



Madrid, Spain

October 19-21, 2018

TRANSHUMANISM

What is it?



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Natasha Vita-More

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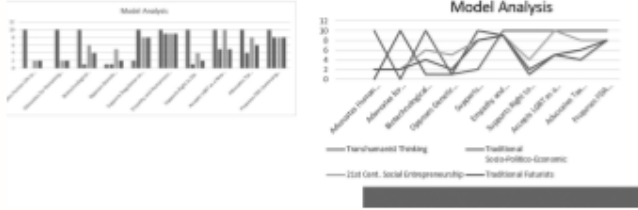
TRANSHUMANISM

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TRANSHUMANISM, WHAT IS IT?



Value Element	Model			
	Transhumanist Thinking	Traditional Socio-Political-Economic	21st Cent. Social Entrepreneurship	Traditional Futurists
Advocates Human Life as Sustainable	10	0	2	2
Advocates for Remaining Biological	0	10	2	2
Biotechnological Mediation Acceptable	10	1	6	4
Opposes Genetic Engineering	1	1	5	2
Supports Regulation of AGI	2	10	8	8
Empathy and Humanness Crucial	10	9	9	9
Supports Right to Die	10	1	4	2
Accepts LGTB as a New Normal	10	5	10	5
Advocates Tax Transparency	10	4	9	9
Proposes FDA Continuing Education	10	8	8	8



Transhumanism is a philosophy, a worldview and a movement. To explain the philosophy of transhumanism is not only daring, it can be daunting. From the philosophical worldview to the ever-growing movement, differing transhumanist perspectives have taken shape. Nevertheless, the core ideas and central themes, purpose and goals, that give transhumanism its fundamental identity have not changed and continue to be its most valued assets.

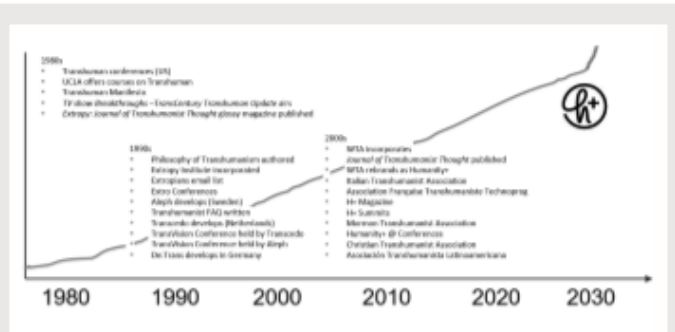
Philosophy

Transhumanism is an intellectual and cultural movement that supports the ethical use of technology and evidence-based science to improve the human condition.

Max More defined modern transhumanism in 1990 as “Philosophies of life (such as extropian perspectives) that seek the continuation and acceleration of the evolution of intelligent life beyond its currently human form and human limitations by means of science and technology, guided by life-promoting principles and values. With further explanation, More writes:

“What is the core content of this philosophy? A simple yet helpful way to grasp its nature is to think of transhumanism as

Where did it come from?



Who first used the term or coined it. No one knows.

The central and spirited ideas of transhumanism can be traced to thought-provoking writings about a potential transition and transformation of the human species in overcoming odds. These forecasts have appeared at different times and with different meanings.

The term transhuman has an unusual etymology in that its usage is found within the fields of literature, philosophy, religion, evolutionary biology. The “Report on The Meaning of Transhuman” (Vita-More, 1989) uncovered the first known reference to the transhumanism written by poet Dante Alighieri in his magnum opus *Paradiso of the Divina Commedia* (1312). It is in this masterpiece, Dante wrote the word “transhumanized” to describe what happens to humans through a “beatific vision.” In this reference, trans-human means “go outside the human condition and perception”. The English translation is “to transhumanate” or “to transhumanize”.

Centuries later, poet T.S. Eliot used the term “transhumanized” to represent the risks of the human journey in becoming illuminated as a “process by which the human is Transhumanised” in “The Cocktail Party” (1949). What is unusual, is that both authors, centuries apart, were poets.

How uncertain is the future?

Very uncertain. But this not a bad thing! The future has always been uncertain for the present because it has not happened yet. How do we live in a state of calmness and confidence in a world of uncertainty? By learning how to think about the future. Change is a natural process. The aim is to learn how to think about the future and to accept and even enjoy the challenges of a changing world.

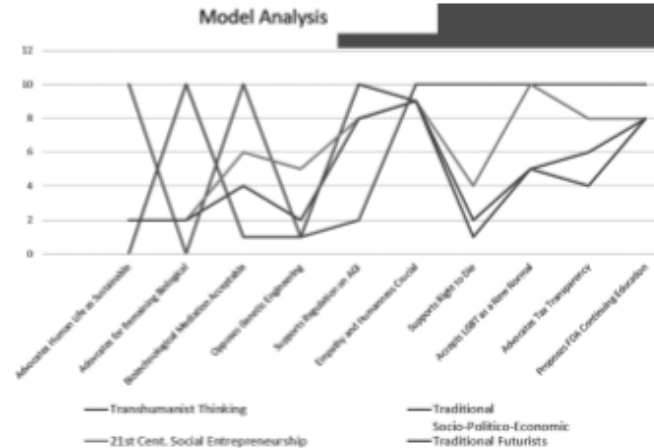
Do you want to live in a world where people have more empathy, more humanness? Do you want to see poverty disappear and everyone, everywhere living a productive life in good health? Do you want to travel into space and explore the Earth's Solar System and beyond? Are you satisfied with your well-being and healthiness or would you prefer to be more joyous and at maximum health, living as long as you desire? Would you enjoy experiencing life within multiple substrates and platforms—exist in this material, physical biological world and also a virtual and artificial environment, similar to the film *Avatar*?

Who will benefit from the future?

I am often asked about the “haves” and the “have nots” based on a deep concern of people that there will be an elite class of people that are enhance and acquire superlongevity (radical life exten-



What challenges do we face?



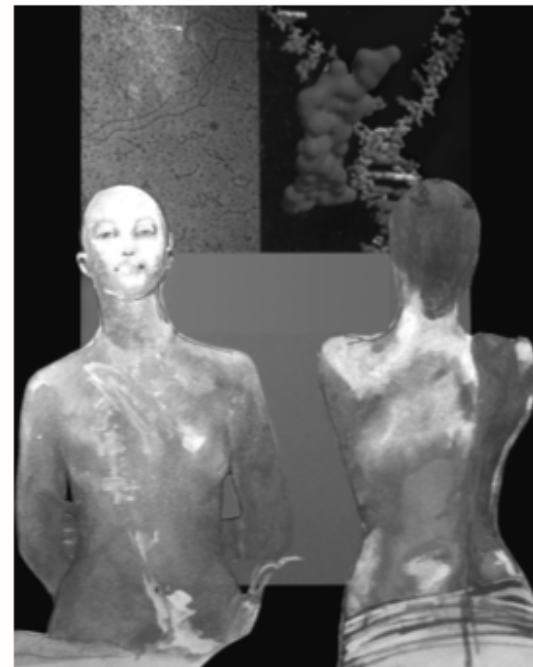
Cybersecurity

Personal identity and financial security are at risk. Outside the sphere of individual well-being, government institutions are at risk. Due to a lack of technicians in the fields of cybersecurity (network security, network engineering, and technology forensics), grant funders are soliciting for programs to get students into the field, early—starting at the K12 level through 2-year colleges, 4-year degree programs, and at the graduate level. The area where we are seeing a large gap is in vulnerability testing, analysis and recording. Vulnerability testing is how cybersecurity technicians can identify breaches in security and develop protocols for securing the breaches. Much of this work is based on analytics and recording such information. Without the records of how breaches are made by hackers and recording methods for securing information, there is no model or practice to implement. Without training students to be cybersecurity technicians, the world is facing hacking from anyone, anywhere, anytime. Our personal and governing institutions information is at risk.

Will humans evolve and, if so, into what?

Humans will evolve but no one knows what we will evolve into. There are trajectories that the human will become a human in transition or transhuman and later become posthuman. The posthuman is suggested to be a person who can co-exist in multiple substrates, such as the physical world as a biological or semi-biological being. The future human, whatever it will be called, will live much longer than a human and most likely travel outside the Earth's orbit.

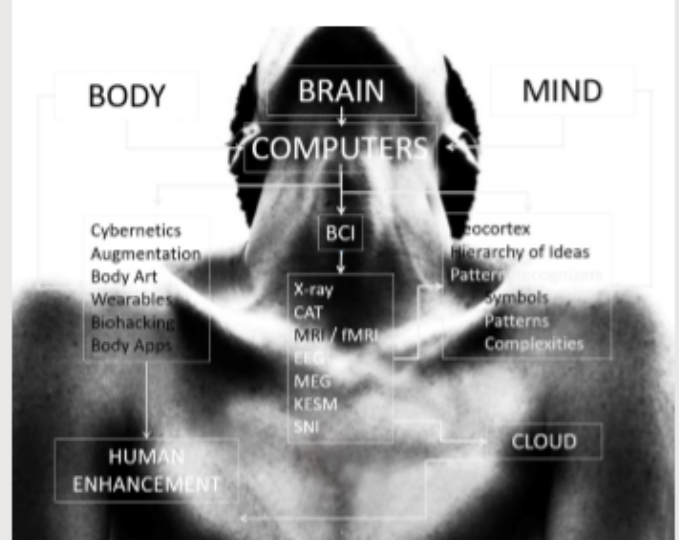
Evolutionary biologist Lyn Margulis authored an answer to one of the most unknown questions that humanity has faced: What is Life? In her book *What is Life?* (Margulis and Sagan, 2000), the authors bring us directly into bodily matter as an evolutionary conglomeration of bacterial strains where life is “the transmutation of energy and matter” (p. 215) in performing an autopoietic behavior. Margulis’ proposed theory of “symploysis” suggests that humans are comprised of a conglomerate of life forms—that as animals, humans are nucleated cells descended not just from a Darwinian theory of natural selection and common ancestry, but from ancient bacteria, which themselves comprise different strains of bacteria. The idea of a symploysis becomes an underlying theme throughout the Margulis study and inspired what I call a



BODY COMPARISON CHART

Traditional Body	Future Body
Limited life span	Ageless
Legacy genes	Replaceable genes
Wears out	Upgrades
Makes random mistakes	Error correction
Single viewpoint	Multiple parallel viewpoints
Gender restriction	Gender changeability
Prono to environmental damage	Impervious to environmental damage
Emotional distress	Turbid charged practical optimism

Both in fact, experimental or not



CHAPTER 6

How long will people live?

Until the cause of aging can be mitigated and reversed, into their 100s, but not past 123.5 years. But tomorrow people will live far beyond these years.

People who want to live long, healthy lives. Those who do, support radical life extension, also known as superlongevity and indefinite lifespans. In comparison, the phrase life extension usually refers to living a full life with the aid of diet, exercise, and vitamins to maintain good health within the maximum human lifespan, but not beyond. The phrase radical life extension is synonymous with the concepts of superlongevity and indefinite life, which mean that the human's life span can be extended well beyond the maximum biological time frame. This time frame is recorded to be approximately 123 years. People can live reasonably healthy lives through their 70s, 80s and 90s; yet, deterioration of bone and muscle mass advances, skin elasticity diminishes, hearing and eyesight weaken and overall physical strength declines.

Nevertheless, there are more centenarians today than ever—especially in the western world. According to Smithsonian research, in 2000 there were approximately 50,000 Americans who were over 100. In 2014, that percentage increased 44% up to over 72,000 people (Fessenden, 2016). This is the good news. The

LIFE CAPITAL. WHAT IS YOUR INVESTMENT?

CHAPTER 7

Is there a political agenda?

Yes, there are several. And some of the agendas overlap. There have been several attempts to organize transhumanists into political tribes, but it never seemed to work well. Most transhumanists are diverse and are more interested in problems solving than aligning with a political position; however, with the caveat that the positions fully supports the goals of transhumanism.

Transhuman politics are diverse and while many of us are left (liberal, socialist, Green) and some others right (Conservative, Libertarian), others are independent. No matter left or right all these political views are democratic transhumanists. Transhuman or Transhumanist politics is currently focused on a collaborative perspective. Most transhumanists today align with Technoprogressive politics, as outlined in its Declaration. There are also groups that have formed parties such as the US Transhumanist Party, chaired Gennady Stolyarov II, the Transhuman Party co-owned by a group of internationals, Transpolitica steered by David Wood and Chris Monteiro, Science Party lead by Peter Xing, Transhuman National Committee run by David Kelley, John Warren and Matt Brown, Parti Transhumaniste France founded by Audrey Arendt and Olivier Nero, and the Transhumanist Party Global, led by Amon Twyman.

Is there transhumanist education?

Yes. There are numerous resources to learn about transhumanism. Nevertheless, there is a need for a field of study.

Education and its delivery model are changing. It is no longer the professor lecturing in front of an auditorium and student jotting down notes, awaiting acknowledgement. It has become fluid, interactive and a participatory, including production studio where students work in teams on projects and faculty mentors their learning experience. The format is synchronous and independent, with a continuous, iterative, and self-motivated pursuit of knowledge for both personal and professional goals. The model is anytime, anywhere, on-ground, one-one-one mentoring, online, virtual, videotaped lectures, and chat rooms with whiteboards and other collaborative tools.

Be informed and keep learning

The goals of a transhumanist educational platform for lifelong learning expands beyond academics and into the real-world experience, with hands-on participation within each course and related production studios where students work in teams.

The most sought out areas for continuous learning are in fields that are associated with job creation and cultural, economic, and

The image shows a screenshot of the RLX educational platform. It features three main sections:

- SPECIALIZATION MODULES:** A vertical list of eight modules: MIND: AGELESS THINKING, BODY: HEALTH FITNESS, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY, CULTURAL ENGAGEMENT, PROJECTS & PRODUCTS, FINANCIAL SECURITY, and POLITICS & LEGISLATION.
- ADDITIONAL MODULES:** A section titled "Select 4 modules of your choice" with a grid of options including: Stay Alive, How Aging, Nanobots, Exercise, Embodied, Biotech, Transhumanism, Events, Education, Resources, Treatments, Independence, and AI Rights / Morphological Freedom.
- Be an Expert! CERTIFICATE OF MERIT:** A vertical list of five expert roles: LIFE PROJECT DEVELOPER, STAYING ALIVE STRATEGIST, STOP AGING KNOWLEDGE LEADER, RLX ENTREPRENEUR, and LONGLIFE MONEY MANAGER.

Below these sections is a large "RLX" logo and a "CERTIFICATE OF MERIT" document. The certificate includes the RLX logo, a seal, and the text: "In recognition for achieving the requirements of one or more of the Learning Modules." It lists the following roles: Life Project Developer, Staying Alive Strategist, Stop Aging Knowledge Leader, RLX Entrepreneur, and LongLife Money Manager. The date "September 27, 2018" and a signature are also present.

RESOLVE TO EVOLVE



Join Humanity, Inc.

A MUST READ BOOK

Natasha Vita-More is a very engaging, highly regarded, and dramatic speaker, writer, and thinker on issues of transhumanism, life extension, artificial intelligence and its impact on society, and other topics that I also have a strong interest in. I have known her for decades and been inspired by her insights. — Ray Kurzweil, 2018

Natasha advocates the ethical use of technology to expand human capacities.” — Politico, 2017

*The first femal philosopher of transhumanism
— New York Times, 2008*

My research focuses on the questions humanity is facing today that are impacting our future—from AI to human enhancement, life extension and space exploration.



I write about the cultural, philosophical and socio-political issues concerning what it means to be human, and a the need for lifelong learning to better unerstand trajectoris for where we are headed.

My study examines who or what will govern our future, stratetgize existential threats and assess the scope of AI and importantly to proect human rights.





Join TransVision Madrid: 19, 20 and 21 October, 2018

Thank you!