Positive Psychology, Spirituality, Cultural Heritage, and Compassion in the Age of Artificial Intelligence

An encounter to be held at the Linnasmäki Conference Center, Turku, Finland.
1 – 3 June 2027

https://linnas.fi/kurssit/icec/

(For those participants coming from out of town and those coming from abroad please plan your arrival at conference site on 31st May)

The rapid advance and growing ubiquity of artificial intelligence are reshaping how people learn, work, create, make decisions, and relate to one another. Alongside new possibilities, increasingly capable AI systems raise fundamental questions about human agency: How can people benefit from AI without surrendering critical judgment, responsibility, creativity, meaning, or connection? This encounter brings together researchers, practitioners, activists, and others to explore what positive psychology, cultural heritage, spirituality, compassion, and allied fields can contribute to human flourishing in an age of rapid technological change.

The encounter will combine presentations of new and relevant research with lectures and workshops aimed at strengthening capacities that are especially important in an AI-rich world, including agency, critical judgment, resilience, compassion, creativity, meaningful human connection, and responsible engagement with AI.

Positive psychology offers a useful framework for examining these questions. Drawing on research into learned helplessness, flow, strengths, meaning, resilience, relationships, and well-being, it asks what enables individuals and communities to flourish. In the context of AI, these perspectives can help us consider not only how technology may improve efficiency or access to information, but also how it affects autonomy, purpose, motivation, relationships, and the capacity to act with judgment and responsibility.

In light of the profound physiological, psychological, and socio-emotional challenges associated with rapid technological change, uncertainty, and crisis, this encounter invites scholars and practitioners to explore pathways toward a more caring and resilient society. Particular attention will be given to cultural heritage and spirituality as resources for meaning, identity, belonging, collective memory, resilience, and agency. The encounter asks how these human and cultural resources can help individuals and communities engage with AI in ways that support flourishing rather than diminish it.

Papers, workshops, and other activities may address, but are not limited to, the following focal areas and questions:

- **Human agency and flourishing in the age of AI.** How might AI enhance or diminish agency, autonomy, creativity, meaning, well-being, and the capacity for

critical judgment? What human capacities become more important as AI performs an increasing range of cognitive tasks?

- **Compassion, spirituality, and human relationships.** What happens to compassion, care, connection, and spiritual life when AI increasingly mediates human experience? How might AI be used in ways that strengthen, rather than replace, meaningful human relationships?
- **Cultural heritage, identity, and resilience.** How can cultural heritage, collective memory, local knowledge, arts, and cultural practices contribute to flourishing, peace, reconciliation, and resilience in technologically changing societies? How might AI transform the ways people encounter, preserve, interpret, or transmit cultural heritage?
- **Education and preparation for an AI-rich society.** What capacities should education cultivate so that people can work productively with AI without surrendering judgment, responsibility, creativity, or agency? How can educational organizations prepare learners to engage with AI critically, ethically, and purposefully?

CONFERENCE FORMAT

All participants will present, and all participants are expected to attend the entire encounter. This format is intended to facilitate genuine dialogue among participants and to foster future cooperation.

SUBMISSION

We are pleased to announce a call for active participation in this encounter. We welcome abstracts of around **350 words** proposing research papers, workshops, or other activities that will contribute to a rich and intensive three-and-a-half-day program.

Abstracts should be submitted to Kasler.Jon@gmail.com by January 1, 2027.

Abstracts may be submitted in Word, WordPerfect, or RTF format and should include the following information, in this order:

a) author(s), b) affiliation, c) email address, d) title of abstract, e) body of abstract,

f) up to 10 keywords

Please use plain text (Times New Roman, 12 pt) and avoid footnotes, special formatting, and emphasis such as bold, italics, or underline. A Book of Abstracts is planned for this encounter, and all accepted abstracts will be included.

- Receipt of submissions will be acknowledged within one week.
- If you do not receive an acknowledgment within one week, please resend your submission or contact the organizers through an alternative electronic route.
- Upon approval of your submission you will receive a letter including a link for registration for the conference.

REGISTRATION AND ACCOMMODATION:

- Registration fee: €250, payable after your abstract has been accepted. You will receive a payment link for credit-card payment. The registration fee is non-refundable.
- Full board: €305 per person in a single room or €245 per person in a shared room. For participants not staying at Linnasmäki, the full-board fee is €65 per person.
    - Accordingly, total costs (registration fee plus full board) are €555 for a single room, €495 for a shared room, and €315 for a non-resident participant.
- Optional dinner cruise: €60.
- Additional accommodation: €80 per night for a single room or €60 per person per night for a shared room.
- Price for an accompanying partner: €280 (meals and full board in a shared room).

Organising Committee

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