

I find myself drawn to **Category 6 - Regulatory and Legal Challenges** which I submit cannot be answered without considering **Category 4 - Ethical Implications**, which really can't be answered unless one gets a handle on **Category 5 - Philosophical and Existential Questions**.

How does AI challenge our understanding of what it means to be human?

My first response was to say "not at all". Human beings have spread across the planet, managed the process of living in thousands of climates and geographic settings, fought and killed and collaborated and created with one another, developed multiple varieties of nation-states and generally aspired to leave something better for future generations. Through this endeavor has come increasingly sophisticated **tools and technologies**, many of which have lengthened life expectancies, improved infant mortality, reduced the drudgery of work, and finally made it possible to transmit information and ideas around the world almost instantaneously. Up until now, though, the machines and tools we have created have not been able to learn and think (and now, per Suleyman, able to act) for themselves.

From what I have gleaned from the few sources upon which I have relied (thank you, Michael) AI is moving beyond being a "tool" to being an *intelligence* that not only interacts with its creator, but becomes a creator as well. (See Suleyman at 4:30). Harari asserts (6:04 to 7:20) that the trajectory of growth in generative AI will lead to the "end of human history ... history will continue but power will shift away from human beings to an 'alien intelligence'".

In a similar frame, Ethan Mollick in his new book (see reference below) takes the tool reference one step further in observing that although built like a tool, Generative AI behaves more like a person - "AI doesn't do the things you expect a tool to do ... give you the wrong answer, give different answers every time .. ." (See Mollick quote below)

In one way, this process of developing these large models forces us humans back to the beginnings of recorded civilization. In the effort to establish the values by which we should live, humans have wrestled with the nature and source of Authority - with noted splits between monotheists and polytheists, followed by splits within the monotheistic traditions, with much of what we who are Western, Educated, Industrialized, Rich, and Democratic (WEIRDos) would call "Western Civ" providing the narrative of the role of Gods, Popes, Kings, Prophets etc in telling us in whom to believe and whose rules to follow. It seems appropriate then for the Allen Institute for AI (also known as AI² , outside of Seattle WA) has a ChatBot appropriately named Delphi - <https://delphi.allenai.org/>

Comments and Notes;

Leave it to Michael Redmond (with the help of ChatGPT 4.0, I believe) to carve a path through the jungle of this topic and provide a hand to those of us who had heretofore been a bit timid about wading in. I also very much appreciate the encouragement to take on a couple of these AI's myself. As of this writing, I have tried ChatGPT3.5, MS CoPilot, and even Claude 3. So many threads . . . so little time. In addition to Michael's recommended Video of Yuval Noah Harari and Mustafa Suleyman, I was also helped greatly by Ezra Klein's April 2 interview with Ethan Mollick - [Transcript: Ezra Klein Interviews Ethan Mollick - The New York Times \(nytimes.com\)](#). Mollick's book, titled "*Co-Intelligence: Living and Working with AI*", which is geared more to practice than to the "meta" analysis, seems a practical next step for me. I look forward to future opportunities to delve into Categories 1, 2, and 3, Mollick, Ethan - quote from Ezra Klein interview: "when I talk to OpenAI or Anthropic, they don't have a hidden instruction manual. There is no list of how you should use this as a writer, or as a marketer, or as an educator. They don't even know what the capabilities of these systems are. They're all sort of being discovered together. And that is also not like a tool. It's more like a person with capabilities that we don't fully know yet."