

For Immediate Release: July 18, 2024

## **SCREENING OF AI DOCUMENTARY *THE END OF HUMANITY* WITH PANEL DISCUSSION CO-HOSTED BY 3 THEOLOGICAL SCHOOLS**

VANCOUVER, BC. July 18, 2024. The Vancouver School of Theology, Regent College's Centre for Humanity and the Common Good, and St. Mark's College's Centre for Christian Engagement are collaborating to bring the recent AI documentary *The End of Humanity* to UBC.

Following a reception at 5 PM on **September 13**, *The End of Humanity* will be screened at UBC's Sage Bistro, beginning at 7 PM. Following the film, a panel of scholars will reflect on philosophical and theological implications of Artificial Intelligence in light of the screening. They will also respond to questions from the audience.

This event is free to the public, but registration is required due to limited space. Find tickets at <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/the-end-of-humanity-tickets-928724639397>.

### **About the Film | [www.endofhumanity.film](http://www.endofhumanity.film)**

"The stories we tell about ourselves as humans and the power of technology impact how we design and invest in our future and how we engage AI. Increasingly, the story is that humans are inefficient and replaceable compared to AI. A gloomy view of humankind has become mainstream, catering to a future without trust – a future with weak democracies.

"The documentary *The End of Humanity* by Andreas Dürr and Jan-Marc Furer explores this narrative and probes alternative views. It encourages creative and critical thinking about a future worth wanting and the tools that allow us to build it. We need a global and concerted effort to invent a humane future for all."

### **Panel Moderator:**

**Rev. Dr. Joni Sancken** (PhD, Toronto School of Theology, Emmanuel College) was previously Professor of Homiletics at United Theological Seminary in Dayton, OH and Assistant Professor of Preaching and Practical Theology at Eastern Mennonite Seminary in Harrisonburg, VA. She is currently the Butler Chair of Homiletics and Biblical Interpretation at Vancouver School of Theology. Much of her recent work has concerned the intersections of preaching and trauma studies.



### **Panelists:**

**Dr. Shawn Michael Bullock** was previously a Professor of the History of Science, Technology and Education at the University of Cambridge, U.K. He uses the lenses offered by the history and philosophy of science and technology to examine issues in education, particularly, the history of higher education in physics in the 19th century, the history of technology, the history of engineering education, and the history of multilingual education. He is currently pursuing an MDiv at VST.



**Dr. Fiona Li** is the inaugural holder of the Archbishop J. Michael Miller Chair in Catholic Studies at St. Mark's College. She currently works as the Associate Director of the Fraser Centre for Practical Theology at Regis College and served on the Editorial Team for the Canadian Journal of Theology, Mental Health and Disability.



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**Dr. Jens Zimmermann** is the Director of Centre for Humanity and the Common Good and J. I. Packer Chair of Theology at Regent College. He is a philosopher and theologian with interests in anthropology and epistemology. He is currently a visiting fellow at the Centre for Theology and Modern European Thought at the University of Oxford and research fellow at the University of the Free State in South Africa.



### **About VST**

VST's core mandate is to educate and form thoughtful, engaged, and generous Christian leaders for the church in the 21st century. VST is a leading theological school, viewed as a change agent and innovator for the church.

VST is an affiliated college of the University of British Columbia, ranked in the top 100 schools globally, and in the top 10 of most improved theological schools. VST has been recognized by In Trust Magazine for its realizing transformational change as it renews theological education. A recipient of a prestigious Pathways for Tomorrow grant from the Lilly Endowment, VST is redefining the critical role of theological field education in preparing clergy.

VST is accredited by the Government of British Columbia, and in North America by ATS (Association of Theological Schools).

The Vancouver School of Theology celebrates its foundational relationships with the Anglican Church of Canada, Presbyterian Church in Canada, and United Church of Canada. VST also welcomes students from many Christian communions, other faith traditions, and Indigenous communities. The Indigenous Studies Program at VST is central to the school's identity and commitments.

The Vancouver School of Theology celebrated its 50th Anniversary in 2021. VST, through its predecessor schools, has been teaching theology in Vancouver since 1893.

The Vancouver School of Theology acknowledges that the land on which they are located is the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the xwməθkwəyəm (Musqueam) People.

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