

Technological and scientific progress cannot be stopped, or else probably one should not attempt to do that. What seemed to be impossible more than a decade ago nowadays becomes a commonplace element of everyday life. Such fields as genetical engineering, nanotechnology or the broadly understood cognitive sciences not only transform our social life, but in a crucial way also influence human nature together with its fundamental properties. Consequences of scientific and technological progress are difficult to foresee and concerns about this have been expressed many times by thinkers representing various philosophical currents. There is, however, an intellectual current that approaches the possibilities coming from this progress with optimism. It is the transhumanist movement, and the theoretical foundations of its concepts constitute the main focus of my research within the scope of my doctoral dissertation.

Transhumanism is a dynamically developing area of analysis of both philosophers and technological entrepreneurs, which in a multi-aspect manner present both advantages and threats accompanying the exponentially developing technologies. Transhumanist reflection goes beyond the premises of academic institutions (Singularity University in the Silicon Valley and the Future of Humanity Institute at Oxford University are important centers focusing on this topic) and begins to influence the policies and strategies of business and governmental entities as well as prosperous foundations throughout the world (the prominent ideologist of transhumanism, Ray Kurzweil, is in charge of the engineering department at Google; Elon Musk, the founder of PayPal, Tesla Motors or SpaceX, finances research with respect to artificial intelligence ethics, whereas the Russian, transhumanist themed foundation – Global Future 2045, was established by a media magnate and billionaire Dmitriy Itskov). Therefore complex critical analyses of this current are necessary in order to extract the most important concepts from a variety of ideas as well as to predict the consequences of realizing the intentions of transhumanists that may in a direct way transform reality. This reflection is important, because one of the goals of transhumanists is to create a new human, liberated from the “constraints of biology.”

The purpose of my project is not only to analyze the theoretical foundations of this movement, in order to point to its philosophical, anthropological, ethical and social presumptions, but also to extract from these presumptions answers to the fundamental questions about who is the human being, what is the point of its existence as well as what is the meaning of the good life for an entity “liberated from the constraints of biology”.