



WHAT IT MEANS TO BE **HUMAN** IN THE AGE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Micah Voraritskul **and** J. Aaron Simmons

**HUMAN
IS
THE
NEW
VINYL**



WHY HUMAN CREATIVITY
STILL WINS
IN THE AI REVOLUTION

Micah Voraritskul



**CAMPING
WITH
KIERKEGAARD**

Faithfulness as a Way of Life

J. Aaron Simmons

with a Foreword by Tom Morris

DEFINITIONS

What is
AI?



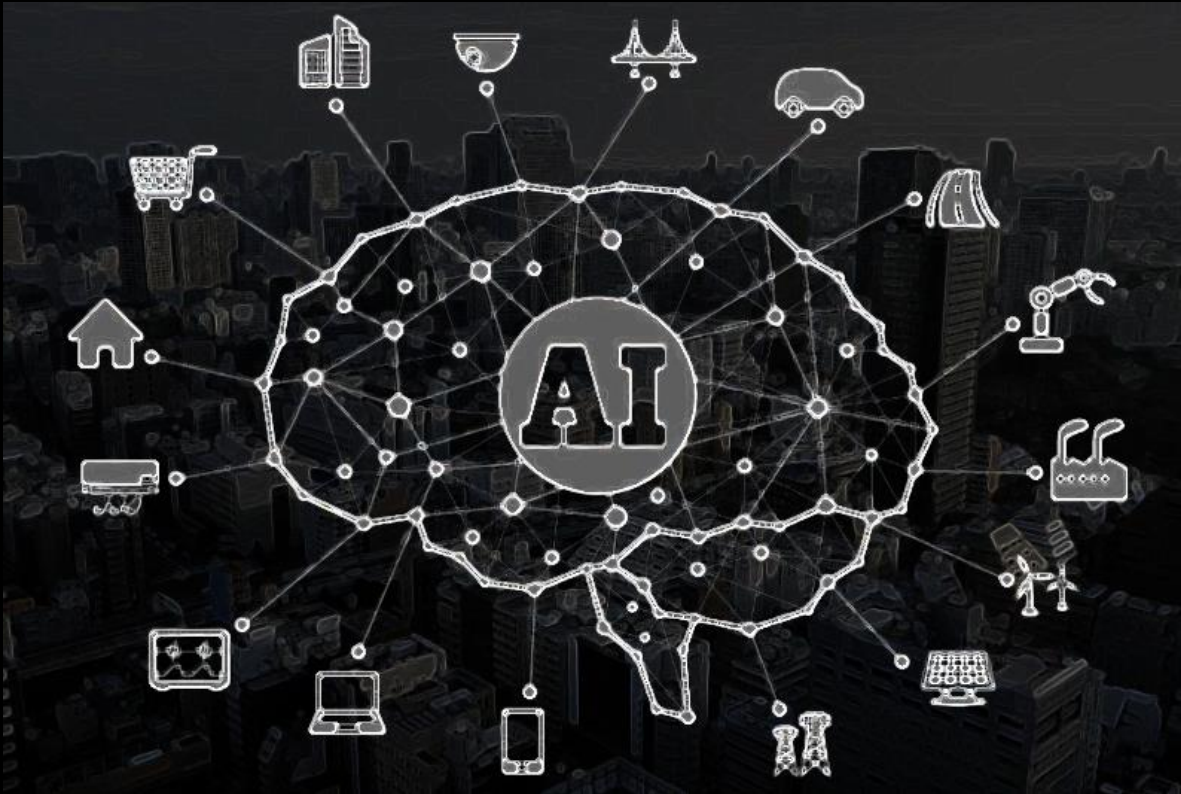
Intelligence

- Perception (senses, sensors)
- Knowledge storage (data, system modeling)
- Reasoning (algorithmic analysis of possibilities to choose best option)
- Planning and Scheduling (develop and execute a course of action)

Artificial

- Knowledge Storage, Reasoning, and Planning are all done by computer
 - Augment human reasoning
 - Replace human reasoning
-

AI: BENEFITS



- Advancements in Medical Diagnostics
 - Advancements in public safety (self-driving cars)
 - More accurate data-driven prediction (climate change modeling)
 - Eliminates redundancy and allows for more human freedom
 - Increased productivity
 - Expands imaginative possibilities
-

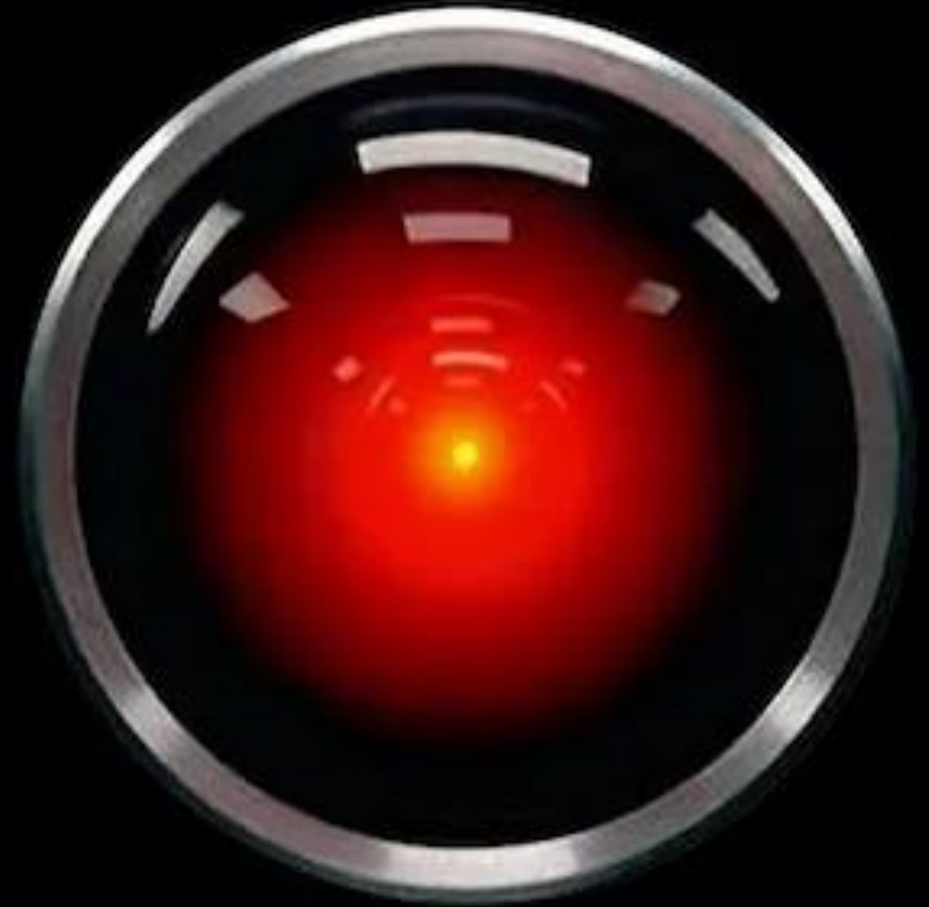
AI: PERILS

Existential Risks

- **Artificial General Intelligence might:**
 - Perform cognitive tasks beyond the designer's intention
 - Threaten human creativity
 - Reduces imaginative activity

Documented Risks

- **Artificial General Intelligence has:**
 - Produced economic displacement as AI exceeds human capabilities
 - Made deceptive images and text that erode public trust (Deep Fakes)



LEADERSHIP > EDUCATION

90% Of College Students Use AI: Higher Ed Needs AI Fluency Support Now

By [Dr. Aviva Legatt](#), Contributor. © Dr. Legatt explores the intersection of edu...

Published Sep 18, 2025, 08:43am EDT

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University students offload critical thinking, other hard work to AI

Two studies indicate students are using chatbots in a way that undermines what they learn

Updated: JUN 23, 2025 10:16 AM ET

ChatGPT May Be Eroding Critical Thinking Skills, According to a New MIT Study

TECH

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE



Calls For Philosophers, Not AI Experts

By [Pia Lauritzen](#), Contributor. ⓘ Pia Lauritzen is a philosopher writing about tech and...



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Published Jun 22, 2025 at 07:45am EDT

Updated Jun 22, 2025 at 10:37am EDT

A blue humanoid robot is walking on a dark, textured surface. The robot is the central focus, with its legs and feet visible. The background is dark and blurry, suggesting a futuristic or industrial setting. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

**A HELPFUL TOOL, OR
A THREAT TO OUR
HUMANITY?**

**WE
THINK
BOTH
CAN BE
TRUE
BUT...**

To live without **intention** =

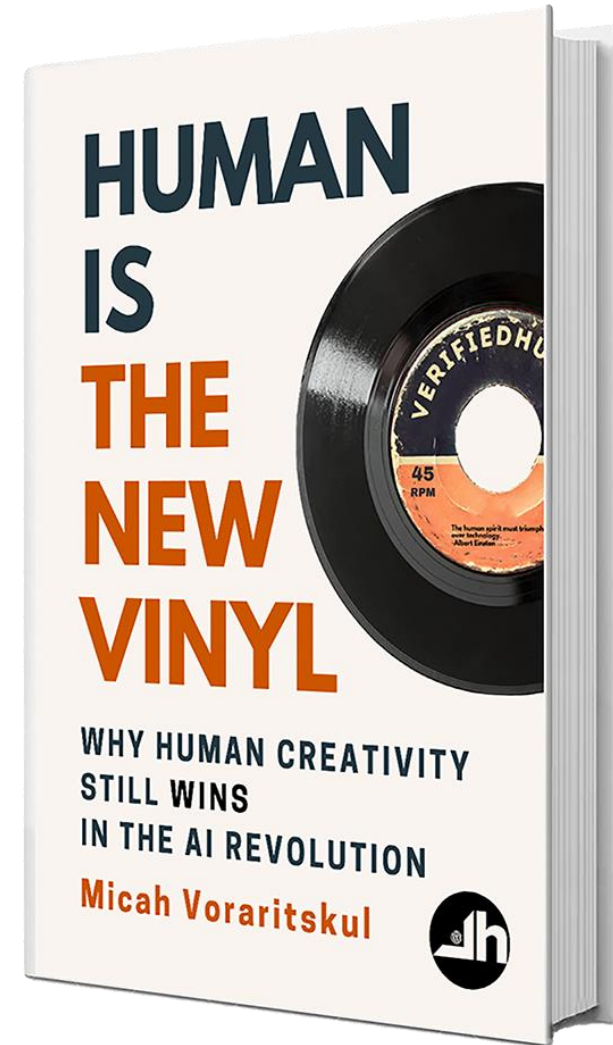
Wasting the *opportunity* to **fully live**
the one life you've got.

To opt for “**easy**” ways of creating =

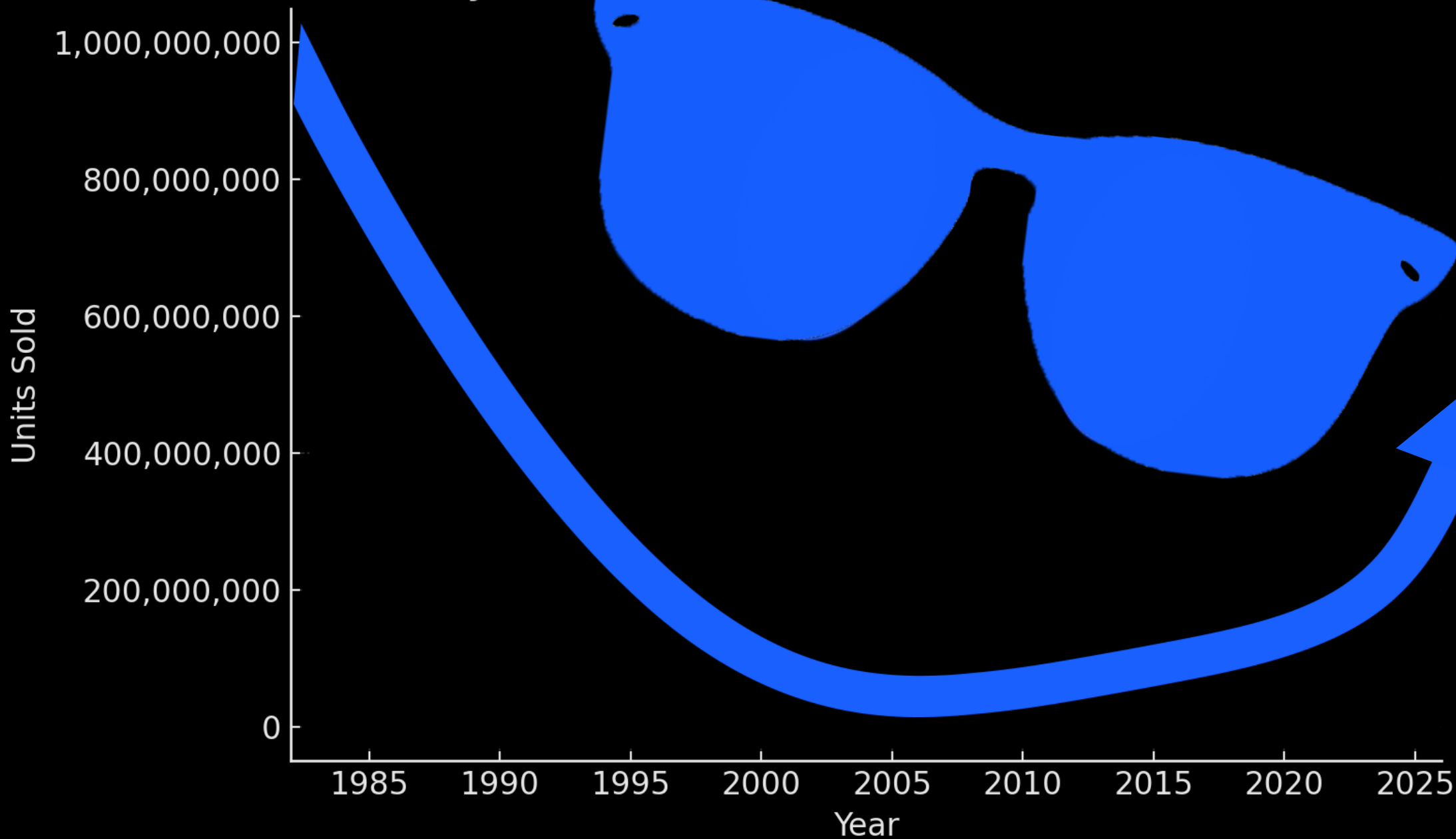
Wasting the *opportunity* to **contribute**
uniquely to the human story.

HUMAN CREATIVITY IS AT STAKE

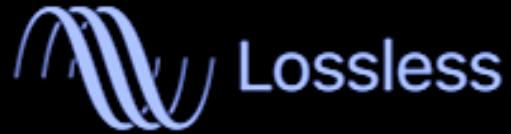
“AI isn’t **evil**—AI is **easy**. And *easy* has a way of winning, even when it shouldn’t.”



Vinyl Sales Decline and Revival (1984-2024)



WHY?



Isn't vinyl a pain? Isn't digital lossless audio **perfect?**

Vinyl didn't come back because it was *better*.

It came back because it was *real*.

MP3s and AACs made it possible to hear music—but listening was never just about sound.



WHY?

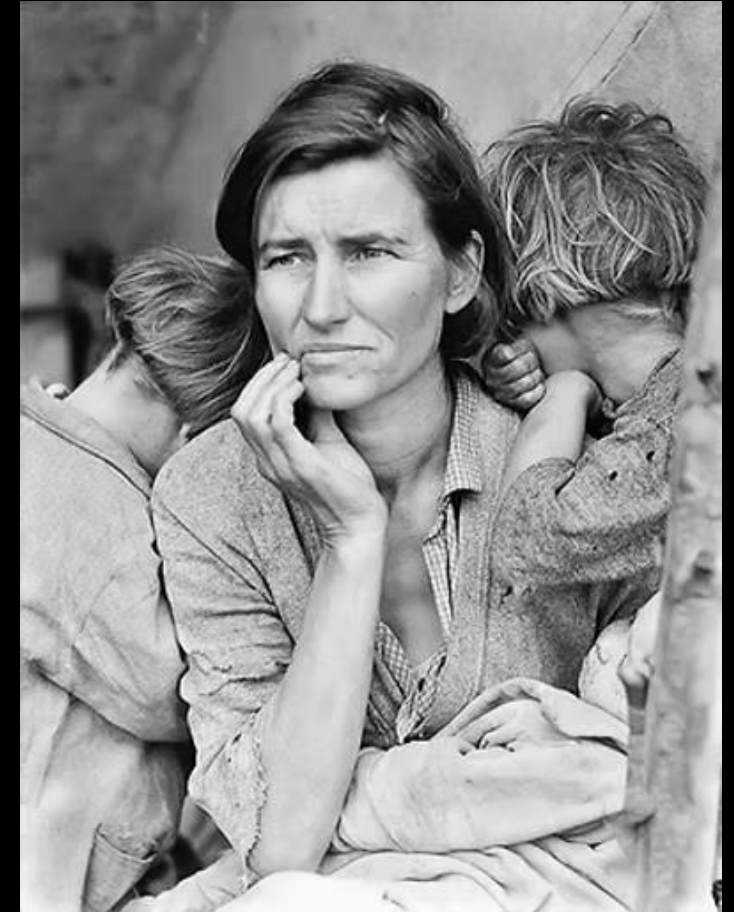
It's the weight of the record in your hands, the silence before the needle drops, the ritual of flipping the side.



Digital gave us vast access. **BUT** We don't listen to music just to hear it.

Vinyl gave us an experience **BECAUSE** We listen to feel human.

**THE
DIFFERENTIATION
PROBLEM**





VerifiedHuman™ for Everyone

About us

Connect

Media

FAQ

Blog



VerifiedHuman™

Show the world

Your work is human-made.

Join hundreds of creators and organizations already using the VerifiedHuman label to build trust and transparency in the AI age.

Get Verified

VERIFIEDHUMAN™ AS A MODEL

1

Choose your standard.

Commit to clear guidelines for human-made work in your field.

[See an example](#)

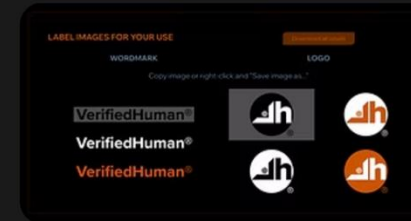


2

Get verified.

Instant access to use VerifiedHuman™ on your work.

[See an example](#)

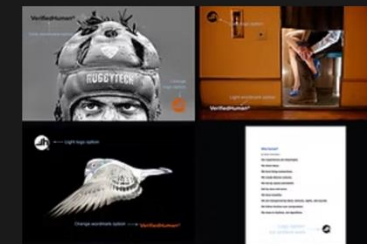


3

Show the world you created it.

Display the VerifiedHuman mark and proudly share your work so people

[See an example](#)



VERIFIEDHUMAN™ AS A MODEL

for
WRITERS

"These are my words."

[Get more info](#)

for
VISUAL ARTISTS

"These are my images."

[Get more info](#)

for
MUSICIANS

"These are my songs."

[Get more info](#)

for
VOICE ACTORS

"This is my voice."

[Get more info](#)

for
EDUCATORS

AI and learning outcomes

[Get more info](#)

for
ORGANIZATIONS

"We value human work."

[Get more info](#)

ADVOCATE
for us

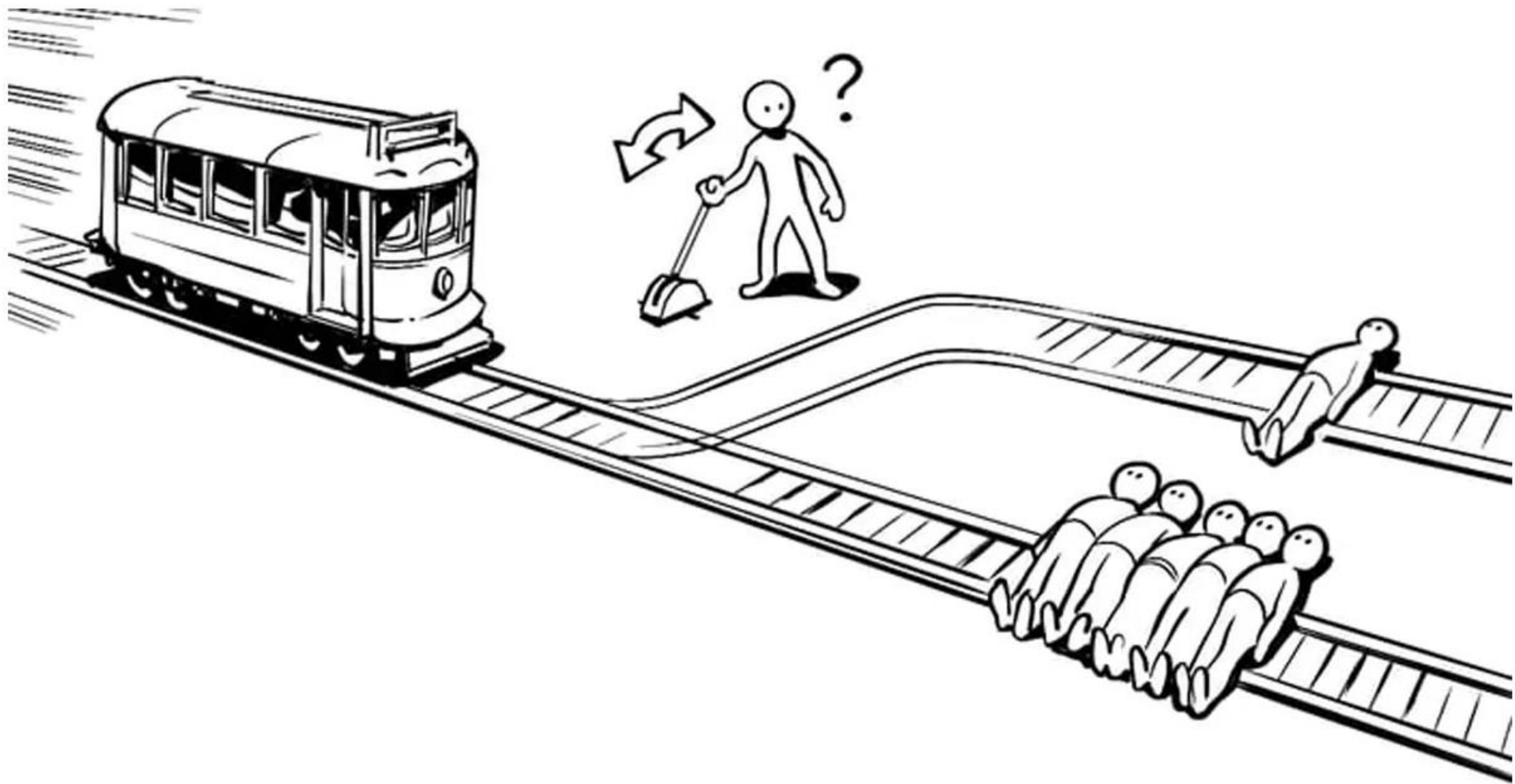
"I support VerifiedHuman."

[Get more info](#)

VERIFIEDHUMAN™ AS A MODEL

**BUT ALL THIS
DEPENDS ON
WHAT IT MEANS
TO BE "HUMAN"**





WHO?

Moral Agent: The one(s) who "enacts" a decision that yields either moral praise or moral blame.

Moral Recipient: The one(s) who are affected by the decisions of the moral agent. Typically, they are the ones who level moral praise or blame.

Unit of Moral Concern: Who counts as having moral worth?



Who?

WHAT?



At what level does the moral weight occur?
(intention/outcome)



What is the criterion to which one appeals to
decide what is morally praiseworthy or
blameworthy? (reason/history /profit)



What training/expertise is required to be socially
entrusted to make such moral decisions?
(education/power/position)

SOME PHILOSOPHICAL BASICS

Existential Issues:

Is moral *agency* required for moral *worth*?

*Do we have obligations to animals? Ecosystems?
Future generations? AI?*

**Is Personhood required for Moral Agency and
vice versa?**

Infants? AI?

**Can aggregates of moral agents bear moral
responsibility?**

Are Corporations people too? AI?

SOME PHILOSOPHICAL BASICS

Ethical Issues:

Moral Theory is not a Consensus Issue

- Deontology
- Consequentialism {Utilitarianism}
- Virtue Theory

Where we stand on the theory will deeply impact how we come down on matters of practice.

SOME EXISTENTIAL EXAMPLES

To be deemed a person, in the eyes of the law, presupposes that there's an independent set of personal interests, ability to exercise its own agency, and accountability for their conduct. AI has none of these characteristics because these aspects can't be effectively digitized.

Nov 10, 2023



ScienceDirect.com

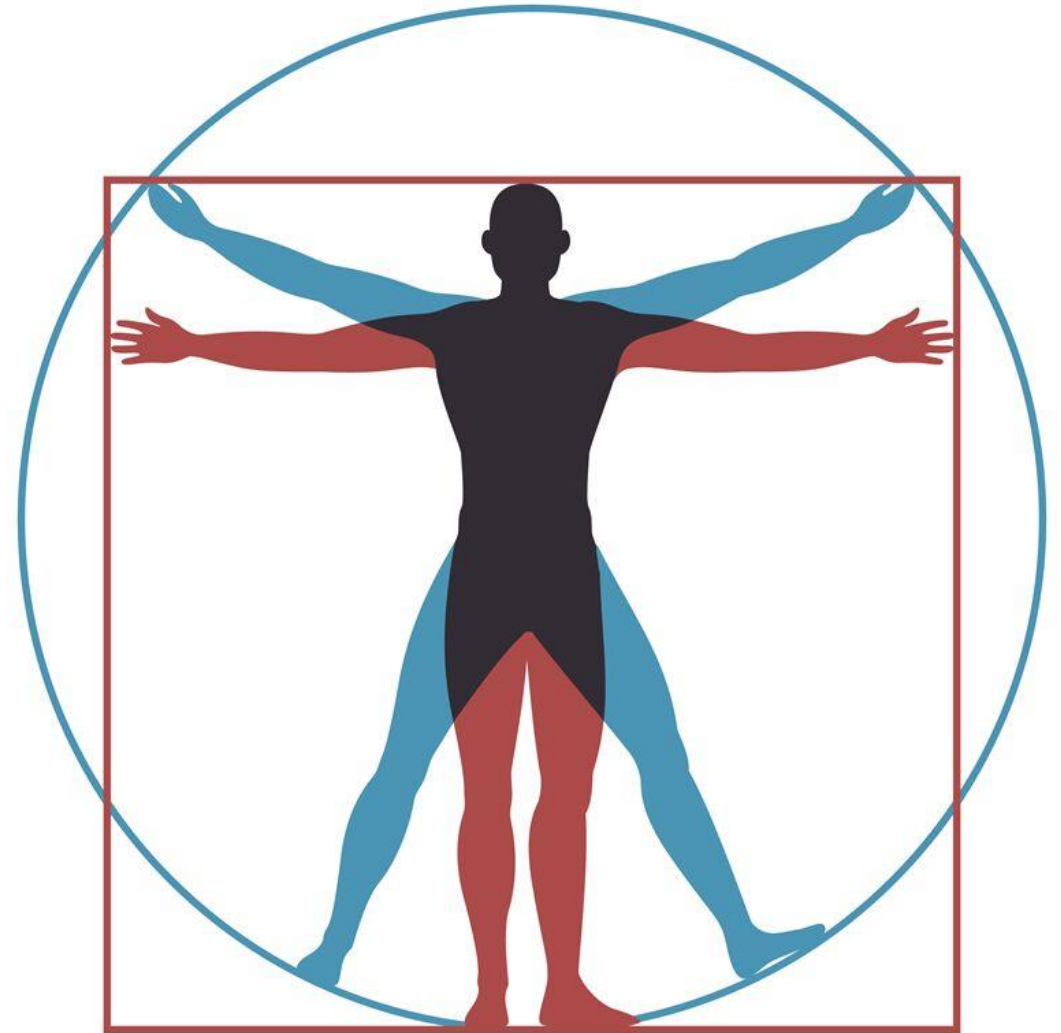
<https://www.sciencedirect.com> > science > article > pii

[No legal personhood for AI - ScienceDirect](#)

BUT WAIT A MINUTE!

What is a Person?

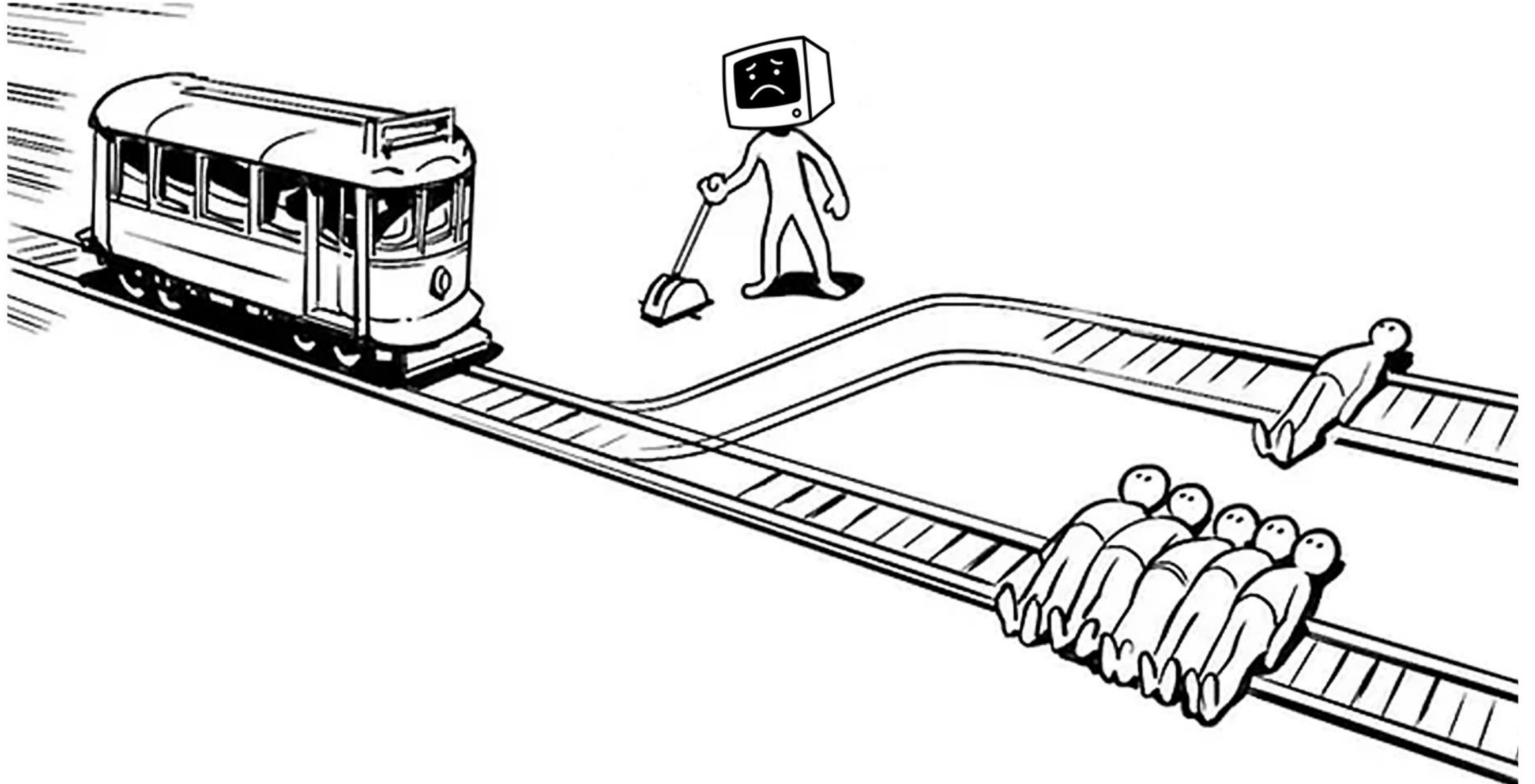
- The Alabama Supreme Court issued a ruling declaring that embryos created through in vitro fertilization (IVF) should be considered children.
- Several of the state's IVF clinics have since paused services, and lawmakers, doctors, and patients are raising concerns about the far-ranging impacts of the ruling on health care, including reproductive technology.

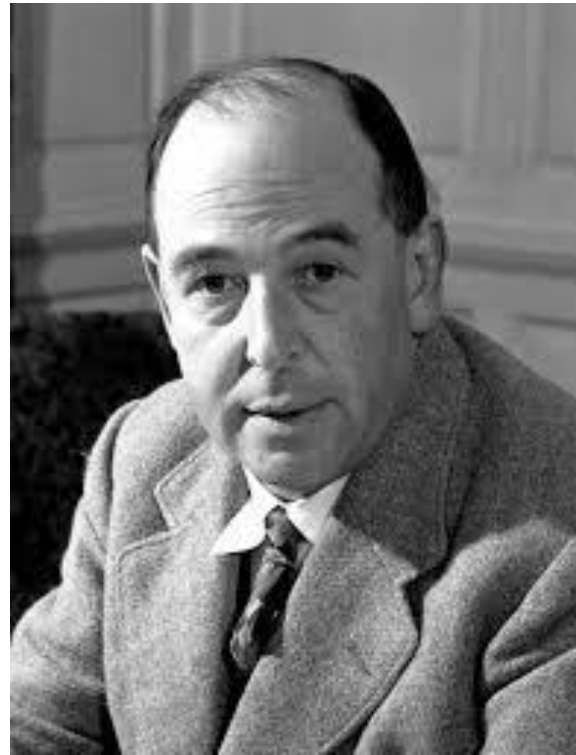


WHAT IF AI IS A PERSON/MORAL AGENT?



it doesn't like humans





C.S. LEWIS

WHAT IS WORTHY OF YOUR FINITUDE?





THE MOST **IMPORTANT** THINGS ABOUT US?

We are **Vulnerable**

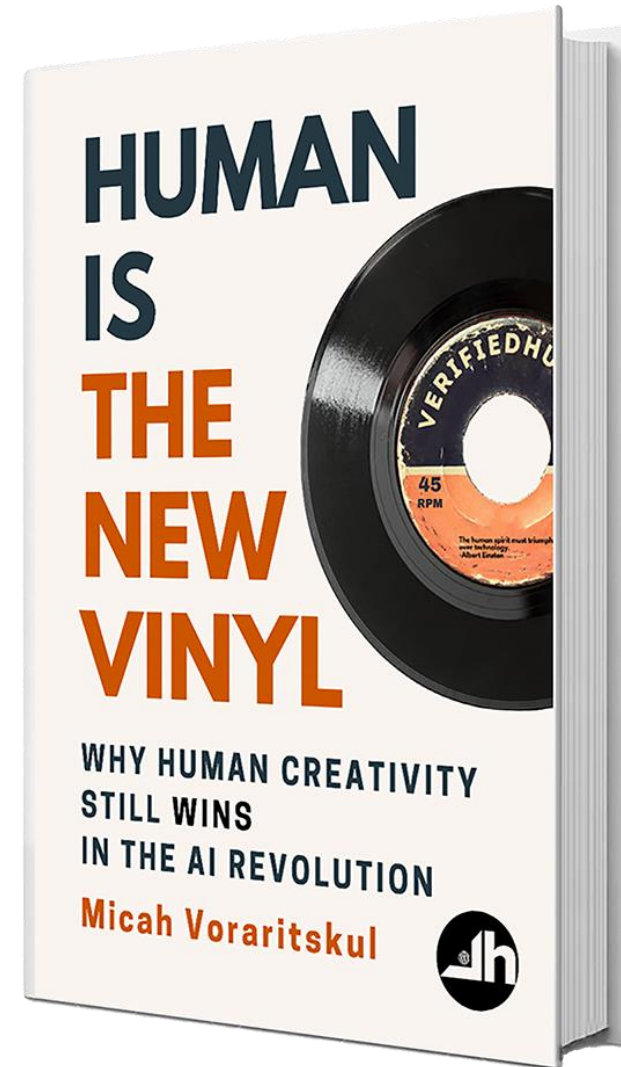
We are **Relational**

WHAT IS WORTHY OF YOUR FINITUDE?



ALL IS NOT LOST

What really **matters** will win.





ULTIMATELY . . .



COMPUTERS CAN'T GO CAMPING



**COMPUTERS CAN'T
GO TO CONCERTS**



**COMPUTERS
CAN'T CARE
ABOUT EACH
OTHER**



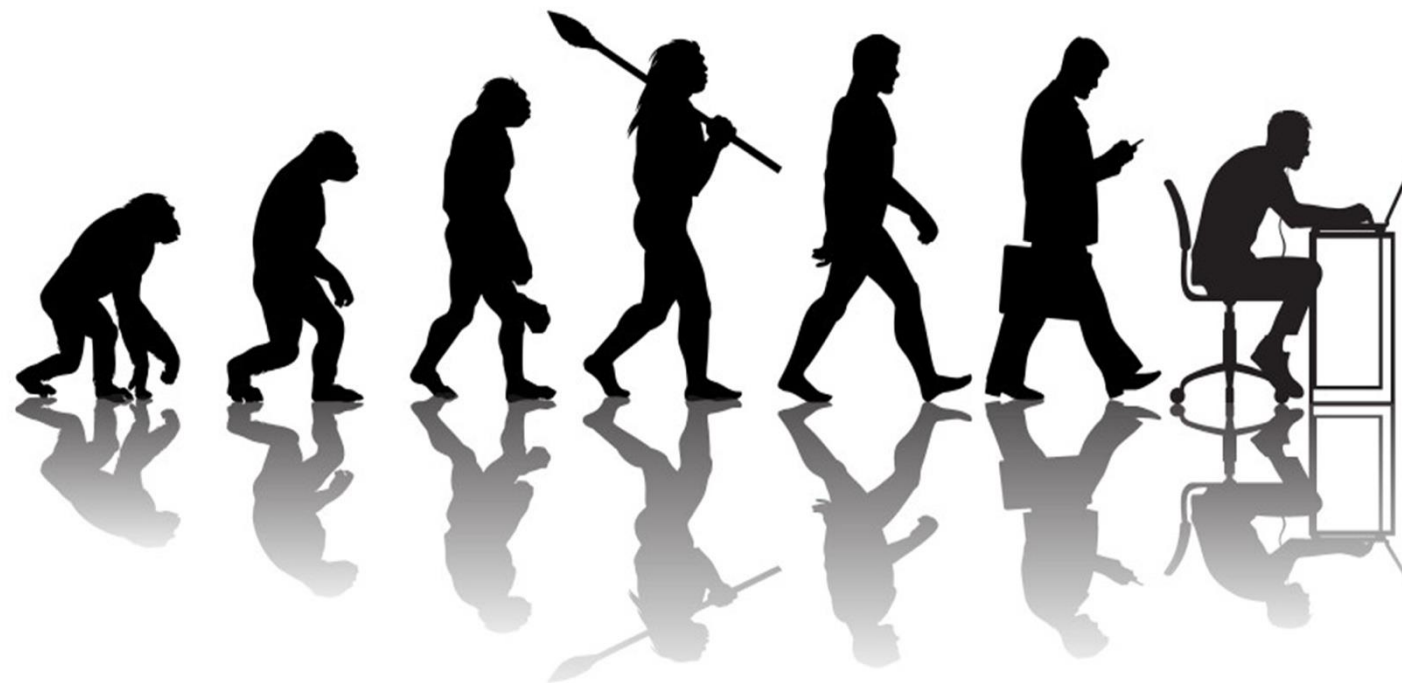
WHY WE ARE **NOT** WORRIED ABOUT AI

Because the threat has
always been human
greed and moral
indifference.



We are
forgetting how
to think,
create, and
care.

WHY WE **ARE** WORRIED ABOUT AI





CAMPING
WITH
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Faithfulness as a Way of Life

VORTEX

QUESTIONS?

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