

# The Mirandola Charter

## A Charter for AI Humanism and Human Flourishing in the Age of Artificial Intelligence

### Preamble

Artificial intelligence is changing the conditions under which human beings think, learn, create, work, communicate, organize, and act.

This transformation presents a distinctly human question: what can human beings and human institutions become when they share increasingly sophisticated forms of cognition, communication, analysis, creation, and execution with machines?

The Mirandola Institute is established to advance inquiry into that question.

The Institute draws inspiration from Giovanni Pico della Mirandola and the broader Renaissance humanist tradition. That tradition placed intellectual cultivation, scholarship, rhetoric, judgment, education, and participation in civic and institutional life at the center of human development. Its enduring insight was confidence in the capacity of human beings to develop themselves, enlarge their understanding, create institutions, and shape the conditions in which they live.

Artificial intelligence gives this humanist project renewed significance.

Humanity is developing systems that can extend intellectual and productive capability across fields of knowledge and action. These systems can help people explore more information, develop ideas, create new forms of expression, coordinate complex activity, and undertake work previously beyond the reach of individuals or small groups. As these capabilities expand, so too does the opportunity to reconsider how people learn, exercise judgment, build institutions, create knowledge, and direct intelligent action.

The Mirandola Institute approaches this moment with confidence in human potential.

Its mission is:

**To develop the intellectual foundations, scholarship, institutions, and people needed for human flourishing in the age of artificial intelligence.**

The intellectual tradition through which the Institute pursues this mission is **AI Humanism**.

AI Humanism renews the humanist project for an age in which intelligence is increasingly abundant, humans can augment cognition technologically, and execution is distributed across human and machine systems. AI Humanism places human development at the center of inquiry

and asks how intelligence, in all its emerging forms, can enlarge the capacities of people and institutions.

AI Humanism draws its historical foundation from Renaissance humanism and develops that tradition for contemporary conditions.

The guiding question of the Mirandola Institute is:

**What can human beings become in an age of capable machines?**

# Article I

## The Humanist Foundation

Renaissance humanism began with confidence in the cultivability of human capability.

The *studia humanitatis* developed command of language, rhetoric, history, interpretation, and moral reasoning. These disciplines formed people capable of exercising judgment and contributing meaningfully to the institutions and intellectual life of their time.

Their significance extended beyond the knowledge they conveyed.

Language developed precision of thought and expression. Rhetoric developed the ability to reason, persuade, interpret, and deliberate. History expanded judgment through experience beyond the limits of a single lifetime. Literature and the arts cultivated imagination and insight into human character. Scholarship developed habits of inquiry, comparison, criticism, and discovery.

Together, these practices expressed a broader understanding of education as **human formation**.

The Mirandola Institute renews this tradition for the age of artificial intelligence.

Artificial intelligence changes the environment in which human capabilities develop and operate. It generates language at scale, synthesizes knowledge rapidly, amplifies individual creative and analytical capability, and increasingly participates in complex execution. These developments enlarge the field of human possibility and increase the value of judgment, interpretation, creativity, and intellectual independence.

AI Humanism asks how these capacities develop alongside machine intelligence and how institutions organize that relationship productively.

The Institute approaches the Renaissance as an intellectual inheritance whose central commitment remains alive: human beings can cultivate their capacities and participate actively in shaping the world they inhabit.

Its task is contemporary.

The foundational proposition is:

**Human capability is cultivable.**

Artificial intelligence expands the possibilities for that cultivation.

## Article II

### AI Humanism and the Four Pillars

AI Humanism is an interdisciplinary program for understanding and developing human capability in the age of artificial intelligence.

Its object of inquiry is the evolving relationship among people, intelligent machines, knowledge, and institutions. It asks how technological capability can contribute to deeper human capability and how institutions can organize that relationship purposefully.

The Mirandola Institute organizes this inquiry around four foundational pillars:

**Human Agency**  
**Institutional Integrity**  
**Knowledge Stewardship**  
**Governed Intelligence**

Each pillar addresses a different level of the human–machine relationship.

Human Agency concerns the capacity of people to form purposes and exercise meaningful judgment.

Institutional Integrity concerns how organizations structure authority, responsibility, and accountability as work moves across people and machines.

Knowledge Stewardship concerns how information becomes durable human and institutional understanding.

Governed Intelligence concerns the operational mechanisms through which delegated machine execution remains directed, observable, and revisable.

Together, the four pillars provide a framework for understanding human flourishing as intelligence becomes more abundant.

### Human Agency

Human agency is the capacity to form intentions, understand alternatives, exercise judgment, make choices, act, revise course, and assume responsibility for consequential decisions.

Artificial intelligence can extend this capacity considerably. It can broaden the information available to a person, expand the alternatives people can consider, increase analytical reach, lower the cost of experimentation, and make capabilities once available only to large organizations accessible to individuals and smaller groups.

AI Humanism studies how these tools can strengthen meaningful human authorship.

Agency depends upon the ability to determine purposes, evaluate alternatives, direct delegated action, and revise objectives as circumstances change. As machines participate more deeply in reasoning and execution, these capabilities become increasingly consequential.

The guiding principle is:

**Delegate execution while preserving human authorship.**

The Institute therefore studies the development of judgment, reasoning, problem framing, technological understanding, decision-making, and responsible delegation.

Its purpose is to understand how machine capability can enlarge the range over which people exercise meaningful agency.

## **Institutional Integrity**

Human achievement is amplified through institutions.

Firms, universities, professions, scientific organizations, markets, public bodies, and other forms of collective organization allow people to coordinate knowledge, authority, resources, and action at scales beyond individual capability.

Artificial intelligence expands the forms that this coordination can take.

Machines can participate in research, analysis, communication, planning, coordination, and execution. Institutions can consequently reconsider how work is organized, how expertise is distributed, how decisions are made, and how people collaborate.

Institutional Integrity concerns the organization of authority and accountability around this changing distribution of work.

It asks who may authorize action, who bears responsibility, how mandates remain connected to institutional purpose, and how accountability persists as execution moves across human and machine participants.

This leads to an important institutional proposition:

**Execution can move. Accountability remains.**

Institutional Integrity therefore focuses on the organization itself: its purposes, authority structures, responsibilities, decision rights, and capacity to learn.

The objective is institutional capability: organizations able to employ machine intelligence while remaining coherent, adaptable, and accountable to the people responsible for their purposes.

## **Knowledge Stewardship**

Artificial intelligence is creating extraordinary abundance in access to information, synthesis, and generated analysis.

This abundance creates an opportunity to enlarge human knowledge.

Knowledge Stewardship concerns the practices through which information becomes understanding, and understanding becomes a durable human and institutional capability. It develops expertise, verification, intellectual memory, disciplined inquiry, and new knowledge.

AI can accelerate each of these activities. It can expose people to wider bodies of literature, connect distant ideas, support scientific inquiry, extend analytical capability, and make sophisticated forms of learning accessible to more people.

The central humanist task is to convert abundance into greater understanding.

The guiding principle is:

**Use intelligent machines to expand what humanity can know and deepen humanity's capacity to understand.**

The Institute therefore studies how expertise develops in AI-rich environments, how scholarship changes when synthesis becomes inexpensive, how education can make greater use of abundant intelligence, and how institutions can preserve and extend the knowledge on which independent judgment depends.

Knowledge Stewardship treats AI as an opportunity to expand both the frontier of knowledge and the population capable of contributing to it.

## **Governed Intelligence**

Intelligence becomes institutionally powerful when it can translate purpose into action.

Governed Intelligence concerns the mechanisms through which delegated machine execution remains faithful to purpose, observable in operation, and capable of correction.

It begins where institutional authority becomes operational.

An institution establishes a purpose and expresses that purpose through a mandate. It delegates authority. Intelligent systems participate in execution. Evidence allows the institution to assess how execution relates to the mandate and revise action when necessary.

Governed Intelligence therefore concerns the design of objectives, constraints, evidence, escalation, and correction within machine-enabled execution.

Its governing principle is:

**Delegated intelligence should remain directed, observable, and revisable.**

This pillar focuses on the practical architecture of delegation. It asks how institutions represent intent, bound authority, preserve evidence of execution, identify deviations, and allow systems to adapt while remaining faithful to institutional purpose.

The opportunity is substantial: increasingly capable machines operating within increasingly capable institutions.

The four pillars together express the central conviction of AI Humanism:

**The advancement of machine capability can become an engine for the advancement of human and institutional capability.**

## Article III

### Scholarship and Interdisciplinary Inquiry

The Mirandola Institute develops AI Humanism through scholarship.

Artificial intelligence reaches across established boundaries of knowledge because its consequences arise simultaneously in technology, cognition, organizations, education, economics, communication, creativity, and institutional action.

The Mirandola Institute shall therefore cultivate interdisciplinary inquiry with disciplinary depth.

Its work will bring technical knowledge into conversation with the humanities, social sciences, management disciplines, sciences, and the professions. The combination of disciplines will follow the question under examination.

Interdisciplinarity at Mirandola requires serious engagement with knowledge beyond one's primary field when the problem demands it.

A scholar studying institutional uses of artificial intelligence should understand the relevant technological capabilities. Technical work concerning organizations should engage with how authority, incentives, expertise, and decision-making operate in practice. Claims about human behavior should draw upon appropriate behavioral evidence. Historical comparisons should respect the particularities of the periods they connect.

The Institute values intellectual range because many of the questions raised by artificial intelligence reside between established disciplines.

It also values the productive relationship between scholarship and practice. Institutions create settings in which to examine theoretical propositions. Scholarship provides concepts through which practical experience can be understood, compared, and improved.

The Institute will foster this exchange while preserving the standards appropriate to each form of knowledge.

The **Intellectual Agenda of AI Humanism** shall establish the detailed research questions and priorities. The Charter defines the intellectual domain. The Agenda develops the research program within it.

## **Article IV**

### **Standards of Inquiry**

The authority of the Mirandola Institute shall arise from the quality of its inquiry.

The Institute therefore commits itself to standards designed to support knowledge that is rigorous, useful, and open to improvement.

#### **Evidence**

Claims about artificial intelligence and its consequences should rest on evidence appropriate to the question being examined. Demonstrated capability, projected capability, interpretation, and speculation should remain distinguishable.

#### **Technological Seriousness**

Research should engage artificial intelligence as it operates in practice. Technical understanding should be sufficient to support the significance of the conclusions being drawn.

#### **Historical Seriousness**

Technological change is best understood with awareness of earlier transformations in knowledge, production, communication, and institutions. Historical comparison provides perspective while preserving attention to genuinely new conditions.

## **Institutional Realism**

Research concerning organizations should reflect how organizations actually function. Effective institutional analysis recognizes limits on attention, uneven expertise, competing objectives, incentives, and the realities of implementation.

## **Intellectual Clarity**

Important assumptions should be visible. Writing should define concepts with enough precision to permit examination, criticism, and refinement.

## **Pluralism**

Serious inquiry benefits from competing interpretations. The Institute shall create conditions in which scholars and practitioners can disagree constructively while sharing standards of evidence and reasoning.

## **Revision**

Knowledge develops through correction and refinement. The Institute shall regard the revision of claims in light of better evidence or stronger argument as a form of intellectual progress.

## **Intellectual Independence**

AI Humanism is a scholarly tradition grounded in Renaissance humanism, intellectual pluralism, and open inquiry.

The Mirandola Institute maintains intellectual independence from partisan, theological, and commercial doctrine. Its scholarship will be guided by the significance of the questions it examines and the strength of the evidence and arguments brought to them.

The Institute shall structure funding, partnerships, institutional relationships, and internal authority to preserve that independence.

These standards constitute commitments against which to judge the Institute's work.

# **Article V**

## **Human Formation and Civic Life**

Human capability develops through education, experience, practice, and participation in institutions.

AI Humanism therefore places human formation alongside technological development as a defining concern of the AI age.

Artificial intelligence can increase access to sophisticated forms of knowledge and expression. This makes the abilities to interpret, question, evaluate, create, and exercise judgment increasingly valuable.

Rhetoric holds a particular place in this development.

Language is an instrument through which people reason, explain, persuade, deliberate, and coordinate action. Generative systems can now produce fluent language at extraordinary scale, increasing the value of the human capacity to understand how language relates to evidence, reasoning, and meaning.

The AI Humanist should therefore be able to assess the relationship between claims and evidence, examine assumptions, construct arguments, formulate consequential questions, and communicate reasoning clearly.

Rhetorical competence includes both expression and interpretation. It allows people to participate effectively in institutions and to engage machine-generated language with intellectual independence.

Human formation also encompasses the development of expertise, professional judgment, creativity, technological understanding, and the capacity to act responsibly within institutions.

Artificial intelligence creates opportunities to reconsider how these capabilities are developed and how education can move toward deeper forms of understanding as access to information becomes increasingly abundant.

The central educational question is:

**What should an educated and capable person be able to understand and do in an age of intelligent machines?**

**Studia Humanitatis** shall develop the Institute's educational framework for exploring that question.

Humanism also carries a civic dimension.

Scholarship acquires broader significance when it contributes to the quality of institutional and civic life. Knowledge enables people to participate more intelligently in the organizations, professions, communities, and shared institutions through which human purposes are pursued.

The Mirandola Institute therefore renews the ideal of the **scholar-citizen** for the AI age.

The scholar-citizen seeks understanding and contributes it to the institutions in which people act together. The scholar-citizen contributes understanding through scholarship, professional practice, leadership, and civic participation.

The Institute shall encourage scholarship capable of moving between disciplined inquiry and consequential human practice.

Its purpose is to cultivate people who can understand deeply, reason independently, communicate clearly, and contribute intelligently to the institutions and communities they inhabit.

## Article VI

### Institutional Purpose and Work

The Mirandola Institute shall advance AI Humanism by creating and supporting serious intellectual work.

Its first responsibility is scholarship.

The Institute shall develop research around the four pillars, convene interdisciplinary inquiry, engage institutions in the study of emerging practices, and communicate ideas capable of improving understanding of the AI age.

Publication is central to this mission.

The Institute shall sponsor **HumanitAI** as a forum for scholarship and serious public inquiry into human flourishing in the age of artificial intelligence. The **HumanitAI Editorial Charter** shall separately establish its editorial purpose, standards, and forms of publication.

The Institute shall maintain a set of complementary founding documents.

The **Declaration of AI Humanism** shall express the philosophy in concise public form.

The **Intellectual Agenda of AI Humanism** shall define the research questions through which the Institute develops the field.

**Studia Humanitatis** shall establish the educational framework for cultivating the capabilities associated with AI Humanism.

Together, these works form a coherent institutional architecture. The Charter establishes purpose and enduring principles. The Declaration gives those principles public expression. The

Intellectual Agenda directs research. *Studia Humanitatis* develops human formation. *HumanitAI* provides a venue in which ideas can be examined, challenged, and extended.

Additional programs may develop as the Institute's scholarship, community, and institutional capabilities mature.

Demonstrated contribution should earn intellectual authority. The Institute's reputation should follow from the quality of its scholarship, the importance of its questions, and the usefulness of the knowledge it creates.

## Article VII

### Independence and Governance

The governance of the Mirandola Institute shall support its intellectual purpose.

Authority should be clear, responsibilities should be identifiable, and conflicts of interest should be transparent. Institutional arrangements should protect the independence of scholarship and publication while providing sound stewardship of the Institute's resources and mission.

Governance shall evolve with the scale and maturity of the Institute. Its development should provide for effective institutional oversight, scholarly leadership, editorial independence, and financial stewardship.

The Institute's intellectual character shall remain broader than any founder, donor, discipline, technology provider, or school of thought.

Founders establish institutions capable of continuing inquiry beyond the assumptions with which they began.

That principle is especially important to an organization dedicated to humanism. The Institute should remain capable of learning from the scholarship it produces.

The Institute's independence rests on a positive commitment to open inquiry. It will select questions for their significance to human and institutional capability. Conclusions will follow the strongest available evidence and argument. Competing interpretations will be welcomed where they improve understanding.

The Institute will examine its own practices in light of the principles it studies. Its use of artificial intelligence, organization of authority, production of scholarship, and preservation of institutional knowledge should also provide opportunities to learn.

The Institute will earn credibility through its conduct.

# Article VIII

## The Mirandola Commitment

The Mirandola Institute holds that an age of increasingly capable machines can also become an age of increasingly capable human beings and institutions.

Artificial intelligence expands the frontier of what people can know, create, analyze, and execute. AI Humanism directs attention toward the human capacities that can grow alongside that expansion.

Human Agency develops the capacity to form purposes and exercise meaningful authorship.

Institutional Integrity develops organizations capable of coordinating human and machine intelligence while maintaining coherent authority and accountability.

Knowledge Stewardship converts informational abundance into deeper understanding and extends the capabilities through which knowledge is created.

Governed Intelligence provides the mechanisms through which delegated machine action remains directed, observable, and revisable.

Scholarship connects these pillars.

Human formation gives them continuity across generations.

Civic participation brings them into the institutions and communities through which human beings shape a shared world.

The Mirandola Institute commits itself to developing each with intellectual ambition and institutional discipline.

We approach artificial intelligence as a consequential human creation and a new means through which people can extend their capabilities.

We approach scholarship as a process of discovery, criticism, refinement, and creation.

We approach institutions as instruments through which people coordinate knowledge and action toward shared purposes.

We approach education as the formation of capacities that allow people to exercise judgment in changing conditions.

We approach civic life as the domain in which knowledge, judgment, and responsibility contribute to collective human capability.

And we approach human potential as open-ended.

The central question of Renaissance humanism retains its force:

**What can human beings become?**

Artificial intelligence expands the conditions under which that question is answered.

The Mirandola Institute exists to advance that inquiry and to develop the scholarship, institutions, and people that expand human possibility.

**The humanist project continues.**