



## 4th Annual Education for Flourishing Conference Humanizing Education: Technology, Cognition, and Spirituality

Saint Louis University  
April 19, 2024

Our rapidly changing world is increasingly being defined by technological advancements that may ultimately shape the fundamental aspects of our humanity. As technology advances into never before imagined realms of human existence, many questions are raised – especially for the future of education.

- Will societies become more divided and unequal as technology completes more human activities? How does the huge increase in misinformation and political polarization contribute to this? Or will these technological advancements enable more people to tap into their own creativity?
- How will technology shape our expressions, thoughts, and actions? Will human interaction become more “virtual” and less “real”? How will these changes in how we interact with one another (and ourselves) affect our collective efforts and shape human existence and spirituality?

Perhaps the most important question is – what do we do with the “technologizing” of human activities, and given these advances in technology, what role will education play in promoting human flourishing?

The Consortium for Human Flourishing at Saint Louis University in collaboration with the Flourishing Network at the Human Flourishing Program, Harvard University, and the Brookings Institution is pleased to announce the 4th annual Education for Flourishing conference titled, *Humanizing Education: Technology, Cognition, and Spirituality* will be held on Friday, April 19, 2024, at Saint Louis University. [Conference Registration Link](#)

This interdisciplinary conference will bring together educators, artificial intelligence engineers, economists, policymakers, philosophers, psychologists, and theologians, among others, to discuss the implications of technology on human flourishing. Specifically, the conference will explore education’s role in technological society and how it can promote individual and community flourishing. We will address the following areas during the conference:

### Technology and Cognition

Technology shapes how we think, learn, and construct our identities. With the advent of artificial intelligence and technologies that can augment our minds, questions about human cognition become more complicated. Talks in this category will explore how technology shapes and will continue to shape thinking and learning as well as how technology affects cognitive-identity.

## Technology and Spirituality

The rise of technology like artificial intelligence and the possibility of mapping human consciousness raises critical questions about human existence. Talks in this category will unpack questions around what makes us human, how technology shapes our spirituality, and how these changes might shape who we become as people.

## Teaching and Learning for the future

This strand brings artificial intelligence and the technologizing of cognition, spirituality, and human flourishing together to address how we should move forward as a professional community. Talks in this category will focus on the questions: What does teaching and learning look like in the age of artificial intelligence and technology? How do they shape the socialization role of education and promote human flourishing?

Each session will open with a presentation and conclude with Q&A sessions to discuss action toward achievable goals around the topic.