

## *Attachments (Programs' Description)*

### **Frontier Technologies and Philosophy Program**

#### **Introduction**

We live in an era of explosive growth in knowledge. Frontier technologies are allowing humans to understand the world in unprecedented ways at speeds faster than in any other time in history. At the same time, they have also created new perspectives from which human beings understand themselves. Progress in digital technologies and cognitive science, which includes the field of artificial intelligence, constantly refreshes and challenges the human understanding of the mind. Meanwhile, the rapid development of biotechnologies has created new ethical issues.

The Berggruen Research Center, Peking University believes that it is imperative to make full use of intellectual resources from across the world to explore topics in philosophy which can respond to the challenges from frontier technological paradigms, provide an interdisciplinary roadmap for the way ahead, and connect the past with the future. In this way we can develop and shape impactful ideas and scientific/technological concepts.

Since its establishment in 2018, the Center has focused on frontier technologies that involve artificial intelligence philosophy, biotechnology philosophy, and Chinese philosophy. In the field of artificial intelligence ethics, we promote communication between scientists and philosophers and advocate thinking about fundamental issues before formulating specific ethical codes. The project produced book *Intelligence and Wisdom, AI Meets Chinese Philosophers* which was published by CITIC Press ([Chinese](#)) and Springer ([English](#)). With the “Gong Sheng (Symbiosis)” project, we explore the intellectual connotations and contemporary value of symbiosis from fields including philosophy, sociology, economics, and global governance.

**The Center plans to expand further into the intersection between technology and philosophy.** We will turn our focus to the topics and challenges brought about by frontier technological research in life sciences, cognitive science, and intelligence science to the traditional humanities such as philosophy. We will also explore how philosophy can provide new angles and ideas for further exploration of topics related to these frontier technologies. The Center encourages effective cross-disciplinary dialogue between cutting-edge fields such as evolution, cognition, and artificial intelligence that reflects philosophically on the future of life, human society, and human self-understanding. At the same time, starting from perspectives in sci-fi literature and art, we will discuss topics such as the underlying relationship between technology and humanity and what the future holds for the human race. By fully tapping into ideas offered by different cultures and historical traditions, we hope to positively contribute theoretical approaches to how humans can coexist harmoniously with nature in the technology age. We encourage interdisciplinary thinkers to join our projects and jointly promote the enrichment and development of these topics, which are not only of great urgency, but also of profound value to future generations.

This program is closely linked with the Center's "frontier technologies and society" and "governance transformation and change" programs, providing them with guidance through fundamental ideas that will enhance our understanding of this era of change and help institutions, policy makers, and members of the public from around the world cope with these profound changes.

## Frontier Technologies and Society Program

### Introduction

The rapid development and extensive application of life technologies and digital technologies are profoundly changing how human society is organized, requiring us to assess and reflect on the interaction between frontier technologies and society.

The Berggruen Research Center, Peking University believes that it is imperative to make full use of intellectual resources from across the world to deeply examine, from an interdisciplinary perspective, how human society has been changed by the development of frontier technologies, as well as to explore the opportunities and challenges that we face in regards to ethics and governance.

Since its establishment in 2018, the Center has focused on ethical and social discussions related to artificial intelligence, gene editing, and other fields of research. In our "[AI narratives in China](#)" project, a collaborative with the Leverhulme Centre for the Future of Intelligence, we explore how ancient Chinese classics and folk legends and [contemporary science fiction](#) narratives and media jointly exert an impact on contemporary public attitudes towards intelligent technology. In our "[Imagining Futures](#)" project, we invite scientists, philosophers, social science experts, writers, and artists to imagine futures and project scenarios of human society over the next thirty years. We hope to promote evidence-based and future-oriented philosophical and ethical thinking. Co-directors and scholars of the Center have also contributed to the book project *Chinese Prospects for the Standardization of Robot Ethics*, commissioned by the National Robotics Standardization General Working Group of China.

**The Center hopes to further expand into fields where technology and society intersect, uphold the concept of openness, and encourage the examination of how different social, historical, and cultural backgrounds lead to different conceptions of relational rationality.** This will allow us to unearth the cultural and social implications that underlie frontier technologies and related ethical topics, from fundamental reflections on the social significance of the ethical foundations of science and technology that arose due to the breakout of COVID-19, to new challenges to social governance created by the development of artificial intelligence, gene editing, and microbial communities. We encourage interdisciplinary thinkers to join our projects and together promote these topics of profound contemporary and future significance.

The program is closely linked to the Center's "frontier technologies and philosophy" and "governance transformation and change" programs, which will structurally enhance our understanding of this era of change, cultivate and advance new ideas and concepts, and help institutions, policy makers, and members of the public from around the world cope with these profound changes.

## The Transformation of Governance Program

### Introduction

We live in an era of great transformation. Frontier technologies are developing rapidly, geopolitical rivalries are intensifying, political polarization is occurring in many countries, social divisions are worsening, and the climate crisis continues unchecked. Amidst all these are repeated surges in COVID-19 outbreaks around the world. Together, these global challenges have exerted a profound impact on human society.

The Berggruen Research Center, Peking University believes that it is imperative to make full use of intellectual resources from across the world to discuss and explore future-oriented global governance concepts aligned with the overall interests of mankind and our living environment, so as to develop and shape new ideas, concepts, and practices that will have an impact on the world.

Since its establishment in 2018, the Center has focused on global governance. In our “[Tianxia](#)” project, we have explored how a worldview founded upon all-embracing openness, integration, and relational rationality inspires, impacts, and advances global governance.

**In exploring related topics, we are focusing on how value systems originating from the world’s philosophical, cultural, and historical traditions both shape and limit concepts and practices in contemporary global governance.** We encourage drawing upon underlying intellectual frameworks to reflect on the relational nature of human rationality at the levels of the individual, societal, political, and cultural ecosystems, in order to explore paths towards a truly open and pluralistic value system that encompasses the big picture. Through these explorations, we think about how to build a planetary system that is oriented toward the overall interests of mankind and our living environment and that reflects a “planetary mindset” characterized by harmonious, convivial coexistence. We encourage interdisciplinary thinkers to join our project and together promote this far-reaching intellectual shift.

This program works closely with the Center's "frontier technologies and philosophy" and "frontier technologies and society" programs, and it is closely linked with projects led by the Los Angeles Center. Through holding academic seminars, supporting experimental exploration, and launching a full range of media products, this project helps institutions, policy makers, and members of the public from around the world cope with the challenges brought about by global change.

