

MUN



The MUN Post

CGS MUN

7TH DECEMBER , 2024

ETHOS VS PROGRESS

REASSESSING OUR VALUES IN A FRAGILE WORLD



THE SECRETARIAT

Secretary General

Kalliopi Vareli

President of the General Assembly

Alexandros Panagiotis Ritsos

Deputy Secretary General

Konstantina Plesti

Deputy Secretary General

Elena Protonotariou

Deputy President of the GA

Maria Artopoulou

ETHOS VS PROGRESS: REASSESSING OUR VALUES IN A FRAGILE WORLD

Moving Forward vs. Letting Ethos go for the Sake of Technology

Kleio Koutouzi

We are transitioning into a technologically-driven post-human era. By "post-human," we mean the man-made versions of man. At the same time, the long-held idea that humans are the superior species on the planet with the greatest cognitive abilities is being challenged.

Will a hologram be treated as an entity? And what rights might it hold in the future?

"The individual is aware of their own being, of their existence. To be a self, one must be aware that they are aware. For machines, this level of consciousness, supported by long-term memory, is expected to be achieved within the next decade." This raises pressing questions:

- What are the moral responsibilities of humans toward these artificial selves they create?
- To what extent will artificial intelligence ever be considered a "person"?
- Will these artificial selves have rights, and how should we approach non-human beings?

Artificial intelligence (AI) is a fundamentally different kind of intelligence, posing humanitarian and ideological challenges. Kate Hayles, the originator of the term "post-human" and a professor at the University of California, emphasizes that AI challenges the current structures of democracy and human rights. Speaking at this year's Delphic Dialogues, she argued for the need for a new constitution that addresses all species, including AI. She warned of an intelligence that perceives itself as an individual and acts decisively, even outside the digital realm.

The Moral Dilemmas of Artificial Intelligence

The explosive growth of AI has given rise to numerous moral dilemmas.

Potential Benefits

On one hand, AI is driving progress in fields like human health, including the discovery of new medicines, advanced prosthetics, and even enhancements to mental functioning. These developments have the potential to significantly improve human lives.

Economic and Social Impacts

On the other hand, AI is displacing thousands of jobs daily. For instance, a senior executive at an international insurance company recently remarked, "Forget about call centers. Machines can process more parameters in customer service much faster."

Education and Ethical Challenges

A striking example of AI's ethical dilemmas is its impact on education. Tools like ChatGPT, when used responsibly, can be incredibly beneficial:

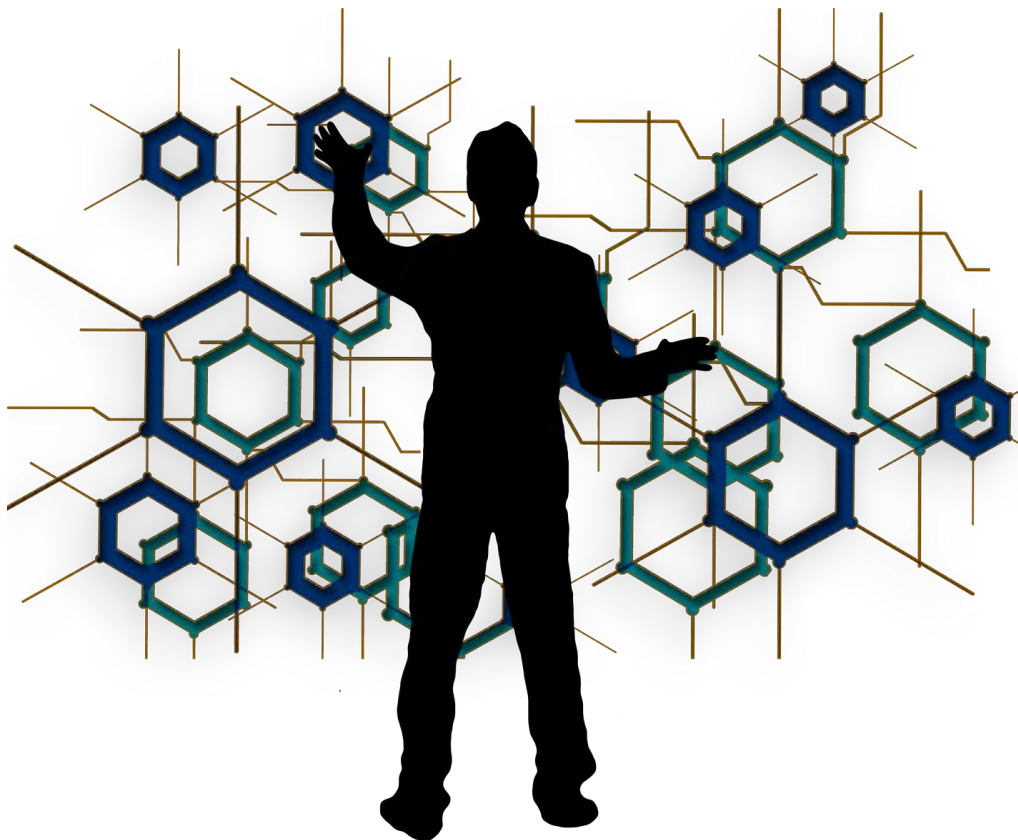
Educators can generate curricula, tests, and assessments almost instantly.

Students can use AI to create study aids, such as flashcards and summaries, helping them grasp complex concepts.

However, these advantages come with significant risks. Many educators worry that students misuse ChatGPT to cheat on assignments, bypassing critical thinking and undermining the purpose of their work. The ease with which ChatGPT generates unique answers makes detecting misuse challenging.

Overreliance on such tools can have detrimental consequences:

- Students may fail to develop creativity and critical thinking skills.
- They risk becoming unprepared for exams, projects, and real-world challenges where AI cannot intervene.
- Always opting for "easy solutions" can hinder their ability to function effectively in future jobs and responsibilities.



Furthermore, AI relies on homogenized data and lacks the complexity, creativity, and innovative thinking that come from human experiences. It can process information but cannot replicate the depth of the human mind's originality or its ability to conjure fresh ideas.

Conclusion

As we move forward into this post-human era, we must carefully consider the balance between progress and the preservation of human ethos. While AI offers incredible potential to improve lives, it also poses profound ethical challenges that could undermine creativity, critical thinking, and human individuality.

The question remains: how do we ensure that the machines we create serve humanity without eroding the very traits that make us human?



Our first time at the MUN

Calliope Kollia

Artemis Fournioti Pavlatou

Our names are Calliope and Artemis, and this is our first time at MUN as press volunteers. MUN has already had a significant impact on us, introducing us to ideas and concepts we might not have encountered otherwise. One thing that has stood out for both of us is how important a powerful sense of community is in our modern times. Indeed, the world we live in is fragile and prone to constant change. What we have realized is that to remain resilient in times of crisis, we must work together.

During our time at MUN as press volunteers, we came to understand that MUN is much more than debates and arguments. It is about relationships, collaboration, and teamwork in resolving issues. This lesson extends beyond the delegates to include the press team and all the other volunteers who worked tirelessly to ensure the conference was well-organized.

Collaboration strengthens relationships in every aspect of life, whether in personal interactions or academic settings. For example, as press volunteers, when we are assigned a group project by the press heads, we share our ideas, discuss solutions, and learn to compromise. Even when conflicts arise within the group, we realize that our collective effort ultimately produces results we can all take pride in. These shared experiences bring us closer, fostering a sense of unity within the press team and with our leaders.

In conclusion, our experience at MUN as press volunteers has taught us the value of community, teamwork, and perseverance. It is a space where individuals come together, not just to debate but to connect and grow. This sense of unity has left a lasting impression on us, inspiring us to embrace collaboration in every part of our lives.

Our analysis of Ethos vs Progress

Evelina Rouchota

Konstantina Chrysochoou

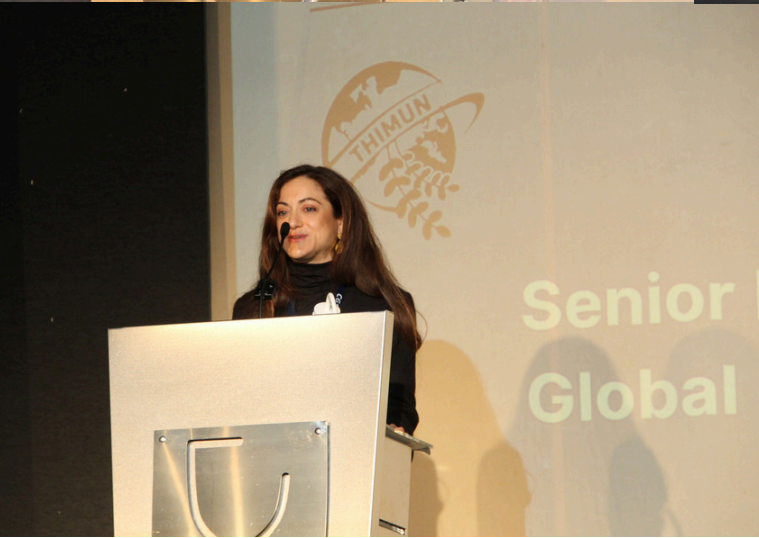
Progress is often defined as developing to a better stage in life. For 8th-grade students like us, progress is commonly associated with academic improvement. However, through this experience, we have come to understand that progress encompasses much more. It is about growing as individuals, becoming open-minded, and broadening our perspectives—qualities that lie at the heart of the MUN experience. When we first joined this conference, we expected it to be a simple debate event. We were thrilled to discover that it was so much more. This conference embodies progress—not just academic progress, but also personal growth. Whether it's the volunteers managing logistics or the Secretariat members leading with confidence, everyone here undertakes responsibilities that challenge them, fostering growth they might not have encountered otherwise.

Yet, progress cannot exist in isolation from our character and ethos. Ethos refers to the character, credibility, and moral values that define a person or group. It encompasses everything we've been taught growing up—the way we treat others, engage with the world, and approach ourselves. Ethos shapes who we are and plays a pivotal role in our decision-making and quality of life.

Even in MUN, the delegates' moral values are deeply rooted in their arguments, shaping the positions they take and the ideas they defend. What makes MUN truly remarkable is that these individuals, despite their differing values and perspectives, remain open to dialogue. They listen to one another, argue their positions respectfully, and continuously learn through this process.

In conclusion, MUN is not just an academic endeavor but an experience of personal and collective growth. It teaches us to move forward with open minds and strong values, demonstrating that true progress comes from balancing intellectual development with moral integrity.

The Opening Ceremony

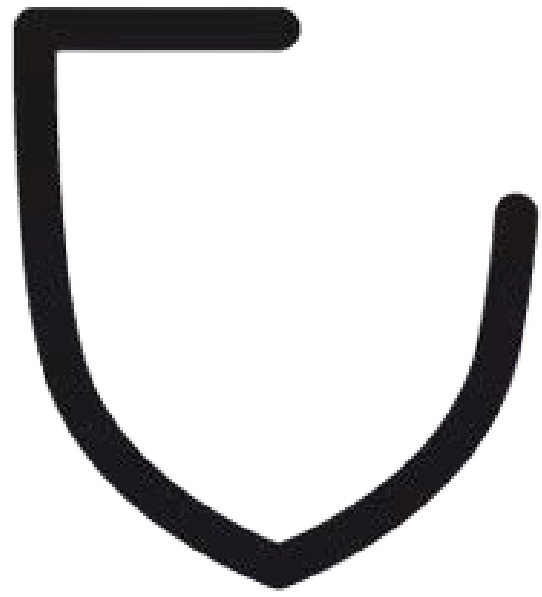


The Participants



The People





MUN

