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Philosophy of the Future and the Posthuman: Implications and Philosophical Analysis

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Abstract: The relevance of the study arises from philosophical and ideological contradictions regarding human identity, which are intensifying in the scientific worldview and socio-cultural paradigm. The purpose of the article is to reveal the philosophical understanding of existential, anthropological, and axiological transformations of humans in the future. The research task is to highlight prospects for human dimensionality in the near future and global strategies of human existence within an uncertain future model. The analysis is based on reviewing, comparing, and systematising 52 scientific works covering anthropological topics within the context of philosophy, science, and civilisation. The study results indicate the

absence of a unified posthuman model due to the uncertainty of human positioning in the future. The modern scientific picture offers only fragmented changes to the traditional idea of humans (biological, social, spiritual). In contrast, philosophy remains a key tool for interpreting developmental vectors of anthropological strategies that ensure the integrity of future humanity. The study's specificity lies in balancing dichotomous and synergistic principles of philosophical and anthropological dimensions. On one hand, the posthuman contrasts with modern humans from scientific, natural, and socio-cultural perspectives. On the other hand, the formation of the posthuman is driven by processes where scientific, natural, and socio-cultural dimensions influence human transformation. The research prospects involve applying a synergistic model—potentially a methodological foundation for future philosophy—that emphasises pluralistic, interdisciplinary, and multicultural approaches to studying the posthuman. The study highlights the variability in scientific and philosophical discourse regarding the posthuman, leading to turbulence in philosophical and anthropological research. In this context, it is essential to preserve value-existential and functional-practical constants of the world order, correlating the philosophical methodology of the future (posthumanism and transhumanism) with characteristics of the human of the future.

Keywords: existential perspectives, synergistic model, characteristics of the posthuman, philosophical and anthropological discourse, posthumanism, transhumanism.

Introduction

Human aspirations for development and improvement demand ideas about the prospects of human existence. When such requests are fuelled by the practical achievements of scientific and technological progress and the dynamics of the information society, the issue of changing human identity in the world picture becomes a priority. It remains to define the basic framework of the new man, the level of which the current man seeks to reach.

The analysis of the terminology used in the materials studied forms a fundamental understanding of the posthuman. In particular, the Oxford Library emphasises the conceptual dimensions of the term posthuman.

"The posthuman is an umbrella term that is often used in a number of theoretical and critical discourses. The term 'posthuman' is used to describe modes of being that result from potential enhancements to human nature created by applied scientific and technological developments." (Rugo, 2020).

The posthuman is a generalised term for an abstract and disordered positioning of a person that differs from the characteristics of a modern human being. The formation and spread of such ideas have virtually no boundaries and are characterised by their scale and dynamism. The concept of the posthuman can be based on scientific evidence, religious beliefs, or imagination. The desire to form an image of another person with extraordinary abilities will always be a source for the posthuman.

The idea of the posthuman (but in different interpretations) existed in all previous cultural and historical epochs. With the development of civilisation, some elements of the desired

human improvement became a reality, while others remained at the level of fantastic dimensions. The modern worldview paradigm, guided by the innovative principles of society development, considers several variations of human improvement and going beyond the current understanding of its potential.

Research Problem

The topic of man's future has always caused a stir due to the desire to predict the development of the philosophical and worldview paradigm. At the same time, a person is constantly uncertain regarding his existential essence and potential completeness. Mythology, religion, science, and philosophy have constantly expanded the horizons of human knowledge, but have not yet achieved a complete understanding of human existence. Such realities increase the desire to comprehend all dimensions of the nature and essence of human existence. At the same time, the state of uncertainty gives rise to a powerful compensatory factor, which is to strengthen the interpretation of the human being of the future in order to reveal elements of human existence that are not clear in the present.

Public opinion demands a complete understanding of all the problems it can comprehend. However, without receiving a definitive answer from science or proof from religion, society is content with the current level of progress, introducing aspects of uncertainty into the issues that drive the further development of civilisation as a whole. Usually, while the science of the future creates theoretical and practical elements, the philosophy of the future provides guidelines to maintain the confidence of the individual and humanity in further existence and progress. The concept of the posthuman confirms this algorithm of functioning of the worldview.

Scientific and technological progress is creating large-scale transformations to create a "new nature" of man through artificial intelligence or bioengineering. The upgrade of a modern person does indeed look quite convincing in the context of enhancing their physical, intellectual and mental potential. The only problem is the consistency of scientific progress and the practical and everyday perception of the achievements of science and technology by modern man. It is difficult to surprise a person in the twenty-first century in the period of development of the information society with technical characteristics. For example, for a person of the sixteenth century, automated technology was a real miracle; for a person of the nineteenth century, robotic technology was the same miracle. At the same time, a relevant question arises - are there any potential inventions that can become a miracle for a person of the twenty-first century?

Research Focus

The concept of the posthuman is an urgent worldview issue that forms a number of ideas about the future of man. The problem is exacerbated in considering anthropological topics through the prism of the philosophy of the future. The traditional model of human understanding is losing weight in the context of innovative philosophical understanding. Therefore, the current study raises not only the problem of the posthuman, but also the aspect of postphilosophy as a tool for studying the new essence and nature of man.

Research Aim and Research Questions

The purpose of the article is to position the anthropological issue in the philosophy of the future through the development of the concept of posthuman. The prospects for the formation of a qualitatively new idea of the essence and potential of man create the need to actualise innovative philosophical guidelines. The tasks of scientific research are to reorient the traditional dichotomous anthropocentrism, in which man subordinates science, nature, and religion, to postanthropocentric principles, in which the synergistic model of man integrated into the paradigm of being dominates.

The key research question of the current study is formulated in the context of the dynamics of change in two main dimensions: a new understanding of the world order and new characteristics of man in it. The philosophical community is faced with a more complex question: What tools should be used when considering the posthuman: traditional ones inherent in the modern scientific paradigm or innovative ones that are experimental or even in a potentially project-based state?

Literature Review/Theoretical Overview

The scientific and philosophical discourse actively highlights the problem of man's and humanity's future. Since ancient times (Brock, 2020), the idea of a person with superpowers has always occupied a special place in worldview beliefs. Medieval philosophical thought created its paradigm of man as the personification of higher powers in the context of God in the form of man and the corresponding human desire to reach this level. Renaissance philosophy proposed man as a bodily and spiritual organism as a material from which it is possible to create a person with special qualities. The philosophy of the New Age added scientific and technological tools with which a person can achieve a state of perfection or immortality. The twentieth and twenty-first centuries scaled up all the existing ideas of human improvement, creating a trend of the human of the future in the philosophical, scientific and cultural space. In the modern dimension, the definition of "posthuman" is more characteristic in the context of human and humanity development principles in a new world order format, which will be the next stage of civilisation development (Malone et al., 2020).

The works of science fiction writers and scientists should be singled out as a cluster of ideas about the posthuman. Their works or concepts concentrate on the idea of human perfection. Various interpretations of the value and purpose of the posthuman create the resonance necessary to attract the audience. Nevertheless, we should pay tribute to science fiction works in popularising the concept of the posthuman (Aloi & McHugh, 2020). Some elements of the human image and characteristics are actively involved in modern scientific and philosophical concepts, but with appropriate theorisation, methodological justification and vectors of practical application.

The contribution of thinkers and opinion leaders in interpreting the human of the future and their potential should not be ignored. The ideas of Francis Fukuyama, Yuval Noah Harari, Nick Bostrom, and Stephen Hawking have already clearly identified the scientific basis for new human qualities. The modern worldview discourse, based on scientific, religious, philosophical,

and socio-cultural ideas, creates new guidelines (Camplin, 2020) for positioning the posthuman in the world order of the future.

A kind of integrated factor in the synergy of scientific and evidence-based ideas and science fiction ideas is the use of the methodology of posthumanism (Neubauer, 2021) and transhumanism (Liedo Fernandez & Rueda, 2021) as tools that help to establish the posthuman in the world order.

The problem of the post-humanist future of man is actualised in various spheres of human activity and society: education (Nath & Manna, 2023), history (Al-Kassimi, 2023), art (Boulter, 2022), law (Morska & Davydova, 2021), religion (Al-Kassimi, 2023).

In the contemporary scientific and philosophical discourse, the issues of the components that form the posthuman are becoming more and more relevant, with the key positions occupied by the following:

- artificial intelligence as a tool for the human ability to think by the challenges of nature (Cutter-Mackenzie-Knowles et al., 2020), technological and informational nature (Mellamphy, 2021);
- bioengineering as a format for constructing the human body (Susen, 2021) with a significantly reduced level of vulnerability;
- Innovative medicine in the context of improving the functionality (Romanska, 2024) and efficiency of systems and organs, increasing the duration and quality of life;
- the environmental realities of posthuman life (Jordan & Jonsson, 2024) with a significant increase in natural hazards or, conversely, the establishment of coexistence with the environment (Zapf, 2022);
- mental and cognitive practices and neuro-linguistic networks (Adams, Groten & Yin, 2024), with which the posthuman gets rid of mental and moral imbalances.

An important point identified in the literature analysis on the posthuman is the existential and goal-oriented dimensions of shaping the future of man, humanity and the world order. Among the aspects most frequently encountered in the works of contemporary researchers are the following issues:

- the problem of immortality;
- the problem of human identity (Quinn, 2021);
- the problem of the role and status of humans in nature and society (Hasse, 2022).

Despite the large amount of information related to the prospects of the posthuman, there are currently many gaps that do not reveal important issues or multiply existing contradictions. In particular, the issue of balancing theoretical guidelines of the potential identity of the posthuman with the practical dimensions of implementation in the realities of the world order remains open. Dube et al. (2023) on excessive posthuman theorisation with a predominance of non-scientific fantasy principles.

Research Methodology

General Background

The methodological framework employed in this study aligns with a qualitative review. The analytical approach is central, focusing on comparative and generalising features. Additionally, modelling principles are applied to develop a potential conceptual framework in which the posthuman acquires specific characteristics and capabilities.

This analytical framework is complemented by philosophical and methodological tools highlighting dichotomous and synergistic principles. A synergistic approach enables the integration of interdisciplinary and multicultural perspectives, essential for exploring a problem marked by scientific uncertainty regarding its content and essence. The methodology used in the research is typical for qualitative articles with a review of scientific developments on the problem. For a holistic consideration of the problem of philosophical understanding of the posthuman, the literature was selected according to the following criteria:

- works published in the period from 2019 to 2024 to analyse the current understanding of the posthuman problem in the context of the latest scientific and technological anthropological trends and socio-cultural trends in civilisational development;
- The selection of scientific papers was carried out from the scientometric platforms Scopus, Web of Science, and ResearchGate, where the concept of posthuman is ordered and structured in the relevant clusters of scientific and philosophical content;
- keywords used to search for materials for the current study: posthuman, philosophical and anthropological dimension, posthumanism, postanthropocentrism, synergistic model.

It is worth emphasising the limitations that were used in the selection of literature for the review of the posthuman problem. When analysing the sources of modern philosophical and anthropological discourse, ideas containing inhumane or discriminatory views that directly threaten a person or society were excluded from consideration.

At the same time, content restrictions were not applied, given the abstract nature of the posthuman concept and the lack of a full scientific justification for these ideas. Therefore, the anthropological characteristics of the current study are based on scientific, philosophical, religious, cultural, and worldview visions. There are also no restrictions on the authors' regional or professional affiliation.

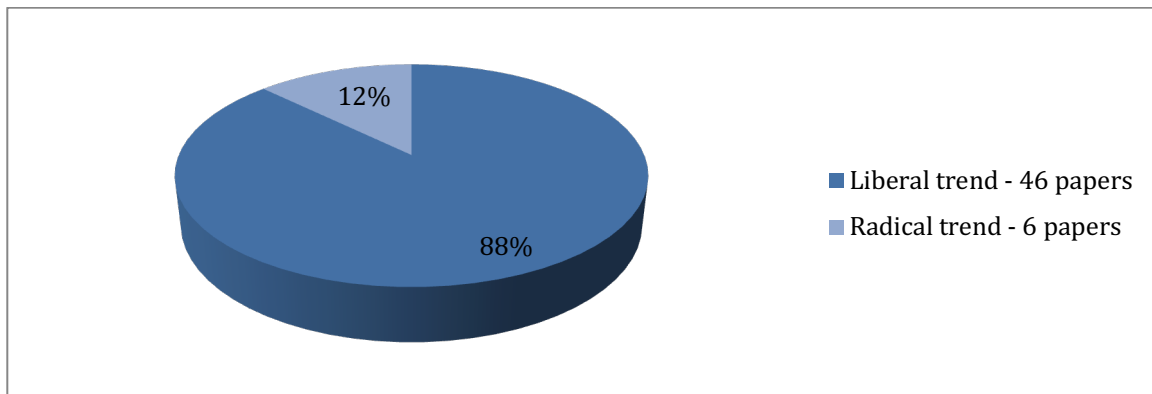
Research results

Man has traditionally been the main problem of philosophical discourse. Even though science and religion virtually dominate the interpretation of the nature and essence of man, there is still no complete picture in understanding his role, place and potential. In such realities, when a person's practical and functional characteristics are accumulating rapidly (Falcon, 2023) due to technological and information development, and existential dimensions are still uncertain, a kind of worldview vacuum is formed. On the one hand, the current state of science

indicates the potential possibility of correcting the spiritual and ethical essence (Das & Chanda, 2023) and humans' material and corporeal nature (Lamola, 2020). On the other hand, the absence of parameters or frameworks for such human modernisation creates chaos and uncertainty about the outcome of such a transformation (Levin, 2021). At the same time, the term "posthuman" preserves continuity in the process of human development and improvement. That is, there is no proposal to position a completely new image of a person, completely different from the current characteristics of a person. An analysis of the scientific literature of the last five years indicates the dominance of liberal trends in forming the posthuman image (Taillandier, 2021). That is, we are talking about improving the existing characteristics of a person in general or their components. On the other hand, the ideas of a radical transformation of man (Brusseau, 2023), which involve a complete transformation of human nature and essence, are rare in contemporary scientific discourse (see Fig. 1).

Figure 1

Trends in the Formation of the Image of the Posthuman in the Scientific and Philosophical Discourse of 2019-2024 52 labour, %.



Source: authors own development

"Loss of human likeness", "going beyond human characteristics", "modification of the human body", "transformation of consciousness", "artificial intelligence" - this is not a complete list of concepts that form general ideas about the posthuman (Kalpokiene & Kalpokas, 2023). The scientific and philosophical community is currently facing a theoretical and methodological dilemma - the choice of an algorithm for building the image of the posthuman (see Fig. 2).

Figure 2

Format for creating the posthuman concept



Source: authors own development

For a long time, the dichotomous model was the priority, according to which a specific element of human existence was chosen, based on which a "qualitative leap" in human characteristics was planned. This format was actively supported by science fiction ideas that scaled up public interest (Vint, 2022) in the perception of the posthuman as part of a new reality.

However, this format, which gained immense popularity in the second half of the twentieth century, began to gradually lose ground at the beginning of the twenty-first century, due to the following factors:

- the impracticability of science fiction predictions about a radical change in the human image in the foreseeable future and a sceptical attitude towards the ability to completely transform human nature and essence through the transformation of a single element of a person (intellect, consciousness, morality (Ciompi, 2022));
- the focus on one of the elements of the human individual does not receive a sufficient level of interest in modern people due to the rapid introduction of such characteristics in everyday life (robotics (Larsen, 2023), artificial intelligence, virtual reality), which leads to the loss of exclusivity of innovations, and with it the belief in the post-human robot, post-human cyborg, or post-human hybrid (Nath & Manna, 2023);
- limited resources to support the process of human transformation in one of the clusters its potential and increasing the role of interdisciplinary research that forms guidelines for improving human beings in the context of their integrity and diversity.

The posthuman is a key figure in the future world order (Sampanikou, 2023). Traditionally, scientific and philosophical discourse tries to characterise all real or abstract elements (Harris & Rousell, 2022). In recent years, the number of works that refer to the concept of the posthuman has increased significantly. It is worth noting that this mention does not necessarily formulate a clear definition or fully describe the parameters of the human of the future. Philosophical and anthropological ideas of the prospects for human transformation contain several aspects that can be structured into separate clusters (see Table 1).

Table 1

Elements of human characteristics at the heart of posthuman creation

An element of human nature and essence	New qualities of the posthuman in the context of the philosophy of the future
Biological characteristics	Achieving a state of invulnerability of the human body and increasing its physical and functional capabilities.
Intelligent cluster	The potential of artificial intelligence, which can significantly improve human cognitive and cognitive abilities.
Ethical and existential aspects	Gaining immortality, new value and purpose constants of human existence.
Social and mental dimensions	Formation of the "mega-personality" and "global community", changes in individual and collective consciousness.

Source: author's own development

The actualisation of the target and content principles of the posthuman requires conceptual and ideological as well as practical and functional justification. Such variability (Hicks, 2022) systematises all the existing ones and actualises two strategies of philosophical understanding of the characteristics of the future human and the future being:

- the dominance of the idea of the posthuman as a product of the existential dimension;
- focusing on the practice-oriented process of transforming people and their potential.

The contemporary philosophical discourse generally emphasises the need for a synergistic approach to forming a posthuman strategy. The current scientific, technological, ideological and mental level of society's development is insufficient to predict the processes associated with the actual formation of the posthuman.

Discussion

The current study's results raise several controversial factors that shape the concept of the posthuman. Contradictions arise both in interpreting the human dimension and in the context of scientific and philosophical tools that provide characteristics of the posthuman.

The controversial nature of the posthuman problem can be divided into main clusters:

- aligning the modern image of a person with the characteristics of a post-human (Adam, Juergensen & Mallette, 2021);
- the framework of potential anthropological transformations (Jeong, Sherman & Tippins, 2021) in the context of existential, epistemological and axiological paradigms;
- hypothetical formats of human essence and nature (Dovchin, Dovchin & Gower, 2024);
- the level of science's ability to interpret human characteristics or the need for a new tool for studying humans (Yan, 2024);

The analysis of scientific works has pointed to problematic aspects of forming the paradigm of the future in general. The prefix "post" about man, science, philosophy, history implies the presence of something after the existing. This in a way limits the potential level of transformation of modern man. Such guidelines correlate with the ideas of the scientific wing of the pragmatic direction, for which the improvement of a person is valuable in terms of the development process and implies the improvement of his or her existential parameters. On the other hand, supporters of a radical transformation of the human image (Gare, 2021) are limited in the hypothetical level of change in human nature and essence.

For example, representatives of human transformation through scientific and technological influence are divided into 2 directions of development of the posthuman idea:

- existential, in which elements of bioengineering and artificial intelligence become not an auxiliary element or a situational alternative to the natural structures, organs and functions of the human body, but completely replace the existing human nature with the corresponding ethical, cognitive and functional consequences;
- functional, which involves the point, cluster, or holistic introduction of alternative psychophysical elements (Roden, 2022) into the human biological organism without interfering with the nature of human existence, but to improve the existing potential.

Such a discourse is driven by the significant risks of civilisation in implementing hypothetical scenarios for the formation and establishment of the posthuman. Human civilization's sustainability depends on the transcendence of the existing framework of human existence (Ernste, 2023). If the processes associated with the "new man" activity are uncontrollable, several civilisations may emerge on a global scale.

It is worth emphasising the position of post-philosophy representatives who point to the correlation of future realities in the context of the future society's new scientific, philosophical and cultural attitudes. According to optimistic sentimental forecasts (Carrigan & Porpora, 2021), the level of science and philosophy will be different from the current one, and the scientific and philosophical worldview will be able to explain elements of existence unattainable in the modern world. Under such conditions, the threats of posthuman activity (Henriksen, Creely & Mehta, 2022) will be relevant to the current picture of the world order. However, they will be levelled in new existential realities.

Instead, pessimistic forecasts (Bugajska, 2021) point to many potential variables, which usually does not allow for a logical finalised result in interpreting the posthuman in the post-being paradigm. And attempts to correlate the level of human potential with the ability to comprehend (primarily control) it will not succeed. This can potentially lead to unpredictable consequences - from utopian ideas of creating an ideal society (Pratt & Rosiek, 2023), consisting of mega-persons (with the subsequent absolute levelling of the current contradictions of human existence); to apocalyptic scenarios (Herbrechter et al., 2022), in which a posthuman endowed with superpowers (backed by negative elements of character or beliefs) can become a factor in the destruction of civilisation.

One of the key trends in developing ideas about the human being of the future, which is represented in the studies of the last five years, is a reorientation from the dimension of opposition to the principle of integration (Deuchar, 2023). Given the new potential of the posthuman, this integration into the paradigm of the world order of the future has good prospects. The posthuman, armed with artificial intelligence, biotechnological elements, and mentally resilient practices (Porter, 2023), appears virtually invulnerable to natural or socio-cultural factors.

It is worth noting that there is a continuation of this strategy of the posthuman (Peters, 2019), in which its potential can protect it from existential threats (death, old age). However, such a level currently looks mainly in the context of science fiction, as there are no real tools to achieve it, even in the project dimension.

A separate factor that can be traced in the analysis of the literature on the problem of the posthuman in the philosophy of the future is the dynamics and scale of the ideas of this direction. The unprecedented excitement about the desire to engage with the idea of the emergence of the posthuman is caused by the increased opportunities, as the hypothetical characteristics of the "person of the future" depart from the usual standards of academicism (Le Grange & Du Preez, 2023) and allow for a different level of scientific substantiation and evidence. This obvious threat destroys the orderly scientific and philosophical guidelines used to justify or at least interpret the main elements of civilisational development, the world order system and human existence.

Conclusions and Implications

Thus, the philosophical discourse actively highlights the problem of the posthuman as a process of improving his characteristics and transforming the essence and nature of his being. Modern views on the new human identity in the world order have shifted from radical ones (in which a person is completely transformed in the existential sense) to more liberal ones (in which his/her psycho-physical, intellectual and socio-cultural characteristics are improved), as evidenced by the results of the analysis of the philosophical literature of the last five years (88% of works with a liberal trend of vision of human transformation).

It is important to understand the difference between the positioning of two dimensions: the person of the future and the future world order. One of the variations implies an existential transformation of the civilisational foundations, which will result in changes in the nature and essence of man. The other actualises the posthuman as a factor that causes existential changes. Both paths involve going beyond the existing constants of human existence, but the role and status of man in such transformations are different.

A promising direction of the current study is to systematise, based on the available sources of scientific and philosophical discourse, the existing ideas on the development of the concept of posthuman. It is worth noting that the coverage of the philosophical understanding of the posthuman, unlike the scientific one (with a practical and functional emphasis), forms the value-purpose and existential characteristics of his existence. The axiological orientation of the understanding of the posthuman goes through the evolution of views: from neutral (in which the posthuman seeks to get rid of vulnerability) to liberal (where the posthuman searches for

sources of improvement), and then to radical (with the posthuman's desire for the ability to actively transform the elements of existence). Based on the data obtained in the study, a synergistic model of the principles of the formation of the posthuman is proposed. This format will provide dynamics in the ideological and worldview understanding and interpretation of the processes of the formation of the posthuman. This, in turn, will allow us to promptly assess and respond to inhumane threats and potential risks to civilisational development.

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