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Statement on Artificial Intelligence (A.I.) and Universities

There is a significant new threat to society by uncontrolled A.I. (1-3).

A.I. is already amplifying misinformation such as political language: *"Political language — and with variations this is true of all political parties, from Conservatives to Anarchists — is designed to make lies sound truthful and murder respectable, and to give an appearance of solidity to pure wind"* (4).

Universities act as the conscience and voice of the communities and nations they serve; they are highly important critics and "crap" (untruths, 5) detectors.

The threat of uncontrolled AI therefore gives universities a much more important role in society.

Academic values and training form the basis for wisdom that can identify misinformation, enable responsible decision making and bridge the complexity gap which may allow humanity to control AI in future (also see comment from Geoffrey Hinton, a/the "godfather of AI", 6).

Therefore, PUA is committed to calling out non-academic behaviour at our universities and to enforcing academic values and the pursuit of academic principles as a matter of priority and urgency. All academic-minded colleagues are invited to contribute and participate.

References
1) https://futureoflife.org/open-letter/pause-giant-ai-experiments/
2) https://time.com/6266923/ai-eliezer-yudkowsky-open-letter-not-enough/
3) https://www.safe.ai/statement-on-ai-risk
4) Politics and the English Language; G. Orwell, 1946
5) https://youtube.com/shorts/u7VZlBfay84
6) https://puau.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Good-Universities-to-control-AI.pdf