

# DR. ÉMILE P. TORRES

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Areas of Specialization: Normative and Applied Ethics, AI Ethics, Ethics of Human Extinction, Global Catastrophic and Existential Risks

Areas of Competence: Philosophy of Technology, Environmental Ethics, Bioethics

## **Education**

- 2023-2025     Postdoc, Inamori International Center for Ethics and Excellence, Case Western Reserve University
- 2020-2023     PhD, Philosophy, Institute of Philosophy, Leibniz Universität Hannover  
Dissertation title: *Human Extinction: A History of the Science and Ethics of Annihilation*, published by Routledge on July 14, 2023, in their “History of Science, Technology, and Medicine” series  
Supervisors: Mathias Frisch and Ralf Stoecker
- 2008-2009     Special Student, Department of Philosophy, Harvard University (4.0 GPA)
- 2007-2009     MS, Neuroscience, Biology Department, Brandeis University (3.6 GPA)
- 2005-2007     BA, Philosophy (with Honors), Department of Philosophy, University of Maryland, College Park (4.0 GPA in Major: Philosophy)  
Schlaretzki Prize for “most outstanding” graduating senior

## **Affiliations and Visiting Positions**

- 2025     Affiliate scholar at Data & Society
- 2019     Visiting Scholar at the Centre for the Study of Existential Risk, University of Cambridge (March to June)
- 2017     Visiting Researcher at the Future of Humanity Institute, University of Oxford (July 15-18)

## **Books**

- 2024 *Human Extinction: A History of the Science and Ethics of Annihilation* (Routledge).
- 2017 *Morality, Foresight, and Human Flourishing: An Introduction to Existential Risks* (Pitchstone Publishing). Foreword by Lord Martin Rees, UK Astronomer Royal.
- 2016 *The End: What Science and Religion Tell Us About the Apocalypse* (Pitchstone Publishing). Foreword by Dr. Russell Blackford.
- 2012 *A Crisis of Faith: Atheism, Emerging Technologies, and the Future of Humanity* (Dangerous Little Books).

## **Articles & Book Chapters**

### **Philosophy**

- 2026 “TESCREAL,” forthcoming (by invitation) in the *Glossary of Techno-Climatic Concepts: Tools for Navigating Uncertainty*.
- 2025 “TESCREAL,” forthcoming (by invitation) in the *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Science, Technology, and Society*.
- 2025 “If Artificial Superintelligence Were to Cause Our Extinction, Would That Be So Bad?,” forthcoming in *Canadian Journal of Bioethics*.
- 2025 “Four Key Concepts in Existential Health Care Ethics,” forthcoming in the *AMA Journal of Ethics*.
- 2025 “How Might Healthcare Think About the Ethics of Human Extinction?,” forthcoming in the *AMA Journal of Ethics*. Coauthored with Devin Kellis.
- 2025 “On the Extinction of Humanity,” *Synthese*.
- 2025 “Extinction Medicine: The Case for a New Medical Specialty.” Co-authored with Devin Kellis. SSRN. [This has not yet been peer-reviewed]
- 2025 “Do We Live in Hell? A Comprehensive Empirical Survey of the World’s Vast Suffering.” SSRN. [This has not yet been peer-reviewed]
- 2024 “The TESCREAL Bundle: Eugenics and the Promise of Utopia through Artificial General Intelligence.” *First Monday*. 29(4). Coauthored with Dr. Timnit Gebru.
- 2024 “Colonization, Consciousness, and Longtermism.” *The Philosophy of Outer Space*

*Explorations, Controversies, Speculations* (edited by Marcello Di Paola and Mirko Garasic). Routledge.

- 2020 “Can Anti-Natalists Oppose Human Extinction? The Harm-Benefit Asymmetry, Person-Uploading, and Human Enhancement.” *South African Journal of Philosophy*. 39(3): 229-245.
- 2020 “The Future of War: Could Lethal Autonomous Weapons Make Conflict More Ethical?” *AI & Society*. 35: 273-282. Coauthored with Steven Umbrello and Angelo F. De Bellis.
- 2019 “Existential Risks: A Philosophical Analysis.” *Inquiry: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Philosophy*. 1-26. DOI: 10.1080/0020174X.2019.1658626.
- 2018 “Superintelligence and the Future of Governance: On Prioritizing the Control Problem at the End of History.” *Artificial Intelligence Safety and Security*, edited by Roman Yampolskiy, CRC Press.
- 2018 “Space Colonization and Suffering Risks: Reassessing the Maxipok Rule.” *Futures*. 100: 74-85.
- 2017 “Moral Bioenhancement and Agential Risks: Good and Bad Outcomes.” *Bioethics*. 31: 691-696.
- 2011 “Emerging Technologies and the Future of Philosophy.” *Metaphilosophy*. 42(5): 682-707.
- 2010 “Review of Minds and Computers.” *Techne: Research in Philosophy and Technology*. 14(2): 158-162.
- 2009 “A Modified Conception of Mechanisms.” *Erkenntnis*. 71(2): 233-251.

### Global catastrophic risk

- 2025 “Is the Hype Just Hyperbole? Understanding the Promise and Perils of Quantum Computing.” Technical report for the Inamori International Center for Ethics and Excellence.
- 2024 “Ripples on the Great Sea of Life: A Brief History of Existential Risk Studies.” In *An Anthology of Global Risk* (edited by S. J. Beard and Thomas Hobson). Open Book Publishers. Coauthored with S. J. Beard.
- 2023 “Maniacs, Misanthropes, and Omnicidal Terrorists: Reassessing the Agential Risk Framework.” In *Intersections, Reinforcements, Cascades: Proceedings of the 2023 Stanford Existential Risks Conference*.

- 2020 “Assessing Climate Change’s Contribution to Global Catastrophic Risk.” *Futures*. Coauthored with S. J. Beard, Lauren Holt, Shahar Avin, Asaf Tzachor, Luke Kemp, and Haydn Belfield
- 2020 “Identifying and Assessing the Drivers of Global Catastrophic Risk: A Review and Proposal for the Global Challenges Foundation.” *Global Challenges Foundation*. Coauthored with S. J. Beard
- 2018 “Facing Disaster: The Great Challenges Framework.” *Foresight*. 21(1): 4-34.
- 2018 “Long-Term Trajectories of Human Civilization.” *Foresight* (special issue on existential risks). 21(1): 53-83. Co-authored with: Seth Baum (lead author), Stuart Armstrong, Timoteus Dahlberg, Olle Häggström, Robin Hanson, Karin Kuhlemann, Matthijs Maas, James Miller, Markus Salmela, Anders Sandberg, Kaj Sotala, Alexei Turchin, and Roman Yampolskiy.  
Won the 2020 Literati Award for “Outstanding Paper.”
- 2018 “Who Would Destroy the World? Omnicidal Agents and Related Phenomena.” *Aggression and Violent Behavior*. 39: 129-138.
- 2018 “Agential Risks and Information Hazards: An Unavoidable but Dangerous Topic?” *Futures*. 95: 86-97.
- 2016 “Agential Risks: A Comprehensive Introduction.” *Journal of Evolution and Technology*. 26(2): 31-47.
- 2011 “Technology and Our Epistemic Situation: What Ought Our Priorities To Be?” *Foresight*. 13(1): 46-57.
- 2010 “Risk Mysterianism and Cognitive Boosters.” *Journal of Future Studies*. 15(1): 1-20.
- 2009 “Transhumanism, Progress, and the Future.” *Journal of Evolution and Technology*. 20(2): 49-69.

### **Articles Under Review**

“Should Humanity Go Extinct? Examining the Arguments for Pro-Extinctionism.” Under review.

### **Teaching**

2025: Impact of Engineering on Society, Case Western Reserve University  
Undergraduate course, Engineering 399 (Fall semester)

350 students in total; co-teaching with Dr. Peter Hovmand

2025: Impact of Engineering on Society, Case Western Reserve University  
Undergraduate course, Engineering 399 (Spring semester)  
350 students in total; co-teaching with Dr. Daniel Lacks

2024: Contemporary Moral Problems, Case Western Reserve University  
Undergraduate course, Philosophy 205 (Fall semester)

2024: Ethics of Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technology, Case Western Reserve University. Co-taught with Dr. Shannon French.  
Undergraduate/graduate course, Philosophy 393/493 (Spring semester)

2022-2023: The Ethics of Human Extinction, Leibniz Universität Hannover.  
Master's/undergraduate course (Winter semester)

### **External Funding and Grants**

ELSI team member, FSHARP Artificial Blood DARPA grant, 2022-present. Funded for 2023-2028.

ELSI team member, ONR grant for a Human Fusions Institute project, submitted 2023. Project goal: to build robotic arms controlled and experienced by human subjects.

ELSI team member, privately funded project on the ethical implications of quantum computing, submitted 2023.

### **Selected Conference Presentations and Guest Lectures (recent only)**

2025 TBD. Seminar panel on Effective Altruism, co-organized with Apolline Taillandier (Leverhulme Centre for the Future of Intelligence) and Linsey McGoey.

2025 “Longtermism and the Sixth Mass Extinction Event.” Decelerating Extinction: Pathways to Livable & Flourishing. 5th Metahuman Futures Forum.

2025 Commentator and panelist at the “Resisting Predatory Data” event hosted by Data & Society, along with Dr. Anita Say Chen and Dr. Timnit Gebru. Moderated by Maia Woluchem.

2025 Guest lecture on AI ethics for Dr. Shannon French’s course titled “Ethics of Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technologies” at Case Western Reserve University.

2025 Guest lecture on AI ethics for Denise Polverine’s course titled “Media Literacy:

Understanding and Engaging with Media” at Case Western Reserve University.

- 2024 Guest lecture on AI ethics and the race to build AGI for Dr. Anthony Jack’s Fall course at Case Western Reserve University.
- 2024 “Worldviews of AI: Understanding How the TESCOREAL Ideologies Are Driving the AGI Race,” by invitation. Hosted by the University of Vale do Rio dos Sinos, Brazil.
- 2024 Guest lecture, by invitation, “Critical Perspectives on Artificial Intelligence and Automation,” at the University of Copenhagen.
- 2024 “Q&A on the TESCOREAL Bundle,” by invitation. Hosted by the University of Colorado’s Population Center. Organized by Drs. Brian Keegan and Leslie Root.
- 2024 Co-organizer, with Dr. Alice Crary: *How (not) to Build a Bunker Reinvigorating Democracy—Rejecting AI Apocalypticism and Resisting the Rush to Build AGI*, to be held at The New School for Social Research, October 17-18. I will give one presentation and moderate another. A film crew of 5 people from France will be there to interview me for a documentary on Silicon Valley.
- 2024 “The Ideologies Shaping the Race to Build AGI.” Guest lecture for “Future Societies,” taught by Geoff Nesnow at Hult International Business School.
- 2024 “TESCREALism, the Tech Right, and the Reckless Race to Build Artificial General Intelligence.” Toronto AI Ethics Symposium, keynote address, by invitation.
- 2024 Guest lecture on AI and the ideologies of Silicon Valley for Dr. Matt Seidel’s course “Ethics in the Digital Age” at the Rochester Institute of Technology.
- 2024 “We’re All Gonna Die! Understanding the Origins and Evolution of the Idea of Human Extinction,” invited talk for the Posthumanism Research Institute (PRI), Brock University.
- 2024 “Utopian Fantasies and Machine Superintelligence: Understanding the Race to Build Artificial General Intelligence,” invited talk, Centre for Data Ethics and Innovation, UK Government.
- 2024 “Artificial General Intelligence, Silicon Valley, and the Eternal Return of Eugenics,” invited keynote address, hosted by the Working Group on the Global New Right, New York University.
- 2024 “Immortality, Superintelligence, and Utopia: Understanding the TESCOREAL Bundle of Ideologies and its Implications for Global Justice,” invited keynote address for the *Global Justice, Technology, and Integrated Research: Designing and*

*Reflecting on Human-Technology Relations Transdisciplinarily*, hosted by International Center for Ethics in the Sciences and Humanities, Germany.

- 2023 “How the Idea of Human Extinction Evolved Over Time.” Invited talk for the Ethics and Impacts of Extinction Research, hosted by the Extinction Studies Doctoral Training Programme, University of Leeds.
- 2023 “Regulating AI and the TESCREAL Bundle of Ideologies.” Regulating Emerging AI Technologies and Applications Across Borders, AI Governance Forum 2023, hosted by the AI Transparency Institute.
- 2023 “What Is the TESCREAL Bundle? And Why Does it Matter?” Invited talk at the “{Futures} loading...” conference, hosted by Leuphana University Lüneburg.
- 2023 “The Dangers of the ‘Galaxy Brain’: A Conversation About Longtermism with Émile P. Torres.” Invited talk, co-hosted by MIT’s Radius and the Office of Religious, Spiritual, and Ethical Life. November.
- 2023 “Meet the Author,” discussion about *Human Extinction: A History of the Science and Ethics of Annihilation*. “Entangled in Emergence,” Systemic Design Symposium, hosted by Georgetown University.
- 2023 “On the History of Thinking About Human Extinction.” Invited talk at the University of Sussex.
- 2023 “The TESCREAL Bundle of Ideologies.” Invited talk, hosted by UNESCO’s Information For All Programme (IFAP) Working Group on Information Accessibility.  
<https://ai4iaconference.com/dr-emile-p-torres/>. Video:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=txok0XY2ePU&ab\\_channel=AI4IAConference](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=txok0XY2ePU&ab_channel=AI4IAConference).
- 2023 “Human Extinction: A History of the Science and Ethics of Annihilation.” Invited talk, for the Johns Hopkins University/MIT salon series.
- 2023 “Why Longtermism Can’t Save Us.” By invitation: “Risk Reconsidered: Histories, Theories, Applications.” Hosted by the Calleva Centre for Evolution and Human Science, Magdalen College, Oxford.
- 2023 “The History of Thinking About Human Extinction.” Invited talk for the “Politics, Philosophy, and International Relations Research Seminar” series, hosted by Swansea University.
- 2023 “What Is Existential Ethics?” Invited talk hosted by the Institute for Interdisciplinary Studies of Science, Bielefeld University.
- 2023 “Climate Change and Human Extinction.” Guest lecture for “The Bible, Religions, and

Climate Change,” taught by Frances Flannery, James Madison University.

- 2022 “Human Enhancement and Biohacking.” Invited talk for the series: “Biohacking: The Limits and Possibilities of Technologically Reimagining Bodies,” hosted by the Centre for Gender Studies at the University of Cambridge.
- 2022 Workshop on Global Catastrophic Risks and Stratospheric Geoengineering, Utrecht University.
- 2021 “Global Catastrophic Risk and Space Colonization.” The Future of Catastrophic Risk. University of Warwick.
- 2021 “The Dangers of Dual-Use Technologies.” Guest lecture. Course taught by Dr. Francis Flannery, James Madison University.
- 2021 “A History of the End of the World.” Envision Conference. Princeton University.
- 2019 “What Are Existential Risks and Why Should You Care?” Envision Conference. Princeton University.
- 2019 “Three Paradigms in Existential Risk Studies: Where the Field is Today, and How it Got There.” Envision Conference. Princeton University.
- 2019 “Climate Change, Engineered Pandemics, and Artificial Intelligence: Understanding the Greatest Threats to Civilization this Century.” Guest lecture. Course taught by Dr. Matthew Rendall. University of Nottingham.
- 2019 “How Tragic Would Human Extinction Be? Convergent Arguments for Making the Survival of Our Lineage a Global Priority.” Ethics and Extinction conference. Centre for the Study of Existential Risk, University of Cambridge.
- 2019 “When Did We Realize That We Could Die Out?” Invited talk. History and Philosophy of Science Department, University of Cambridge
- 2019 “Existential Risks.” Invited Talk. Center for Human-Compatible AI at the University of California, University of California, Berkeley.
- 2018 “Existential Risks and Human Enhancement: Responses to Our Increasingly Complex Threat Environment.” Envision Conference. Princeton University.
- 2018 “Exploring the Interdisciplinary Nature of Existential Risk Research.” Envision Conference, workshop. Princeton University.
- 2017 “Introduction to Existential Risks.” Guest lecture. Course taught by Shankar Bhamidi, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.



- 2017 “Agential Risks: Implications for Existential Risk Reduction.” Existential Risks to Humanity Conference. University of Gothenburg.
- 2017 “Agential Risks: A New Topic for Research.” Invited talk. Future of Humanity Institute, University of Oxford.
- 2016 “The End of the World.” Guest lecture. Course taught by Hrvoje Moric, Tecnológico de Monterrey University.
- 2016 “New Atheism and Philosophy.” Guest lecture. Course taught by Peter Boghossian, Portland State University.

### **Recent Service**

Peer reviewer for *Australian Journal of Philosophy*, *Analysis*, *Futures*, *Filozofia*, *Res Philosophica*, *First Monday*, *Cambridge Prisms: Extinction*, *Scientific Reports*, and *Foresight*.  
Book reviewer for Bloomsbury Academic.

### **Outreach (select)**

- 2024 to present: Host of the “Ethics of Human Extinction Reading Group.” [www.xriskology.wixsite.com/extinctiongroup](http://www.xriskology.wixsite.com/extinctiongroup).
- 2024 to present: Podcast co-host with the comedian Kate Willett on Silicon Valley billionaires and the TESCREAL movement.
- 2023 to present: contributing writer at *Truthdig*.
- 2020 to present: contributing writer at *Salon*.
- 2025 “Digital Eugenics and the Extinction of Humanity.” *Tech Polity Press*.  
<https://www.techpolicy.press/digital-eugenics-and-the-extinction-of-humanity/>
- 2023 “The Immortals,” BBC Radio 4, featuring Dr. Émile P. Torres.  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0g9f5f6>.
- 2023 “Radical Longtermism and the Seduction of Endless Growth.” In *Perspectiva (Substack)*. Coauthored with Dr. Rupert Read.
- 2023 “A Fireball in the Marshall Islands: How a Nuclear Test Changed the World.” *Los*

*Angeles Review of Books.*

<https://lareviewofbooks.org/article/a-fireball-in-the-marshall-islands-how-a-nuclear-test-changed-the-world/>

- 2023 Interview about the “TESCREAL bundle” of ideologies on Team Human, hosted by Douglas Rushkoff. <https://www.teamhuman.fm/episodes/257-emile-p-torres>.
- 2023 “Longtermism Poses a Real Threat to Humanity.” *New Statesman*.  
<https://www.newstatesman.com/ideas/2023/08/longtermism-threat-humanity>
- 2023 Interview with *Al Jazeera* English TV on the risks of AGI (artificial general intelligence).  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pPDrhncqs8Q>
- 2023 Interview with Dr. Timnit Gebru on Dave Troy Presents, hosted by Dave Troy: “Understanding TESCREAL with Dr. Timnit Gebru and Émile Torres.”  
<https://pod.co/dave-troy/understanding-tescreal-with-dr-timnit-gebru-and-mile-torres>.
- 2023 Oxford Martin School public event: “Risk, Security, and Democracy: A Public Conversation.” Special invitation.  
<https://www.oxfordmartin.ox.ac.uk/events/risk-security-and-democracy/>.
- 2023 “How the World Could End—Take Two.” Interview for the Australian Broadcasting Corporation.  
<https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/futuretense/taking-another-look-at-how-the-world-could-end/102232206>
- 2023 Simulated Worlds and Rotating Spacecraft. Written by special invitation for the *Ambasz Essays*, published by the Museum of Modern Art in New York City (forthcoming). <https://www.moma.org/magazine/articles/883>.
- 2023 The Ethics of Human Extinction. *Aeon*. <https://aeon.co/essays/what-are-the-moral-implications-of-humanity-going-extinct>.
- 2022 Live Debate about Lethal Autonomous Weapons on Al Jazeera TV, December 31:  
<https://www.xriskology.com/multimedia>.
- 2022 Could AI Destroy Us? Interview with NewsTalk1010, iHeartRadio.
- 2022 One Potential Side Effect of AI? Human Extinction. *Washington Post*.  
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2022/08/31/artificial-intelligence-worst-case-scenario-extinction/>.
- 2021 Is Longtermism a Dangerous Way to Think? Australian Broadcasting Corporation interview: <https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/counterpoint/29-11-21/13649834>.

- 2021 Against Longtermism. *Aeon*. <https://aeon.co/essays/why-longtermism-is-the-worlds-most-dangerous-secular-credo>.
- 2019 Will Humans Survive the Century? BBC *Analysis* interview. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000358s>.
- 2017 How the World Could End: Killer Robots. *NowThis*. <https://www.facebook.com/ApocalypseNowThis/videos/118909272155213/>.

## **Mentoring**

Student Mentorship: Devin M. Kellis (MD/PhD Candidate in Biomedical Science (Neuroscience Track), University of South Carolina School of Medicine Columbia; 2023-current).

## **References**

### *Current:*

Dr. Shannon French, Inamori Professor in Ethics and Director of the Inamori International Center for Ethics and Excellence, Case Western Reserve University.

Dr. Rupert Read, Emeritus Associate Professor of Philosophy, University of East Anglia.

Dr. Mathias Frisch, Professor of Philosophy, Leibniz Universität Hannover.

Dr. Jason Stanley, Jacob Urowsky Professor of Philosophy, Yale University.

Dr. Alice Crary, University Distinguished Professor, The New School for Social Research.

### *Past:*

Dr. Lindley Darden, Professor of Philosophy, University of Maryland, College Park.

Dr. Sean Kelly, Teresa G. and Ferdinand F. Martignetti Professor of Philosophy and (former) Chair of the Department of Philosophy, Harvard University.

Dr. Helen De Cruz, Danforth Chair in the Humanities, Saint Louis University.