Marcel Koeleman msc, ba, bs

Rotterdam, the Netherlands

Technē + Tuchē for living a Good Life; AI check by Habermas' validity claims. A brief orientation

The good life has technical, ethical, and philosophical connotations. Computer technology in general, and artificial intelligence in particular, makes a technological contribution to that good life, but also has an increasing ethical and philosophical impact. Placed in a philosophical context, the degree to which people have control over the unpredictable largely determines the good life. So say philosophers such as Plato and, more recently, Martha Nussbaum. This relates to the distinction made in classical Greek philosophy between technē and tuchē. Technē is what we can foresee and oversee, what we can control and influence. Tuchē is the unpredictable to which we as humans are at the mercy of good or bad luck. Philosophers such as Plato and Nussbaum ask: how strong and complete can I make my technē to control tuchē? The development of computer technology initially offered considerable promise for strengthening that technē, but the power of technology increasingly appears to be such that it becomes more autonomous and generates products that no longer directly stem from the intentions with which humans designed the technology, through algorithms and the like. AI seems capable of developing its own tuchē, moving us further and further away from the control over tuchē via technē. This also has consequences for the ethical side of the good life: who can take responsibility for the resulting products and outcomes of AI? This contribution examines the possibilities of using human communicative action to verify validity. Habermas's validity claims enable us to verify AI through rational communication. Based on four so-called validity claims, argumentative validity is achieved. The assumption is that this validity then enables the placement of the AI product in question in an ethical-communicative context, through which and with which technē and tuchē can be bridged and potentially connected.

One of the results of this contribution is an AI-generated checklist based on Habermas's validity claims. This result can then be tested against itself and assessed for its validity claims.

doi.org/10.51219/URForum.2025.Marcel-Koeleman ISBN: 978-1-917892-34-6

Biography

Marcel Koeleman is based in Rotterdam and brings a uniquely multidisciplinary background to his work, with academic training in environmental engineering, visual arts, and business economics. He studied visual arts at the Royal Academy of Art in The Hague and later earned his Master's degree in Business Administration from the Rotterdam School of Management, Erasmus University. His master's thesis focused on aesthetics in leadership, a topic that grew from his longstanding interest in how individuals perceive and understand the world through sensory and aesthetic experiences.

Marcel's intellectual interests extend to the role of non-rationality in human behavior, the nature of aesthetic decision-making, communicative action, and the evolving relationship between humans and artificial intelligence. He is currently developing several articles exploring aesthetic decision-making capacity and the influence of unpredictability on the quality of human life.

Professionally, Marcel works at the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management, where he serves as a member of the Management Team within the Department of Soil, Spatial Planning, and Climate Adaptation. His interdisciplinary expertise and commitment to understanding human perception and behavior continue to shape his contributions to policy, organizational leadership, and academic inquiry.

doi.org/10.51219/URForum.2025.Marcel-Koeleman ISBN: 978-1-917892-34-6