

【高峰論壇系列十三】 Vanguard Summit 13

反思新自由主義

第一場

Interrogating Neoliberalism (I)

會議將以全英文進行

The conference will be conducted in English.

觀眾報名截止日為 2024年11月28日 (四)

The deadline for audience sign-up is Thursday, November 28, 2024.

AI and Neoliberalism

日期 Date 2024年12月2日(週一) Monday, December 2, 2024
時間 Time 09:15 - 17:00 GMT+08
地點 Venue 國立臺灣大學霖澤館三樓1301多媒體教室
Multimedia Room 1301, 3F, Tsai Lecture Hall, National Taiwan University
報名連結 Sign up here <https://forms.gle/FFjFLAbPMVzRyRBa8>



當全世界如著魔般地關注AI科技的發展時，其應用所產生的深遠影響並沒有因此被忽視。AI在新自由主義的巔峰時期崛起，但正其衰落時被商業化；依此來看，AI的發展和新自由主義有多大程度的相關性？AI將延續新自由主義的生命週期，還是將其影響力推向全新的境界？

在新自由主義主導的世界之中，所有的價值都被市值化。人類被視為無限競爭惡鬥中的競爭個體，此世界秩序下的個體不僅被嚴重孤立，更被要求自食其力。倘若無法維持在市場上的競爭力以及生產力，便無法生存；其後果是極端的社會不平等與無可挽回的環境破壞，以因應資本主義無止盡的擴張。在名為「自由市場」的怪獸背後，還有新殖民主義的政治佈局蟄伏，旨在確保非西方世界完全掌握、征服非西方世界，而該意圖通常以「歷史終結」和「文明衝突」的論述形式出現。

AI作為新自由主義時代的產物，自然是與新自由主義為伍的共犯，且該科技的快速發展引發了人們對未來世界秩序的隱憂：矽谷科技巨頭可能會透過AI科技來無限擴張他們在全世界的影響力甚至是政治權力，並可能帶來由這些巨頭主導的「新自由主義 2.0」時代。如果人類世被認為是新自由主義 1.0 的巔峰，那麼由這些巨頭所組成的「兄弟寡頭政治」似乎正迎來技術世的第一階段，而此階段比其前身更加險惡。因此，在AI正以令人咋舌、目不轉睛的特技奪取世人目光時，我們應該以批判的眼光看向其背後所隱藏的黑暗面。

As the world is being mesmerized by the advances in AI technology, the reverberations beyond its immediate applications have not escaped the eyes of a few sober-minded observers. Developed at the height of neoliberalism and commercialized at the decline (or recalibration) of it, how much is AI's evolution involved in the neoliberal project and would it serve to extend its half-life or even push its power up to a second level?

The neoliberal order is characterized by marketizing of all values and treats human beings as isolated individuals who, left to their own device, have to be entrepreneurial and self-sufficient in a world of relentless competition. The consequences of the near complete dominance of this order are extreme social inequality and relentless environmental destruction due to the unlimited free rein given to capitalist expansion. Behind the unleashed beast called "free market" lies another monster which is the neocolonial political project of ensuring the subjugation of the non-Western world, a project most typically manifested by the "end of history" and "clash of civilizations" arguments.

As a product of the neoliberal age, AI cannot but be seen as somehow complicit in the neoliberal project. The fast developments of AI have led to the concern that AI may help to infinitely aggrandize the fast expanding power of the technoligarchs in the Silicon Valley and possibly bring about a neoliberalism 2.0 that is presided over by the "broligarchy" formed precisely by these tycoons. If the Anthropocene is considered to be the culmination of neoliberalism 1.0, the broligarchy seems to be ushering in the first phase of the Technocene, which is even more sinister than its predecessor. It is therefore high time we took a critical look at one of the dark sides of the developments of AI amidst the fanfare around its awe-inspiring acrobatics.