

## Meeting summary

### Quick recap

Michael Harvey presented his book "The Age of Hue Machines," discussing how technological advancement and machine-focused thinking driven by tech companies could lead to ecological disaster and societal challenges. The discussion explored various concerns including economic inequality, democratic decline, environmental challenges, and the potential risks of artificial general intelligence (AGI), with Harvey proposing solutions such as moving to a post-growth economic model and implementing stricter AI regulations. The conversation ended with debates about population growth, energy demands, and military AI applications, while emphasizing the importance of addressing inequality and consumption patterns rather than focusing solely on technological solutions.

### Next steps

Cacor members to pay their annual dues which are currently due

Cacor members to share meeting recordings on YouTube and subscribe to help attract more speakers

Charles to send his paper on the maximum power principle to Art for inclusion in the meeting materials bundle

Art to publish and distribute the bundle of materials related to Michael Harvey's speech

### Summary

#### Humanization and the Age of Hue Machines

Michael Harvey presents his book "The Age of Hue Machines," which examines how big tech and machine-focused thinking could lead to ecological disaster. He explains his concept of "humanation," where machines become more human-like and humans more mechanized, driven by tech billionaires and companies pursuing a vision of human-machine fusion. Michael identifies five types of hue machines (cognitive, relational, robotic, mechanized humans, and human-machine environments) and argues that this transformation, which he calls "onto capitalism," aims to automate virtually all human capacities while disregarding natural limits and death itself.

#### Tech Risks and Transhumanist Concerns

Michael discusses the risks and challenges of technological advancement and AI development, particularly focusing on economic, social, psychological, political, and ecological concerns. He criticizes tech companies' monopolistic growth and their promotion of deregulation, warning about job automation potentially eliminating a third of US occupations by 2030. He highlights how big tech's promises of technological utopia contrast with increasing inequality, democratic decline, and environmental challenges, noting that tech leaders like Musk and

Bezos are more focused on space exploration than addressing climate change. Michael concludes by warning about transhumanist risks and the potential existential threat of superintelligent AI, citing concerns from experts like Jeffrey Hinton about human extinction.

### Post-Growth Economics and AGI Ban

Michael presents a detailed critique of what he calls the "machine mindset" prevalent among tech leaders, characterized by a drive for dominance, lack of empathy, and rejection of limits. He argues that this mindset, combined with corporate psychopathy and extreme individualism, poses existential risks through the pursuit of artificial general intelligence (AGI) and other technologies. As a solution, he proposes moving to a post-growth economic model focused on sustainable, equitable well-being, which would include reduced consumption, deeper democracy through citizen assemblies, and a shift from mechanistic to life-sciences approaches. He advocates for banning AGI until it can be proven completely safe, though he acknowledges this may never be possible.

### Elon Musk's Impact on Technology Regulation

Michael discussed the impact of Elon Musk's actions on technology regulation and the potential for brain chip implants. He noted that while some medical applications of brain implants are justified, Musk's ambitions go beyond this, aiming to directly connect with super intelligence. Michael also addressed Greg Holloway's question about the future of non-human species, stating that a machine supremacism could lead to the exploitation and extraction of non-human species. Finally, Michael responded to Bill Reese's question about the potential for a machine universe, suggesting that a dehumanizing attitude could lead to the treatment of non-human species as mere resources.

### Challenges of Abandoning Infinite Growth

The discussion focuses on two major challenges: the feasibility of abandoning infinite growth and the regulation of AI. William expresses skepticism about society's willingness to abandon the techno-infinite growth vision, arguing that despite decades of knowing what needs to be done, no major government has taken meaningful action. Michael acknowledges these concerns and explains that his book aims to warn about technology being presented as a solution while potentially facilitating catastrophe. Robin raises concerns about national security implications if countries unilaterally abandon growth, while David asks about practical regulations for AI and the challenges of transitioning to a steady-state economy while managing aging populations and existing financial obligations.

### Artificial General Intelligence: Dangers and Solutions

Michael discussed the potential dangers of Artificial General Intelligence (AGI), arguing that it could be dehumanizing and lead to unforeseeable consequences. He suggested focusing AI on medical research and making it illegal for other applications. Michael also mentioned the growing movement against AGI, including protests outside OpenAI. Ted thanked Michael for his presentation and encouraged attendees to pay their annual dues and join the Canadian Association Club of Rome. David asked Michael about transitioning towards a

steady-state society, focusing on the need for ongoing large amounts of immigration to maintain a younger workforce. Michael responded by emphasizing the importance of rethinking society as a community rather than a business, and encouraging more human involvement in decision-making processes.

### Technology's Influence on Mass Psychology

The meeting focused on the intersection of mass psychology, technology, and popular culture. Michael discussed the influence of advertising and social media on human behavior, highlighting how technology is embedded in people's lives and used to extract data. He also touched on the role of science fiction in shaping technological advancements and societal values. Ken raised questions about the impact of popular culture on human psychology, using examples like the Terminator and the Matrix. The discussion also explored the concept of "technologism" and its potential effects on human well-being.

### AI, Population Growth, and Existential Risks

The discussion covers several key topics around AI and population growth. Art raises concerns about energy demand and population growth, but Michael counters that inequality and consumption patterns of the wealthy top 10% are more significant problems than population size. Charles adds that even less affluent populations have environmental impacts through activities like land clearing and bushmeat hunting. Dave Rallo raises existential concerns about AGI (Artificial General Intelligence) surpassing human intelligence, with Michael agreeing this presents unknown risks. The conversation concludes with discussion of military AI applications like Israel's Lavender program and autonomous weapons systems, with Philip expressing skepticism about AI enabling unlimited growth or immortality, arguing it remains constrained by physical laws.

AI can make mistakes. Review for accuracy.