INTEGRATION OF AI IN CHRISTIAN SCHOLARSHIP

Anthropological Foundation, Literacy, Ethics, and Digital Stewardship

Presented By:

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Abstract

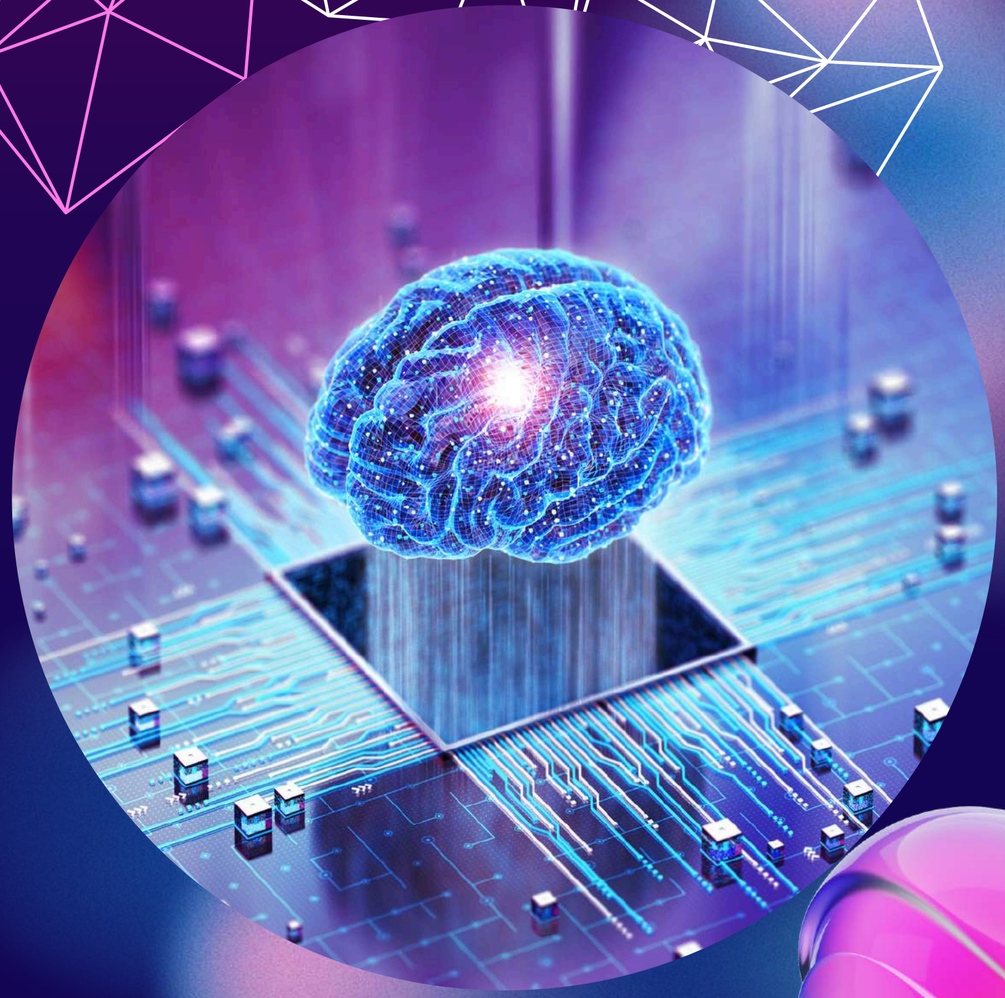
1. Rapid AI adoption presents opportunities and ethical risks.

2. AI can enhance research in design, analysis, and writing if used responsibly.

3. Risks: compromised academic integrity, authorship issues, and theological accountability.

4. Grounded in Christian ethics: stewardship, truthfulness, and responsibility.

5. Provides practical guidelines for transparency, accountability, and authorship.



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Main objective

Examine responsible integration of AI in Christian scholarship.

Specific objectives

1. Establish a Christian anthropological framework for AI engagement (imago Dei).
2. Assess AI literacy among learners and faculty to identify faith-integrated gaps.
3. Develop ethical guidelines for AI-assisted scholarship.
4. Propose a Digital Stewardship model linking research, ethics, and leadership.

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Truth Over Convenience

Why should we think carefully about AI in Christian scholarship?

1. AI is increasingly used in academic research and writing.
2. Raises questions about authorship, accountability, and ethical boundaries.
3. Can Enhance efficiency but risk over-reliance and superficial reasoning.
4. Christian scholars need to discern AI's role in knowledge generation.
5. AI must serve human judgment and theological reflection, not replace it

How does AI impact Christian academic norms?

1. Offers efficiency in literature reviews, data analysis, and writing.
2. Risks "scholarly de-humanization" if over-relied upon.
3. Viewed as an "intellectual companion," not a neutral tool.
4. Many students, faculty and leaders lack training in ethical AI use.
5. Integration requires balancing innovation with faith-based scholarly values.

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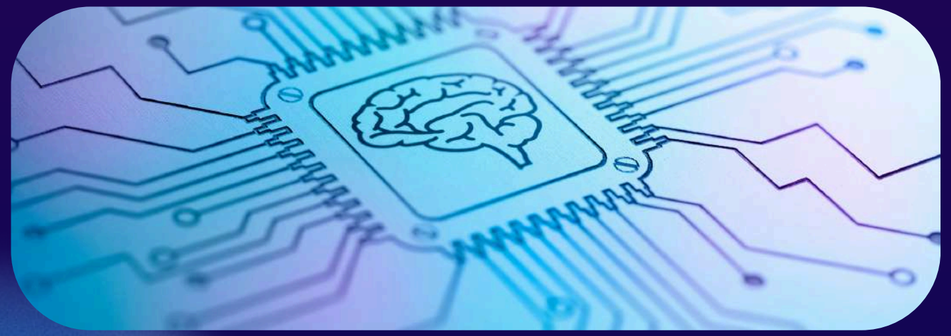
Anthropological Foundations of Christian Scholarship



Phase 1:

Humans are imago Dei; AI is imago hominis.

Phase 2:

Humans possess spiritual, moral, and relational agency.

Phase 3:

AI cannot reproduce soteriological or supernatural truths.

Phase 4:

Moral and theological judgment remain exclusively human responsibilities.

Phase 5:

AI can assist in tasks, but humans guide meaning and ethical reasoning.

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Why can’t AI replace human judgment?

AI replicates rationality (logos) but lacks spiritual intentionality (pneuma).

Relational and ethical accountability cannot be automated.

Scholars must retain critical reasoning and theological insight.

AI outputs may embed bias or limit deep reflection.

Proper use requires human oversight, discernment, and moral responsibility.

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What are the risks of over-relying on AI?

Cognitive atrophy: diminished contemplative reading and reflection.

Reduced critical thinking and deep theological engagement.

Algorithmic outputs may embed biases or errors.

Students may adopt efficiency-driven approaches bypassing ethics.

Lack of AI literacy can lead to misinterpretation and misuse.

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AI Literacy Gap in Christian Scholarship

1. Many students, faculty and leaders lack faith-integrated AI training.
2. Risk: secular, efficiency-driven approaches dominate.
3. AI literacy = technical competence + ethical + spiritual formation.
4. Training programs are needed for research, teaching, and publication.
5. Bridging the gap ensures AI enhances rather than replaces human reasoning.

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How can research be designed to be AI-ready?

1. Automating literature search and organizing references

Examples: Elicit, Connected Papers, Scholarly

2. Supporting systematic reviews and study screening

Examples: Rayyan, Covidence

3. Data analysis and visualization

Examples: Excel AI, Tableau, Python-based NLP tools

4. Enhancing writing clarity, grammar, and style

Examples: Grammarly, Writefull, Quillbot

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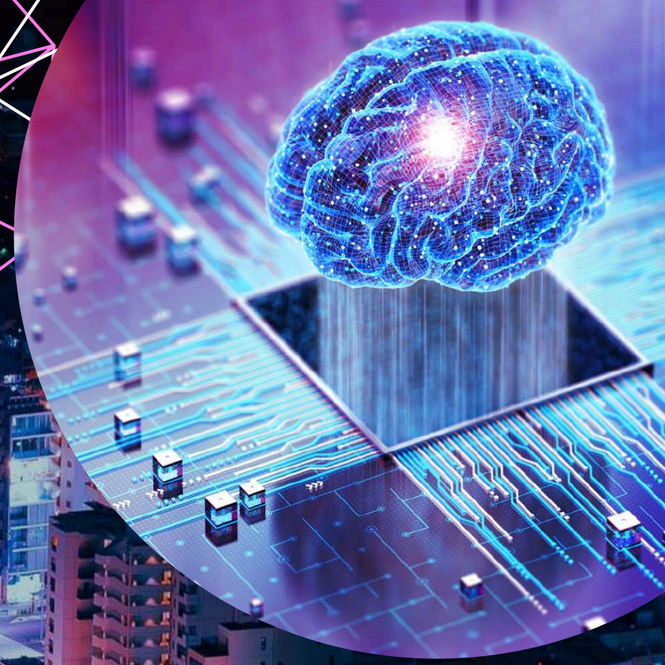
Ethical Use of AI in Scholarly Practice



1. Maintain human oversight in all outputs.
2. Document AI usage and check for bias or error.
3. AI can enhance clarity and organization, not replace reasoning.
4. Integrate AI with reflective and ethical practices.
5. Ensure original arguments and theological reflection remain human-driven.

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How then shall Digital Stewardship in Christian scholarship be maintained?

1. Faith-informed management of AI across research, teaching, and publication.
2. Ensures AI is a tool, not an unaccountable authority.
3. Integrates research design, ethical oversight, and publication practices.
4. Promotes ethical, relational, and reflective scholarship.
5. Supports institutional policies and leadership accountability.

Who are the Stewards for ethical AI use?

1. Researchers: adopt AI responsibly, validate outputs, maintain originality.
2. Supervisors/Mentors: guide students, model ethical use.
3. Institutions: provide training, enforce policies, monitor adherence.
4. Publishers: require disclosure, maintain peer-review integrity.
5. Leadership: promote Digital Stewardship frameworks across campuses.

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How can AI be used responsibly in academic writing?

Acceptable: Idea development, language refinement, structural support.

Not acceptable: Generating main arguments or theological reasoning.

Always disclose AI assistance in manuscripts.

Combine AI outputs with manual verification and reflection.

Ensure original argumentation aligns with Christian scholarship standards.

What are the key conclusions?

1. AI enhances efficiency but cannot replace human moral, theological, or reflective capacities.
2. Responsible AI requires literacy, research design, and ethical oversight.
3. Holistic integration balances technology, ethics, and relational accountability.
4. Scholars remain the primary source of knowledge creation.
5. AI is a faithful servant, not an independent authority.

1. Researchers: document AI usage, maintain originality, pursue training.
2. Supervisors: model ethical use, incorporate AI ethics in guidance.
3. Institutions: develop policies, integrate AI literacy, monitor usage.
4. Publishers: enforce disclosure, ensure peer-review integrity.
5. Leadership: implement Digital Stewardship frameworks across research and teaching.

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