



EWC Humane Artificial Intelligence (HAI) Summer Retreat
“Ecologies and Artificial Intelligence: When TECH Meets TEK”

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Exploring divergences and convergences across nature-based worldviews and the accelerating formations and applications of Artificial Intelligence

Workshop: August 4th 8:00-10:30 am OR 5:00-7:30 pm Hawaii Standard Time

Hackathon: August 14-15, schedule TBA

The tech-industry is at a pivotal moment. Although substantial breakthroughs in Artificial Intelligence (AI) research are accelerating development of ‘smart’ technologies and infrastructures, the advances of a Fourth Industrial Revolution are marred by accelerating climate change, global ecological crises, and extreme chasms between a mega-minority super-wealthy and mounting populations of *most climate vulnerable*. Many proposed strategies for mitigating or reversing a rapid rise of post-Industrial global temperatures and ensuing devastation depend upon the adoption of evolving technological solutions. Intrinsic to this is a risk of reductionist, singular and narrowly constrained strategies, formed through institutional path dependencies--the structures, foundations, and cultural codes--through which most Artificial Intelligence systems are conceived. Deeper reflection of social relational values and worldviews is called for--an opening of our imagination and creative vision as humanity, as to potential formations, applications, and values we would like to embed within new and evolving technologies.

Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK), a general capture of diverse worldviews bridging back across cultures and centuries, may aid in such reflection, as we ask what we as humanity value, what we understand of climate change and our earth systems, and what we need in order to survive and thrive as part of our local and global ecologies.

In this HAI retreat, we will be exploring the intersection of ethical AI with traditional ecological knowledge, patterns and processes, and their inter-relationship (in conflict, in contradiction, in vulnerability and risk, in opportunity and potential harmony) across systems of learning and collaborating.

We open our discussions with the following questions:

- Can AI learn to function as, and with, 'nature'? Or does it '*go against nature*'? Is AI disruptive to natural processes, or enhancing what exists?
- What roles may AI play, including with climate modeling, mapping, and systems coding, through interstitial dynamics with endogenous climate action and regenerative models for social-ecological wellbeing?
- Where are the opportunities, vulnerabilities, risks, and potentials when community guardianship, Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK), and Artificial / Extended Intelligence Systems meet or miss?
- How might culture, rights and rites (ritual), ecology, sovereignty and wellbeing be reflected, enhanced, or undermined through AI / XIS?



We envision the retreat resulting in a range of participatory action research projects that will be engaged during the Humane AI Climate Hackathon based on methods and approaches for “humane AI research” in the context of community-based climate action. We seek community guidance to prevent misuse and unintended consequences of technology, and emphasize grassroots citizen science, education, and innovation based on principles of collectively guided data governance and participatory design.

Agenda:

Pre-session offline exercise: Disruption & Harmonizing (instructions TBA)

1. Introductions and opening exercise: Borders-As-Connectors
2. Opening dialogue: What Is Humane AI?
3. Brief sharing of experiences with the pre-session offline exercise (Disruption and Harmonizing)
4. Discussion: cross-cultural perspectives, insights and strategies to protect, harmonize or disrupt
5. Exercise: Opening Perspectives, Widening Circles
6. Discussion: relational dynamics, risk regulation and opportunity in Humane AI futures
7. Overview hackathon

post-session assignment: propose a hackathon challenge