

CTEC1412  
Computer Ethics

**Assignment 1**  
Review of Five Papers

For the attention of  
**Sara Wilford**

P Number: p15188432

Checklist

<i>Item</i>	<i>Confirm</i>
All 5 papers Harvard referenced	Y
All 5 papers have word count (250 max per review)	Y

**Paper 1**

*Full details of the paper using the Harvard referencing system*

GREGORY J. WALTERS (2013) Transhumanism, Post-Humanism, and Human Technological Enhancement. *Existenz*, 8 (2), pp. 1 - 13.

*(approx. 250 words)*

*Summary and critique of paper 1 (approx 190 words)*

Transhumanism can be defined as a sort of evolution, happening step by step as science progresses and technology merges more with humans, it is a life philosophy and also a globally intellectual cultural movement. Transhumanism seeks to enhance the human condition through many different areas, some include enhancing intelligence, prolonging life and enhancing well-being. From a Jasperian perspective the human is at the centre of the definition of transhumanism and it makes it more complex than necessary however I do believe Karl Jaspers views can help to develop basic possible policies and laws around transhumanism.

Posthumanism can be defined in a futurist context of a human, where they have moved past the limitations of their biological body, posthumanism can involve transhumanism in this respect but is also defined by many other areas of philosophy because it is more speculative, from a Jasperian perspective this is beneficial because it covers a lot more, therefore more in depth policies and laws can be created around posthumanism.

*Conclusion reached on reading this paper (approx 60 words)*

Transhumanism and posthumanism is many different aspects of humanity, society and the world we live in encompassed together. I believe by applying philosophy, science and technology to the definition of transhumanism and posthumanism it can somewhat narrow it down but it can also create a way for policies and laws to be created more ethically. Defining our state of being is not an easy task overall, however I believe humans gaining the ability to become super intelligent could potentially change this.

*State word count (max 250 words): 245 words*

## Paper 2

*Full details of the paper using the Harvard referencing system*

ALEXANDER A. ANTONOV (2011) Human Super Intelligence. International Journal of Emerging Sciences, 1(2), pp.164 - 173

*(approx. 250 words)*

*Summary and critique of paper 2 (approx 190 words)*

By comparison and explanation of Artificial Intelligence compared to human intelligence, it is explained what human super intelligence is therein.

Initially human intelligence is rational low factor thinking, it is the only type of human thinking which allows humans to analyse three dimensional images. Whilst this is an initial form of human thinking it then explains multifactor thinking which is basically a form of thinking in a conscious or subconscious state, confirming that humans think in a very differential and complex way on many different levels from subconsciously talking or controlling blood circulation. Humans accumulate knowledge from the outcome of all these types of thinking.

Artificial Intelligence is defined as a much more complicated form of multi-factor thinking where it starts to become complicated is that the actual computer itself runs in a low factor sense, solving a complex intellectual task with current technology can become improbable very quickly.

Another way of defining a possible form of intelligence would be by combining the two, through human super intelligence, which is an understanding of super knowledge or multi-factor knowledge which is knowledge not yet obtained by humans.

*Conclusion reached on reading this paper (approx 60 words)*

Overall artificial intelligence is described to narrowly due to its constant comparison to the human way of thinking, however I believe it can show how technology can merge with the human way of thinking. Human super intelligence can present an idea that by humans combining with technology through artificial intelligence it can create a form of human super intelligence.

*State word count (max 250 words): 245 words*

## Paper 3

*Full details of the paper using the Harvard referencing system*

NICHOLAS AGAR (2011) Ray Kurzweil and Uploading: Just Say No!.  
Journal of Evolution and Technology. 22 (1), pp. 23 - 36

*(approx. 250 words)*

*Summary and critique of paper 3 (approx 190 words)*

Ray Kurzweil believes that the field of Artificial Intelligence (AI) does not just relate to making artificial things intelligent but also relates to making humans artificially super intelligent. The aspect of death still remains, this justifies that humans would be willing to supplement their brain with electronic chips, AI and upload their mind entirely hence it could truncate the conscious experience. If an uploaded human mind was either strong or weak AI, this could affect how we view such an uploaded human mind. Weak AI could be viewed as something similar to a modern day computer where strong AI would be viewed as sentient.

No matter which way the uploaded human mind is viewed this could be its flaw, if we uploaded everything that made us human into a digital form it could be argued that this would act more as a representation of a human and it would be difficult to tell the difference between that when compared to a physical human.

*Conclusion reached on reading this paper (approx 60 words)*

Mind uploading can be concluded by indicating we are not smart enough to understand the full scope of it, being improbable to break down the full extent of the human mind and its conscious with our current understanding. Philosophers had begun trying to understand human consciousness as long as two thousand years ago, therefore super intelligence will not enhance our understanding of human consciousness any better. Accepting that we are biological beings may help us to better achieve goals of super well being and immortality.

*State word count (max 250 words): 248 words*

## Paper 4

*Full details of the paper using the Harvard referencing system*

STEFAN LORENZ SORGNER (2015) The Future of Education: Genetic Enhancement and Metahumanities. *Journal of Evolution and Technology*. 25 (1), pp. 31 - 48

*(approx. 250 words)*

*Summary and critique of paper 4 (approx 190 words)*

Education can be defined as the parents teaching the child about the culture they live in where this is connected to an ideal of the good, however an ideal of the good can be better defined as improving and therefore enhancing the life of the child. Educational enhancement can be comparable to genetic enhancement by means of transhumanist and posthumanist principles, they both relate to each other by means of not agreeing with the special status of human beings common with humanism. Educational enhancement can be achieved by oneself, parents or by genetic enhancement, when the state or government gets involved genetical enhancement can become comparable to eugenics, by breaking it down into these areas it can somewhat define educational and genetic enhancement better, it is often that many ethicists will leave enhancement undefined.

*Conclusion reached on reading this paper (approx 60 words)*

The definition of enhancement is difficult to define, I believe that with any educational pursuits whether enhanced or not, considering the aforementioned factors as well as the individual, the paper wrote of humans in a broad sense. Defining educational and genetical enhancement towards society and not individuals hence it was to generic to define these concepts more precisely. Human autonomy such as the brain and body was defined more than what I believe to be more important factors. Overall the paper does not define any benefits to genetic enhancement as a means to improve education, it proves that by breaking down the many factors of it, educational enhancement is more beneficial.

*State word count (max 250 words): 245 words*

## Paper 5

*Full details of the paper using the Harvard referencing system*

MARCELO DE ARAUJO (2014) Moral Enhancement and Political Realism. *Journal of Evolution and Technology*. 24 (2), pp. 29 - 43

*Summary and critique of paper 5 (approx 190 words)*

With enhancement being a difficult concept to define factors such as political structure of a country need to be considered, in terms of transhumanism and posthumanism moral enhancement would play a part in narrowing down the factors to consider. Moral enhancement utilises aspects of pharmaceutical drugs, genetic engineering and various other technologies to control or enhance moral behaviour and general reasoning.

Some moral enhancement theorists believe that morally enhanced people could better solve problems such as global warming, terrorist attacks and wars. Problems like this are not easily solvable, scalable and predictable, also new problems can arise in the future that we are not prepared for. It is indicated to some extent that it is a bad assumption in terms of political realism. There are core aspects of humanity that would always flourish no matter how such morals are enhanced, as such most moral enhancements theorists agree that the majority of human morals are too weak to justify a non-destructive means of existence.

*Conclusion reached on reading this paper (approx 60 words)*

Overall to focus on a means of moral enhancement is the wrong approach, to approach it in a utopian context is also incorrect, I believe these two aspects of moral enhancement would need to be aided by a form of enhanced political realism to that of which in current times is not possible when we are a resource limited planet. I believe the aforementioned particular aspects of transhumanism and posthumanism can possibly help us progress towards a more non destructive political realism.

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