

Outline of presentation

Naoshi Yamawaki (Prof. Emeritus at the University of Tokyo)

From a philosophical perspective, it is crucial to recognize that AI does not generate human empathy, namely what Pascal called the “esprit de finesse, and Smith's concept of the “sympathy of the impartial spectator.” To preserve humanity and foster a truly convivial society, education focused on empathetic understanding of others, or compassion, as distinct from education centered solely on knowledge acquisition, becomes increasingly important. In this regard, Illich's ideas of the vernacular and conviviality must be revived and widely disseminated.

Facing the looming threat of a Third World War, the development of AI weapons (such as drones) makes risk management crucial—especially to prevent nuclear war caused by AI errors. Philosophy for a convivial society must address how to stop the distortion of truth, historical revisionism, and the spread of unnoticed fake news resulting from AI algorithms and data structures controlled by a small group of elite technocrats. One way to prevent this path to barbarism, in my view, is to widely adopt the concept of IT democracy, as advocated by Taiwanese programmer and politician Audrey Tang, as a philosophy of conviviality in the IT age. The AI problem is global; at the same time, it depends on many local conditions and circumstances. Aiming for “Glocal Public Philosophy”, I will explore in my presentation the path to a convivial society in the IT age based on Tang’s philosophy of conviviality.

Naoshi Yamawaki: Em. Prof. at the University of Tokyo. Dr. phil. Former Rector of Seisa University (Japan). Vice President of The Japan Society for Global System and Ethics. Working field: Social Philosophy, Public Philosophy, International Philosophy. One of the main publications: *Glocal Public Philosophy. Toward Peaceful and Just Societies in the Age of Globalization*, Zürich 2016: LIT