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TECHNOLOGY AND SOUL: JUNG AND POSTHUMANISM

Technology brings many gifts, but its shadow is omnipresent. More than ever we need insight into what motivates progress and innovation in the computer age.

People have begun to substitute everyday life with experiences in cyberspace, and the quest to merge mind and body with artificial intelligence is well underway. Chip implants beneath our skin will soon be commonplace, alongside developments in psychotropic medication, genetic engineering and robotics aimed to radically transform the fabric of human existence.

The impact these changes will have on the psyche remains an unexplored question. It appears to be critical that we uncover the unconscious patterns driving this ultimate makeover.

Jung once said, “civilized man...is in danger of losing all contact with the world of instinct,” adding that this loss “is largely responsible for the pathological condition of contemporary culture.” In this lecture, a Jungian understanding of instinctual life and psychological wellbeing will be discussed in light of current and impending technologies. At the heart of the presentation will be a critical exploration of the posthuman movement.



Glen Slater, Ph.D. has studied and trained in religious studies and clinical psychology. For the past two decades he has been a faculty member at Pacifica Graduate Institute, where he is the Associate Chair of the Jungian Archetypal Studies Program. Glen has written a number of articles for Jungian journals and essay collections, and he edited and introduced the third volume of James Hillman’s Uniform Edition, *Senex and Puer*, as well as a volume by Pacifica faculty, *Varieties of Mythic Experience*. He is writing a book on depth psychology and new technologies.

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