<u>Call for Submissions:</u>

Digital Humanity?: Artificial Intelligence, Spirituality, and the Art of Human Connection

The Boisi Center for Religion and American Public Life
Graduate Student Conference
March 23, 2024 | Boston College

Questions about what it means to forge, foster, and maintain authentic relationships are becoming increasingly fraught in our age of rapid technological development. While advances in artificial intelligence are destabilizing classical conceptions of technology, humanity, spirituality, and relationality, people of virtually every historical era and tradition have engaged with these broad categories. In the age of AI, ChatGPT, Instagram, TikTok, Tinder, Google, and many others, this conference invites participants to draw on intellectual resources from various fields to engage in questions around what it means to relate to one another, oneself, and the broader world, and to envision what the call to relationship requires amidst advances in artificial intelligence and other technological innovations.

We invite proposals on questions/themes including, but not limited to:
- Artificial intelligence and ethics
- Technology and religious traditions
- Machine learning and epistemology
- Theological anthropology and technology
- Technology and communal formation
- Virtual belonging; forming relationships through technology
- Technological paradigm shifts through history, broadly construed
- Philosophy of science and technology
- "Technē": art, craft, and creation
- Politics and technology
- Catholic Social Teaching and the responsible use of technology
- Technology and social identity
- Disability studies and technological access
- Environmental impacts of technological developments

As an interdisciplinary conference, we welcome proposals from graduate and professional students in any discipline, including theology, ethics, philosophy, religious studies, political science, law, technology studies, anthropology, sociology, the digital humanities, disability studies, psychology, peace studies, nursing, social work, and related subject matters. The conference will be hybrid, with in-person and virtual options for attendance.

The award for best paper will be publication in *America Magazine*.

Submission Guidelines

We welcome submissions in the following categories:

- *Paper Submissions:* Proposals for 15-minute papers should include a title and a 300-word maximum abstract.

- *Artistic Submissions:* We welcome artistic submissions of any kind. Please submit the title of the piece, dimensions, and a brief (300-word maximum) description of the art submission. We strongly encourage photographic submissions of the art piece itself, but will also accept proposals or preliminary descriptions.

Please email submissions to boisi.center@bc.edu no later than **Friday, January 12th, 2024**. Please include your name, degree program, institution, discipline/area of study, and your contact information in the body of your email; the subject line of your email should include "Conference Proposal." Proposals should include a title and a 300-word abstract; please anonymize the submission as an attachment (.doc, .pdf, etc.) for the committee's consideration. For more information or questions, please email boisi.center@bc.edu.