

Towards a New Taxonomy of Intelligence: Blending Human, Technological, and Artificial Intelligence

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ABSTRACT

The objective of this article is to explore the convergence of human intelligence, technological intelligence (smart), and artificial intelligence (AI) through the lens of syncretic intelligence, an advanced model that consciously and harmoniously integrates these complementary forces. By redefining the boundaries between human cognitive capabilities, smart technologies, and artificial systems, this chapter proposes a new classification system that distinguishes and unifies these forms of intelligence. Syncretic intelligence represents a cohesive framework that symbolises the interdependence and synergy between these dimensions, enabling collaboration and mutual transformation. This chapter aims to provide a fresh perspective on the future of AI as a collaborative ecosystem, highlighting its potential to generate innovative and sustainable solutions that transcend individual limitations.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Technological advances and the emergence of artificial intelligence systems have fragmented the traditional definition of intelligence. This division has created challenges in the collaboration and coexistence between human capabilities, intelligent devices and autonomous systems.

We are at a crossroads in the evolution of intelligence. The human capacity to innovate, the power of technology to optimise and the accuracy of artificial intelligence to predict are merging in unprecedented ways. This convergence not only redefines what we mean by intelligence, but also opens the door to new possibilities for collaboration between these dimensions. This chapter introduces the concept of Syncretic Intelligence, a framework that harmonises human, technological, and artificial intelligences into a unified system. Through this new taxonomy, it seeks to transcend the individual limitations of each intelligence, maximising their collective potential to face the challenges of the present and build a more sustainable, interconnected and efficient future. This chapter presents an innovative approach to unifying these dimensions under a syncretic model, maximising their individual strengths while building an interconnected and sustainable future.

This chapter introduces a novel taxonomy of intelligence grounded in the concept of Syncretic Intelligence, which seeks to integrate human intelligence, technological (smart) intelligence, and artificial intelligence within a unified and interdependent framework. In contrast to approaches that examine these forms of intelligence in isolation or primarily frame artificial intelligence as a substitute for human capabilities, this chapter foregrounds their functional complementarity, shared agency, and collaborative potential within socio-technical systems. The chapter is organised as follows: Section 2 reviews and redefines the concept of intelligence across human, technological, and artificial domains; Section 3 presents the proposed syncretic taxonomy and its functional structure; Section 4 examines the ethical, philosophical, and applied implications of multi-intelligence systems, including autonomy and creativity; and Section 5 concludes by outlining broader implications and future research directions associated with this integrative framework.

2. REDEFINING INTELLIGENCE: FROM HUMAN COGNITION TO TECHNOLOGICAL AND ARTIFICIAL SYSTEMS

The increasing interplay between human intelligence, technological intelligence, and artificial intelligence necessitates a new taxonomy that redefines their relationships and functionalities. This taxonomy seeks to categorize and integrate these distinct forms of intelligence into a unified framework, recognizing their unique capabilities while emphasizing their potential synergy.

Initially, intelligence was understood mainly in terms of cognitive and academic skills, such as logic and mathematical reasoning. However, the theory of multiple intelligences proposed by Howard Gardner in 1983 revolutionized this view by suggesting that there are various forms of intelligence, including musical, interpersonal and emotional, among others. This theory has had a significant impact on education, promoting pedagogical methods that recognize and encourage the different abilities of students (Hernández & Prats, 2022).

According to Marin Guamán & Marín Guerrero (2023), AI has evolved from its beginnings in the 1950s, through the development of expert systems in the 1960s and 1970s, to the present day, where its application extends to multiple fields, including education and health. This

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