

# THE PARADOXES OF TECHNOLOGY



# ***HOMO SAPIENS ARE ALSO HOMO FABER***



- Humankind to have dominion—Gen 1:26ff
- Knowledge within limits—Gen 2:15-17
- Workers and carers—Gen 2:15ff
- Observers and classifiers—Gen 2:20
- Technology and survival—Gen 3:17ff
- Covenant renewal—Gen 9:1ff

# AMERICANS AND “THE SCREEN”



The average American  
(across all ages)  
consumes – 150 hrs of  
TV & 18 hrs of internet.

- Nielsen 2010 (1<sup>st</sup> qtr.)

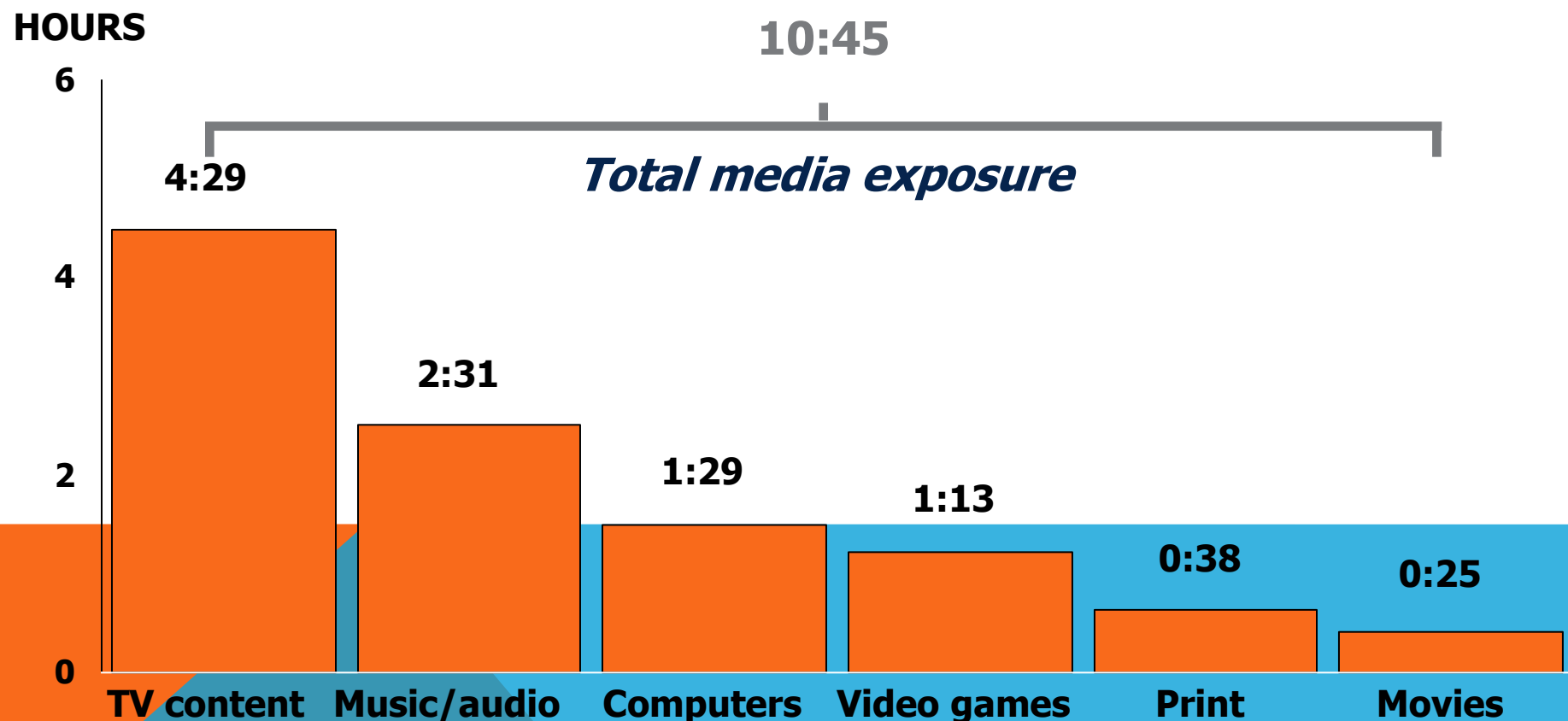
That's about 5.5 screen  
hours per day!

OR

Over 10 years of screen  
time in a span of 50  
years!

# Children's Media Use, By Platform

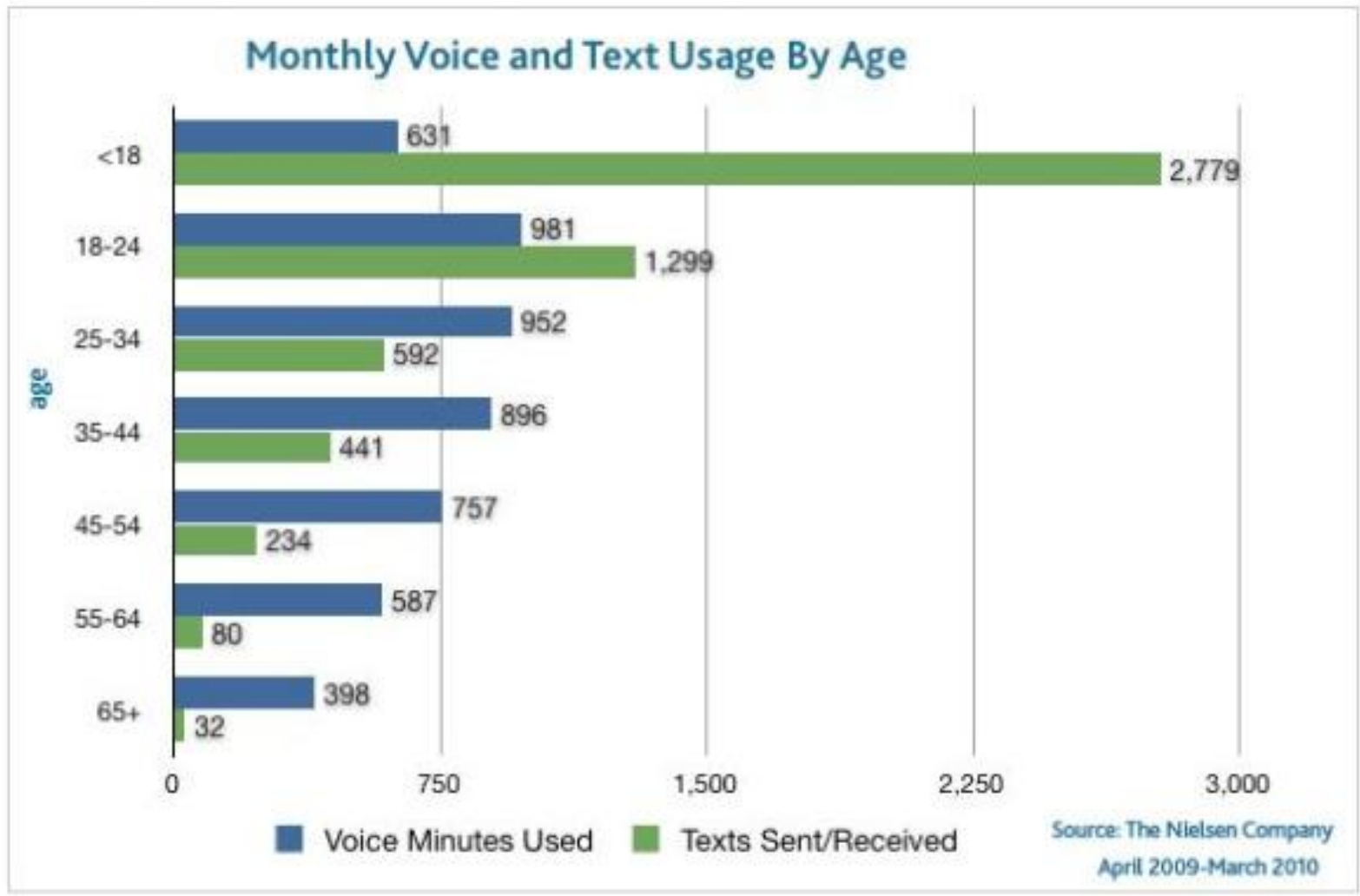
Among all 8- to 18-year-olds, amount of time spent with each medium in a typical day:



Note: Children may be engaged in more than one of these activities at the same time.

Source: Kaiser Family Foundation, *Generation M2: Media in the Lives of 8- to 18-Year-Olds*, 2009.

More than 187.7 Billion text messages are sent monthly in the United States!

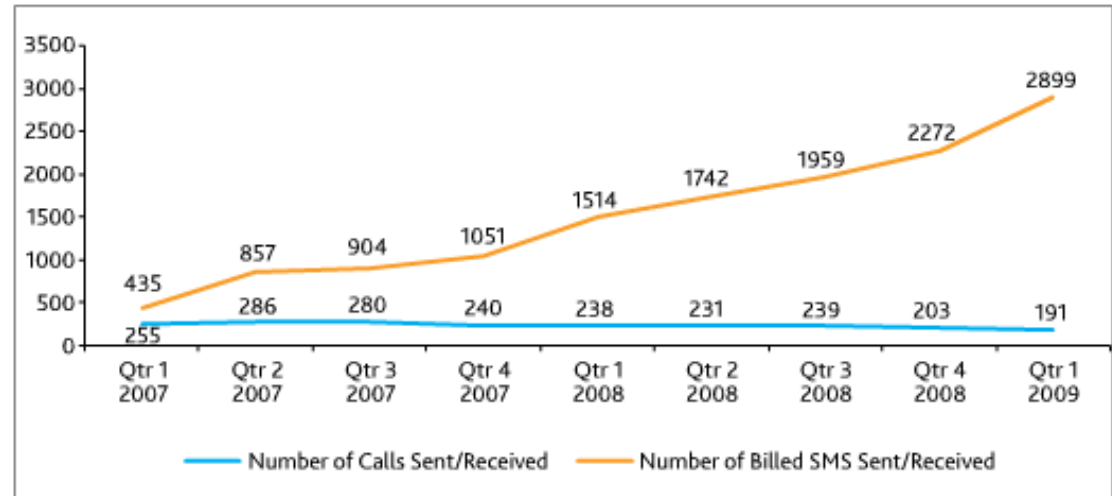


# TEXTING TEENS

“American teenagers are using 3,146 messages a month, which translates into more than 10 messages every hour of the month that they are not sleeping or in school. Even the under 12 segment are sending 1,146 messages per month, which is almost four text messages per waking hour that they are not at school.”

- Nielsen (3<sup>rd</sup> qtr. 2009)

Figure 12: Average Number of Monthly Texts and Phone Calls—  
U.S. Mobile Teens 13–17



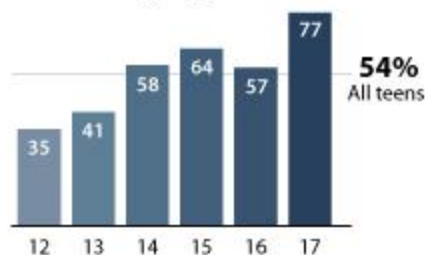
Source: The Nielsen Company



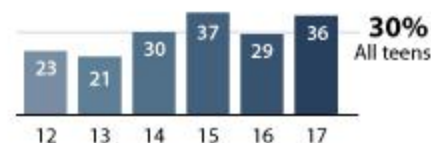
## Most teens text friends daily

The % of teens who contact their friends daily by different methods, by age

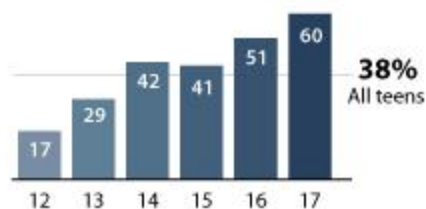
### Text messaging



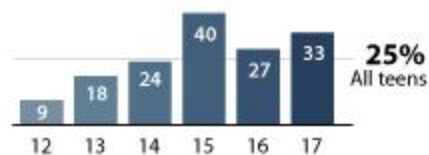
### Talk on a landline phone



### Call on cell phone



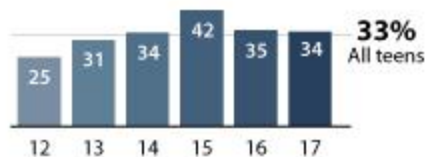
### Social network site



### Instant messaging



### Talk face-to-face



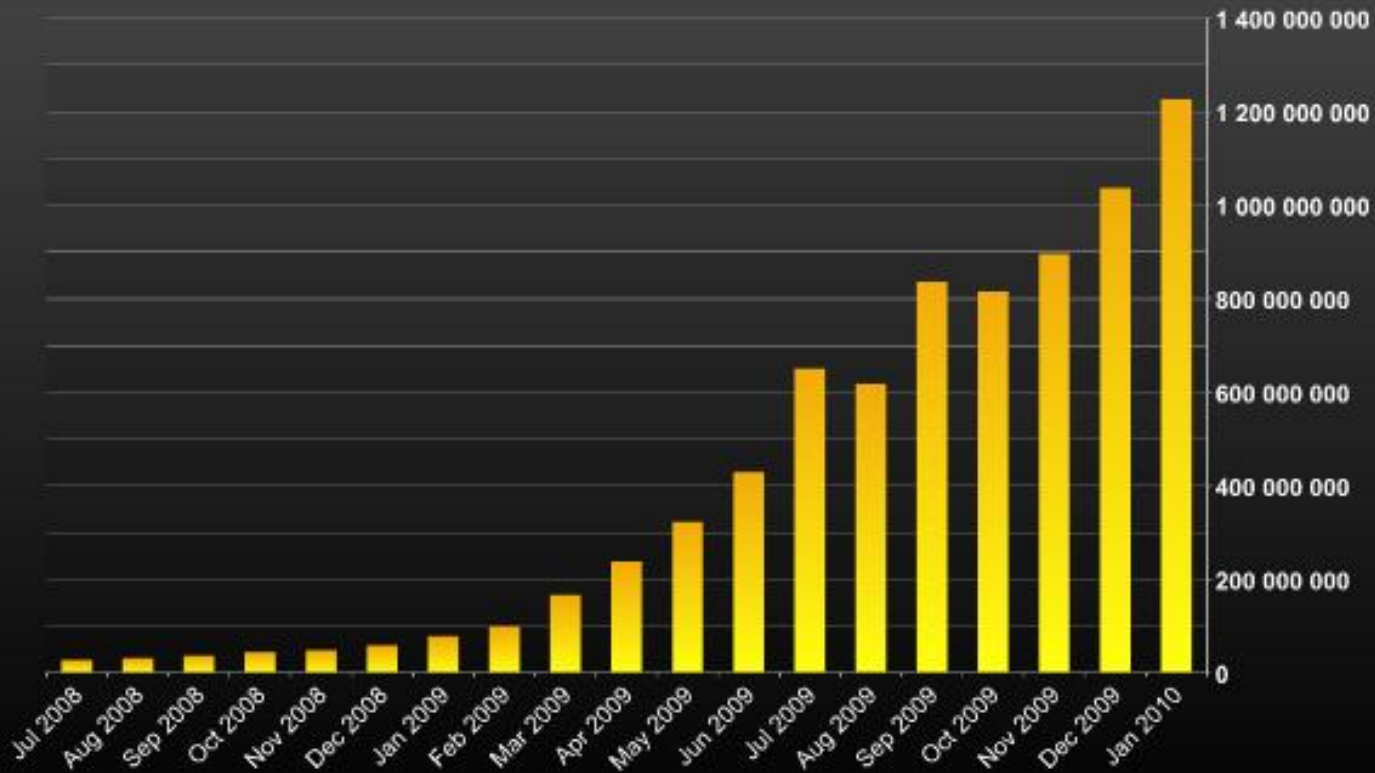
### Email



Source: Pew Research Center's Internet & American Life Project surveys. "All teens" refers to all teens ages 12-17.



## Tweets per month on Twitter



[www.pingdom.com](http://www.pingdom.com)

pingdom



# facebook

- Facebook now has over 750 million active users.
- 41.6% of the U.S. population has a Facebook account.
- People spend over 700 billion minutes on Facebook per month.
- Average user has over 130 “friends”.

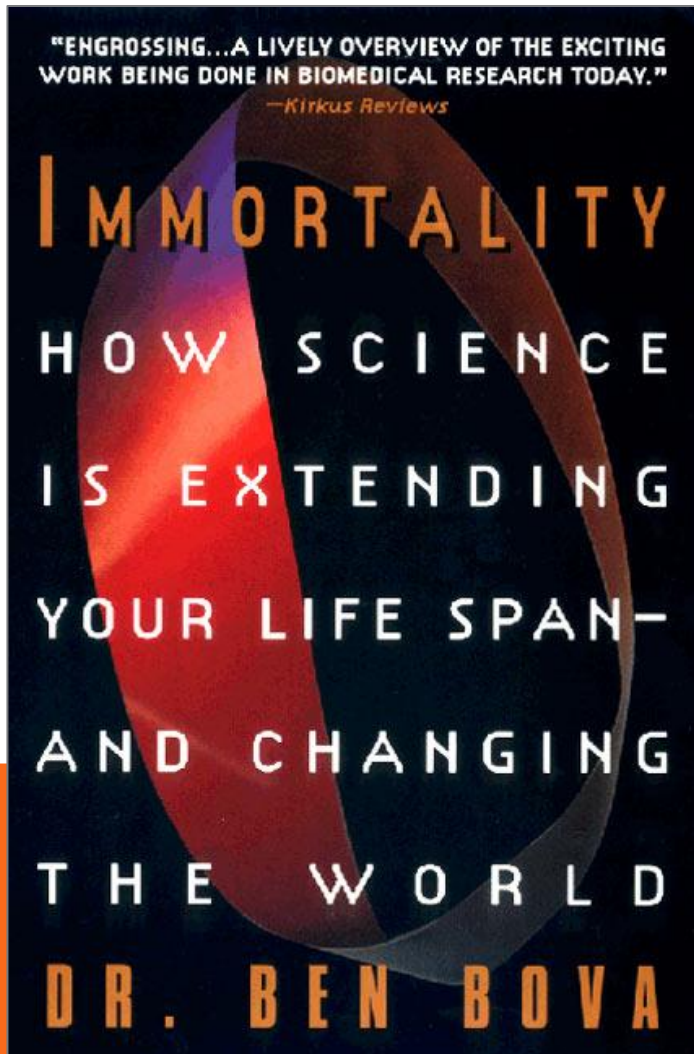
# FACEBOOK = THIRD LARGEST “COUNTRY”

## facebook takes over the world

As of February 2010, Facebook has a total of 400 million users worldwide. If it were a country, that would make Facebook the 3rd most populous country in the world.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1.  China: 1,332,060,000     | 6.  Brazil: 191,594,000     |
| 2.  India: 1,166,900,000     | 7.  Pakistan: 167,021,500   |
| 3.  Facebook: 400,000,000    | 8.  Bangladesh: 162,221,000 |
| 4.  U.S.A.: 307,010,000     | 9.  Nigeria: 154,729,000   |
| 5.  Indonesia: 230,781,846 | 10.  Russia: 141,868,000  |

# THE IMMORTALISTS

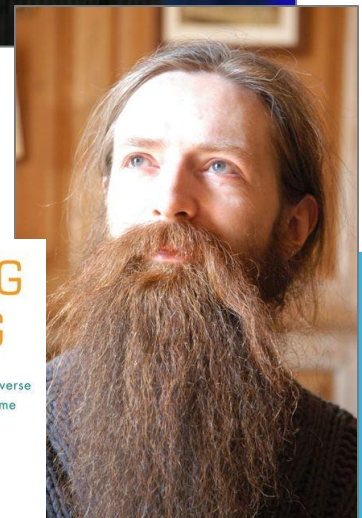
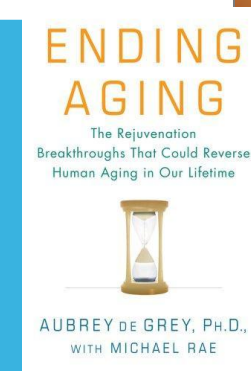
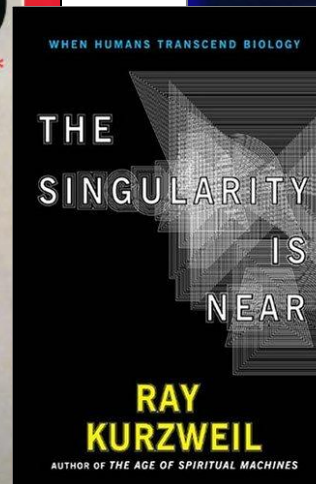


“Physical immortality is within sight . . . The first immortal human beings are probably living among us today. You might be one of them. There are men and women who may be able to live for centuries, perhaps even extend their life spans indefinitely. For them, death will not be inevitable.”

Ben Bova, M.D.

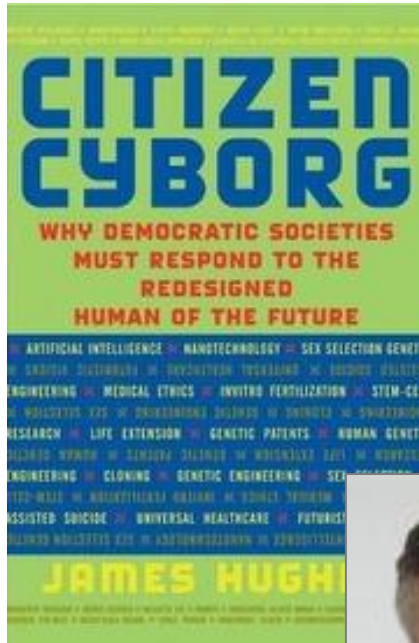
*Immortality: How Science is Extending Your Life Span and Changing the World*

# THE IMMORTALISTS

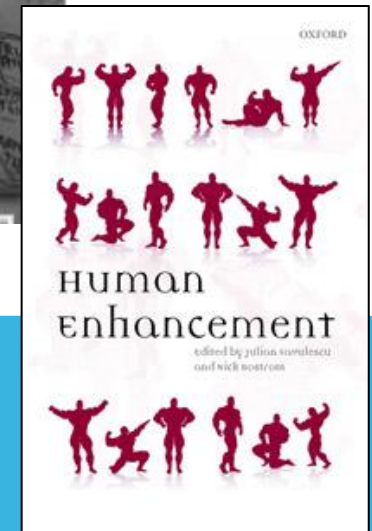
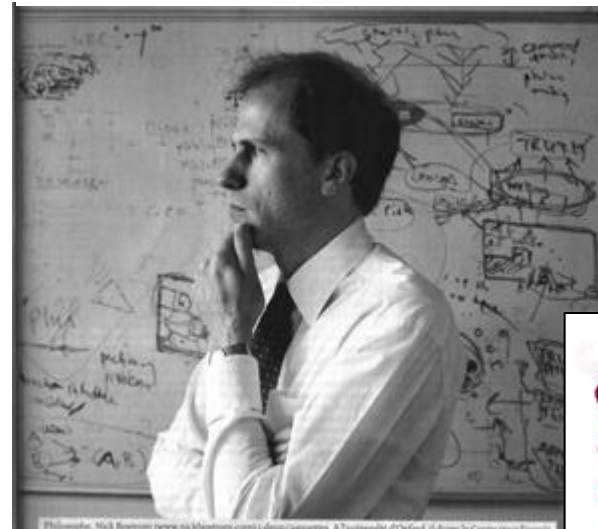




# THE TRANSHUMANISTS

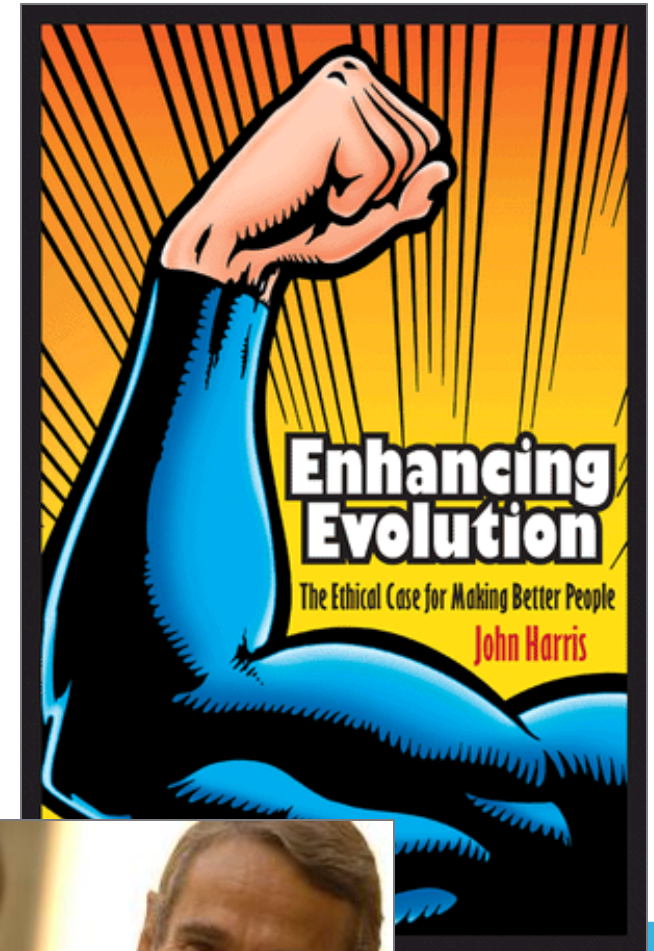
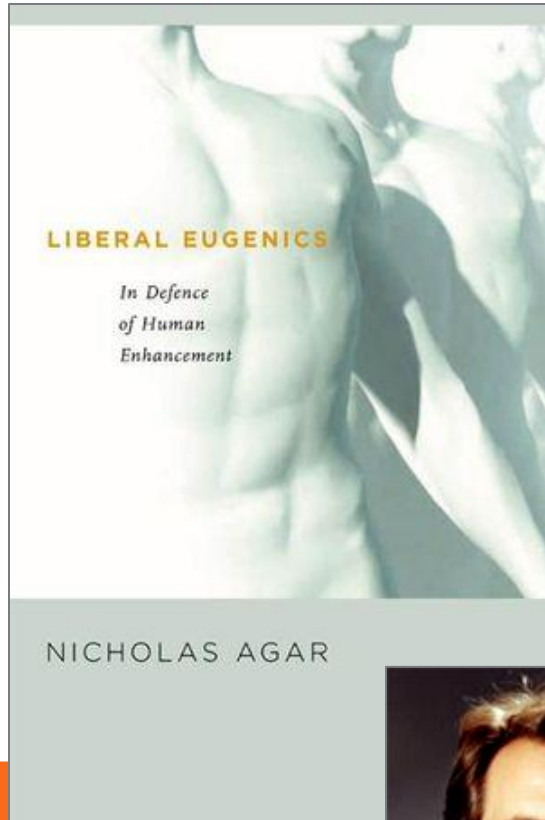


Future of Humanity Institute  
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

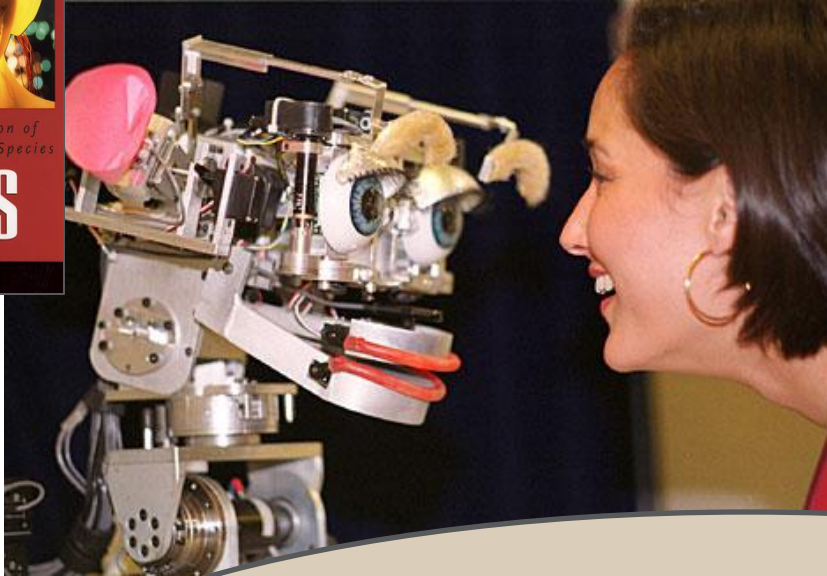
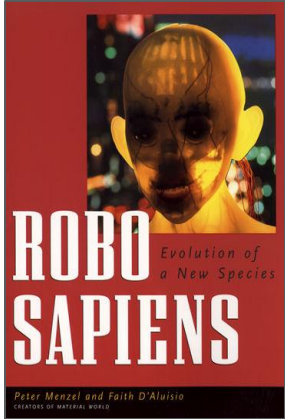


Institute for Ethics and Emerging Technologies  
Promoting the Ethical Use of Technology to Enhance Human Capabilities

# THE EUGENICISTS



# THE ROBOTICISTS



"The potential for humans, if we stick to our present physical form, is pretty limited . . . The opportunity for me to become a cyborg is extremely exciting. I can't wait to get on with it."

Kevin Warwick , University of Reading



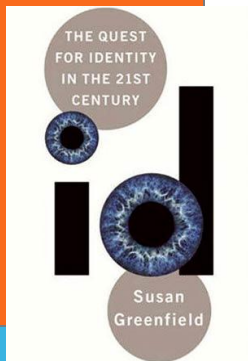


# THE TIMES, THEY ARE A CHANGIN'

**“In ways, then, that we could never have imagined, the technologies of the twenty-first century are challenging the most basic compartments by which we have made sense of our environment, and lived as individuals within it. Information technology, nanotechnology, and biotechnology are blurring or even breaching every dichotomy that has until now transcended any particular culture, and held firm for every human society: the real versus the unreal; the old versus the young; the self versus the outside world.”**

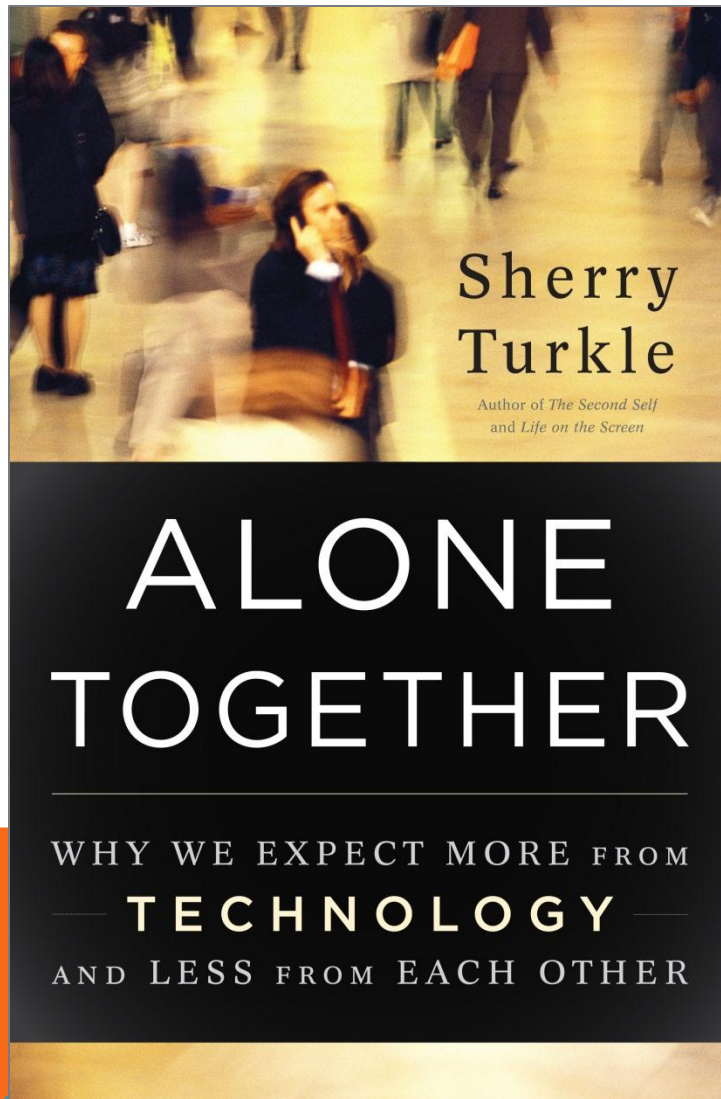
Baroness Susan Greenfield, D.Phil., Oxford

*ID: The Quest for Identity in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*





# PERSONAL REPLACED BY VIRTUAL

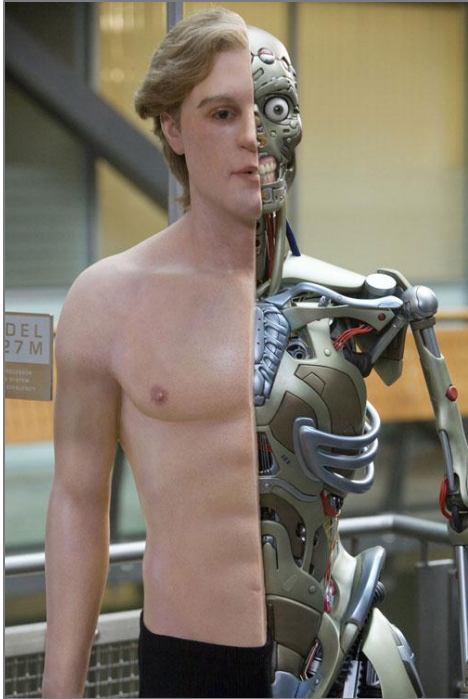


Second Life “is my preferred way of being with people.”

Pete

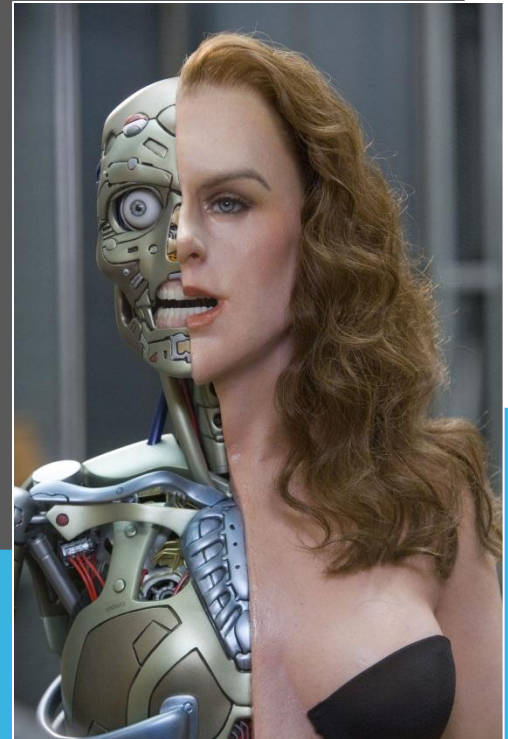


# HUMAN REPLACED BY NON-HUMAN

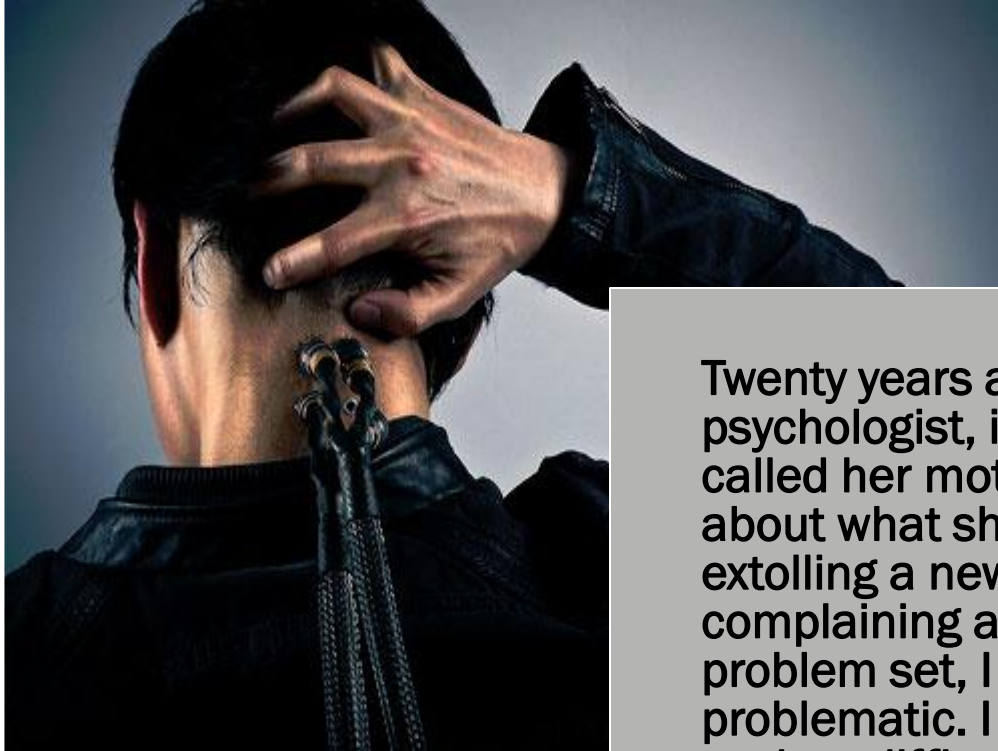


“I’d want from the robot a lot of what I want from a woman, but I think the robot would give me more in some ways. With a woman, there are her needs to consider. . . . That’s the trouble I get into. If someone loves me, they care about my ups downs. And that’s so much pressure.”

Wesley



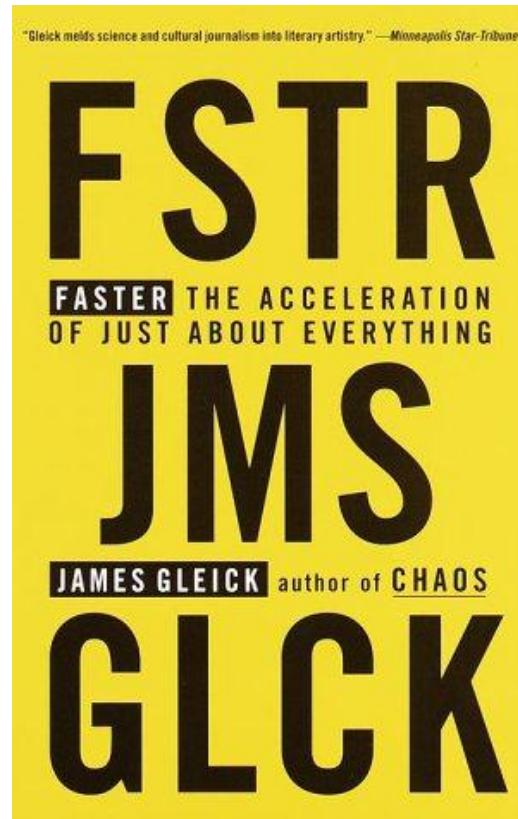
# MATURITY REPLACED BY EMOTIONAL DEPENDENCE



Twenty years ago, as a practicing clinical psychologist, if I had met a college junior who called her mother fifteen times a day, checking in about what shoes to buy and what dress to wear, extolling a new kind of decaffeinated tea, and complaining about the difficulty of a physics problem set, I would have thought her behavior problematic. I would have encouraged her to explore difficulties with separation. I would have assumed that these had to be addressed for her to proceed into successful adulthood. But these days, a college student who texts home fifteen times a day is not unusual.

Sherry Turkle, *Alone Together*, p. 178.

# HUMAN SPEED REPLACED BY EFFICIENCY

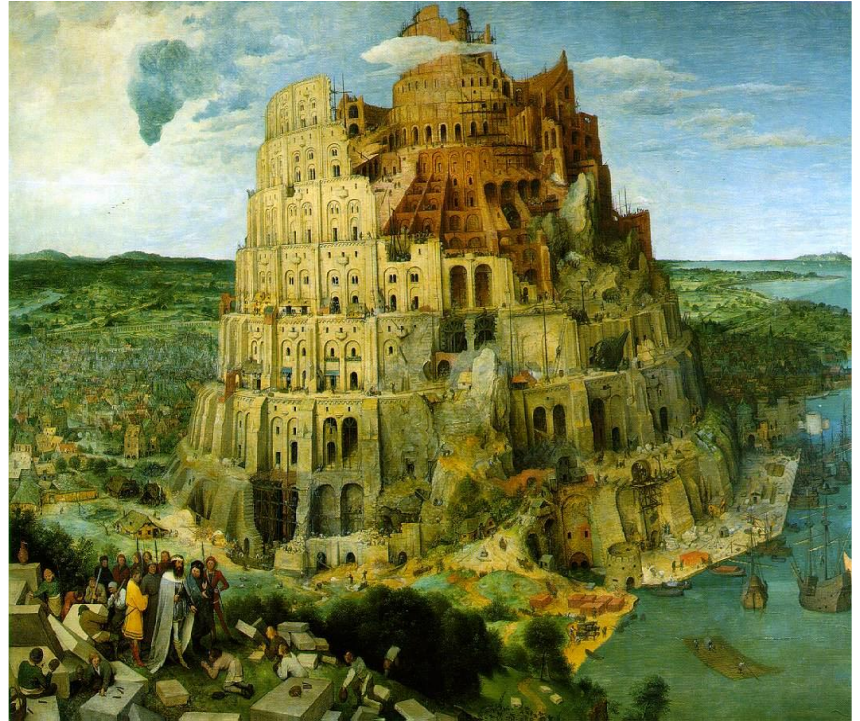




# TECHNO-IDOLATRY

“Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves . . .”

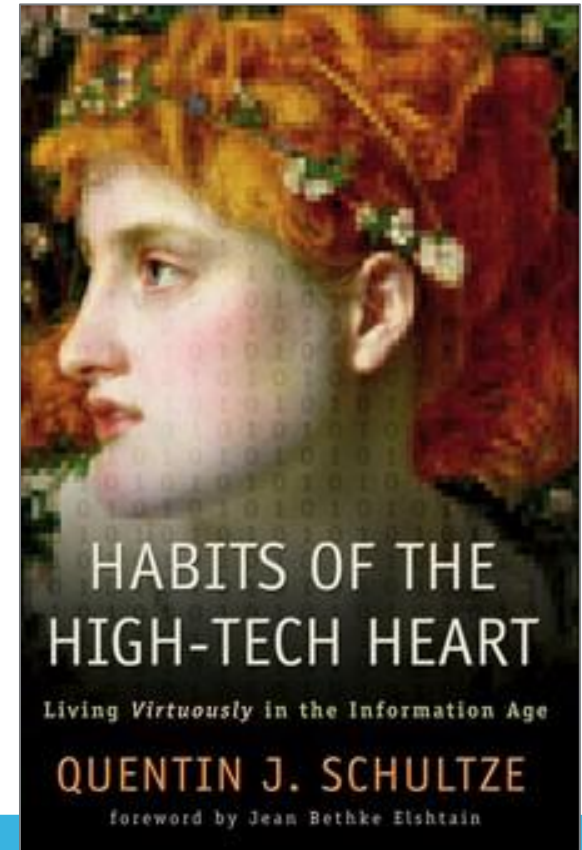
*Genesis 11:4*



# UNREFLECTIVE ADOPTIONISM

“North Americans are largely unreflective, voracious consumers of cyber-novelty and informational trivia. We have naively convinced ourselves that cyber-innovations will automatically improve society and make us better people, regardless of how we use them.”

Quentin Schultze: *Habits of the High-Tech Heart* (p. 17)



# **FREEDOM REPLACED BY BONDAGE?**

