

SIMUVACTION ON AI SYMPOSIUM

April 10, 2025

8.30 am – 5:00 pm

DE/RESKILLING WITH AI

Why bother learning if I can use AI?

What is the role, the point of humans?

What design of the future worker in an AI era?

The rapid advancement of AI is profoundly reshaping the nature of work, influencing how we perceive job roles, their economic and social value, and the skills required to succeed. As AI becomes increasingly accessible, we will witness a transformation as some skills atrophy or become totally obsolete. Simultaneously, new ones are emerging.

Both individually and collectively, this will affect our work and professional lives. This fact raises significant ethical, economic, and social issues: if AI can help us compute, plan and organize, predict, and prevent, read, take notes, synthesize, write emails or speeches, explain and translate, draw, create art and visuals, evaluate, and monitor activities, why bother learning? What is the role, the point of humans?

Computers, generally and AI specifically, have led to the decline of specific skills – street orientation, memorization, calligraphy, speed of reasoning, and writing fluency. This certainly is not the first time technology has led to changes and adjustments in human skills and abilities, History is full of these examples. The value and breadth of skills have fluctuated across time and civilizations. Should we just accept that fact, relinquish traditional learning approaches based, for instance, on operational experiences, critical thinking, problem-solving, and what consequences on human pace development, emotional intelligence, well-being, and human nature, or should we fight against the loss of cognitive and creative skills?

Paradoxically, while AI takes, it also gives. It can also empower individuals and organizations and create substantial economic and social value. The democratization of AI tools transforms job conceptions, roles, and skills requirements. What can we expect regarding the organization of businesses, not only in their internal structures but also in the use of time, the decision-making processes, the working conditions, work-life balance, teamwork, and leadership? How can we envision the new jobs to be created and the human qualities to fulfill them?

What skills will we value in the future of work? Curiosity? Authenticity? Empathy? What does it imply for training and continuing education? In so doing, how can we ensure that AI does not increase economic, social, and political disparities globally?

In an AI-driven and global world, we must establish ethical guidelines for the development and deployment of AI technologies, with a focus on human well-being and social justice.

By carefully considering the ethical implications of AI, this symposium provides an opportunity to discuss and design new approaches where, in the future, technology will serve human flourishing rather than threaten our livelihoods.

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AGENDA

Program Opening		
	8:30-8:45 am	<p>Allocutions (Zoom and In-person)</p> <p>Dr. Lyse LANGLOIS, Director General, Obvia</p> <p>Dr. Anne-Elisabeth COURRIER, AI Ethics Liaison, Emory University Center for Ethics</p> <p>The Honorable Eric LAMOUREUX, Consul General of France</p> <p>Dr. Sehl MELLOULI, Deputy Vice Rector, Academic and Student Affairs at Université Laval</p> <p>Dr. Paul WELTY, Vice Provost for Academic Innovation, Emory University (via Zoom)</p>
A	8:45-9:15 am	<p>Dr. Marc-Antoine DILHAC</p> <p>Professor of Philosophy @Université de Montréal, Director Governance and International Collaboration, Obvia</p>
Session One	9:15 – 12:00	Fundamental Issues
	Moderator	<p>Mrs. Noémie GERVAIS</p> <p>Gestionnaire Hub Montréal Réseau des Centres de collaboration internationale PMIA/Manager Montréal Hub GPAI Network of Centres for international collaboration</p>
Design of the Future Workforce	B	9:15-9:45
		<p>Drafting Skills In An Uncertain World- The Historical Perspective</p> <p>Dr. Sylvain MUNGER</p> <p>Post-Doctorate Researcher, Ecole Navale, France, OBVIA</p>
Questions on the design of the “future worker” Which skills? Which character? Which leadership?	C	9:45-10:15
		<p>Drafting Skills In An Uncertain World - The Geopolitical Perspective</p> <p>Dr. David MANSET</p> <p>Senior Coordinator, United Nations, International Telecommunications Union, from the University of Nairobi, Kenya (via Zoom)</p>

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<p>Design of the Future Workforce</p> <p>Questions on the design of the “future worker” Which skills? Which character? Which leadership?</p>		10:15-10:30	Q&A		
		10:30-10:45	BREAK		
	Moderator		Dr. Lyse LANGLOIS, Director General, OBVIA		
	D	10:45-11:15	<p>Definition Of Skills</p> <p>Dr. Auxane BOCH Associate Researcher, Institute for Ethics in Artificial Intelligence, IEAI, Technical University of Munich (via Zoom)</p>		
	E	11:15-11:45	<p>The Future Of Work in An AI World</p> <p>Dr. Ifeoma AJUNWA Professor Emory School of Law, Associate Dean for Projects and Partnerships, Emory University</p>		
		11:45-12:00	Q&A		
	12:00-1:00	LUNCH			
Session Two	12:45-4:00	De/Re/Up Skilling - What is the role, the point (need?) of humans?			
		Via Zoom: Dr. John BANJA, Dr. Auxane BOCH, Dr. Emmanuel GOFFI			
Design of the Future Workforce	F	12:45 - 1:30	Fx: The Ethical, Legal, & Governance Perspective	Fy: The Economic and Societal Perspective	Fv: The Technological Perspective
			Change of skills and impact on human nature (Bioethics)	Changes in the business organization	What could technology do to help with transitioning?

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			Fx continued	Fy continued	Fv continued
<p>Questions and Design of the "future worker"</p> <p>Which skills?</p> <p>Which character?</p> <p>Which leadership?</p>	F	12:45-1:30	<p>Legal and governance issues, AI and hiring</p>	<p>What consequences on society? How to be inclusive?</p>	<p>Are there limits? Should there be limits?</p>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Hazar Haidar • Dr. Charles Dupras • Dr. Ifeoma Ajunwa 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Dominique Boullier • Dr. Antoine Casgrain • Todd Lane, M.A. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alexandra Blank, M.Ed. • Dr. Sebastien Louradour • Dr. Ismaila Seck (TBC)
			BREAK		
F	1:45-2:30	<p>Shared and Cross Session Leaders from the breakout groups come to the stage and share their takeaways.</p> <p>Moderator: Dr. Colette Brin, Professor, Director, Center of Media Studies, Laval University</p>			
	2:30-2:45	BREAK			
G	2:45-3:30	<p>Dialogue: What is unique about being a human in an AI world and era? This "Je ne sais quoi" in Humans makes the difference with the machine –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Chloé Bakalar, Chief Ethicist, Meta (via Zoom) • Dr. Dominique Boullier, Emeritus Professor, Sciences Po, Paris • Andréane Sabourin-Laflamme, PhD Candidate, Professor of Philosophy, Cégep André-Laurendeau <p>Moderator: Dr. Beverly Wright, PhD, CAP, Vice-President of Data Science & AI at Wavicle, DS&AI Thought Leader, Executive Professor at UGA</p>			
	3:30-3:45	BREAK			

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Session Three	3:45-4:30	EDUCATION AND AI
H	3:45-4:30	<p>Moderator: Dr. Beverly WRIGHT</p> <p>Panel on Education AI in Education - Education on AI</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Paul WELTY, Vice-Provost for Academic Innovation, Emory University (via Zoom)• Professor Colin DE LA HIGUERA, Chairman of the UNESCO Chair RELIA, Nantes University (via Zoom)• Marquise MCGRIFF, Assistant Director for Career Pathways-Artificial Intelligence, University of Florida, Gainesville• Jimena LUNA, Senior Manager, Global AI Policy Lead, Lenovo
I	4:30-5:00	<p>Conclusion and Takeaways Students from Simuvaction on AI</p>