



RenAissance
Foundation



MISSION **REPORT**

OCT 2022 • OCT 2023



*Joint signature of the Rome Call for AI Ethics by the Abrahamic Religions - Vatican City, January 10th, 2023.
From left to right: Sheikh Al Mahfoudh Bin Bayyah, Abp. Vincenzo Paglia, Chief Rabbi Eliezer Simha Weisz.*



MISSION REPORT

THE ACTIVITIES OF THE RENAISSANCE FOUNDATION

OCTOBER 2022 - OCTOBER 2023

THE IDENTITY OF THE RENAISSANCE FOUNDATION AND ITS MISSION

Established on 12th April 2021 by Pope Francis, the Renaissance Foundation is a non-profit organization and has as its institutional purpose the promotion of anthropological and ethical reflection about the effects of new technologies on human life.



● Dissemination Initiatives



Vision

In the Foundation's **vision** of the future, technology will be at the service of human beings, respecting the dignity of each individual without causing any harm to humanity, protecting the common home that hosts every form of life.

Mission

As part of its **mission**, RenAIssance Foundation promotes:

- the signature of the Rome Call as a lever for the adoption of algoethics by design;
- joint reflection and discussion by representatives of civil society and government, businesses, the technology community, academia, and religions to identify ethical principles to be applied in the development and adoption of AI;
- a sense of shared responsibility among all stakeholders who are signatories to the Rome Call;
- scientific reflection through the work of its own Study Centre.



Public engagement and audience development

After the pandemic, as the free movement of people gradually resumed, the RenAIssance Foundation decided to respond to the need for promoting in-depth dialogue and connections with communities and the different sectors of society in order to offer both the general public and experts the opportunity to learn more about the Church's contribution to the debate on artificial intelligence.

Audience engagement activities were carried out tirelessly by its members, who have participated in or devised high quality opportunities for discussion in various contexts.

The critical topics that are part of the RenAIssance Foundation's mission have been addressed in a variety of meetings and projects, with the aim of engaging and enthusing the widest possible audience vis-à-vis the issues under consideration, and showing them the immediate and everyday impact of the issues at stake.

Participation in these public events made it possible for people to become aware of the multiplicity of initiatives currently underway in this field, and to get to know perspectives at times surprising in their boldness or creativity, but also in light of the profound diversity of anthropological approaches expressed.

- 26th -27th October 2022
**Notre-Dame University,
South Bend, Indiana (USA)**
- May-June 2022
Video promoting the Rome Call
- 10th January 2023
**Joint signature of the Rome Call
for AI Ethics by the Abrahamic
Religions - Vatican City**
- 26th October 2023
**Prof. Paolo Benanti at the
UN AI Advisory Body**



26th -27th October 2022

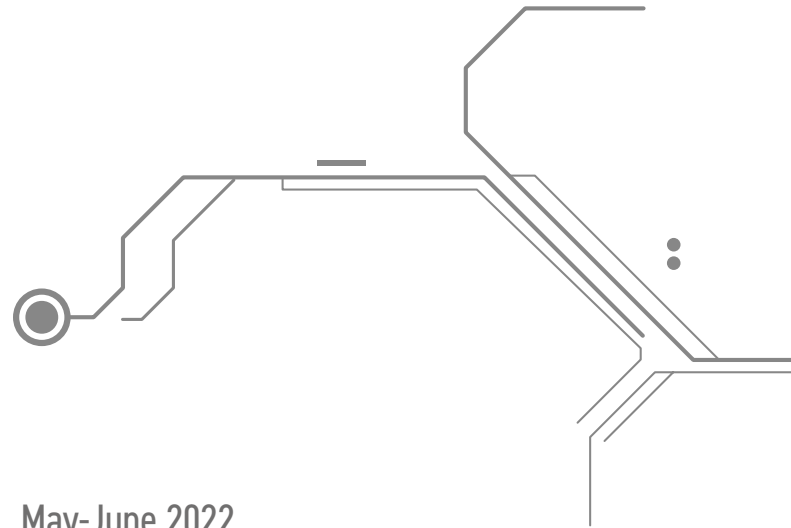
Notre-Dame University, South Bend, Indiana (USA)

The Global University Summit for the Rome Call for AI Ethics co-organized by the Pontifical Academy for Life, IBM and the University of Notre Dame, hosted by the Notre Dame-IBM Technology Ethics Lab, explored the ways in which the academic world can use the complementary roles of research, education and policy in developing human centred approaches to artificial intelligence.

More than 130 representatives from 40 institutions, including 28 universities from around the world, attended the event.

During the Summit, eight universities signed the Rome Call: SWPS University (Warsaw, Poland), Schiller International University (Madrid, Spain), Chuo University (Tokyo, Japan), University of Florida (Gainesville, Florida), Catholic University of Croatia (Zagreb, Croatia), University of Navarra (Pamplona, Spain), University of Notre Dame (Notre-Dame, Indiana), University of Johannesburg (Johannesburg, South Africa).

Noteworthy was the multi-religious session which saw the participation of speakers such as Abp. Paglia, Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf, Chairman of the Cordoba Initiative, and Rabbi Yehiel E. Poupko, Rabbinic Scholar at the Jewish United Fund/Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago.



May-June 2022

Video promoting the Rome Call

Three video chapters were promoted by Brad Smith, Vice Chair and President of Microsoft, on his personal social-media channels, with thousands of views, to endorse the Rome Call through a discussion involving literature, science, technology, faith, and reason to illustrate the advancement of human knowledge.



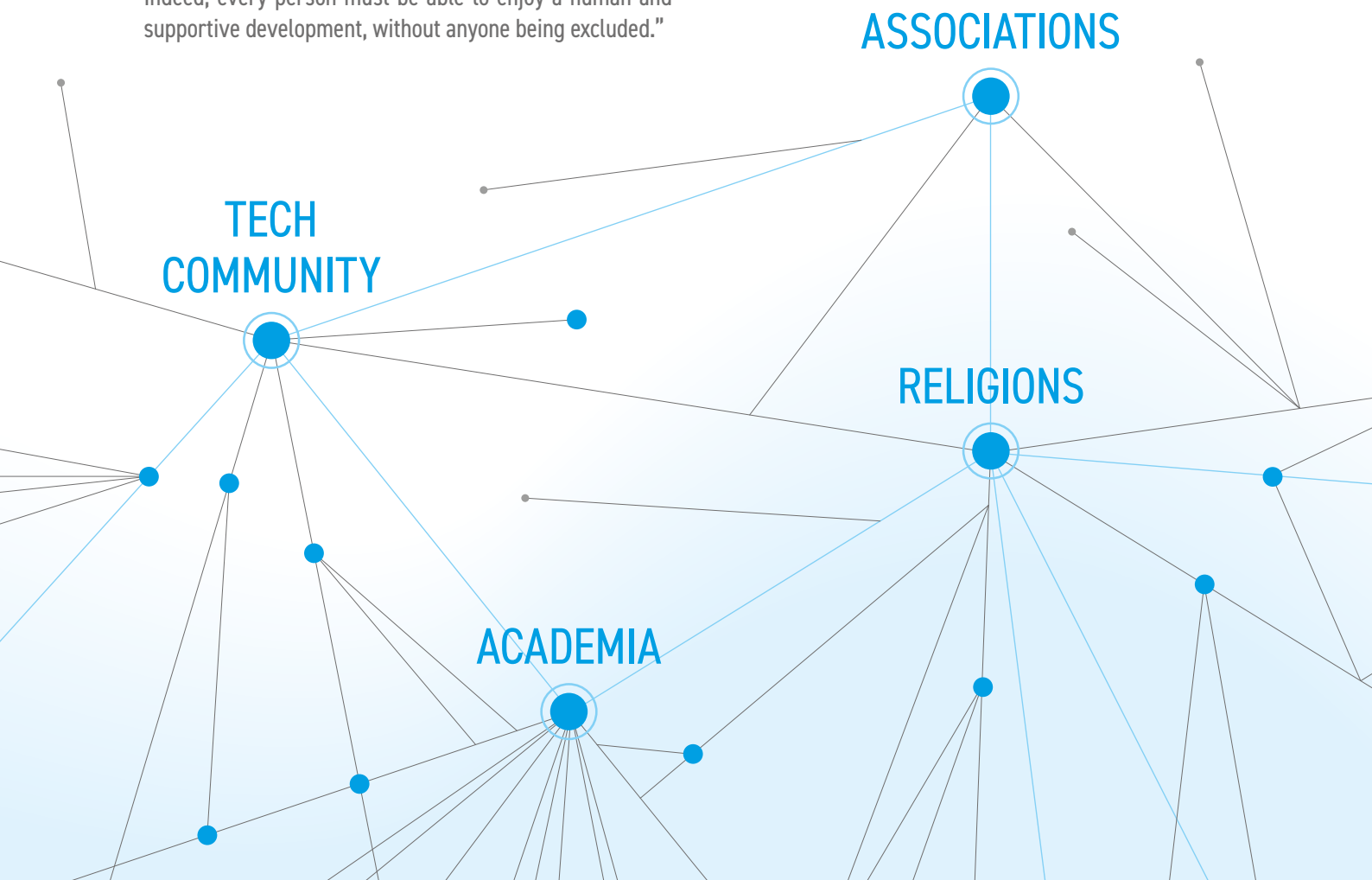
10th January 2023

Joint signature of the Rome Call for AI Ethics by the Abrahamic Religions

The main event during the period under consideration was the interreligious signing of the Rome Call that saw three leaders of the three monotheistic religions signing together the call for an ethical development of artificial intelligence. The three signatories involved were: Archbishop Vincenzo Paglia, President of the Pontifical Academy of Life; Chief Rabbi Eliezer Simha Weisz, member of the Council of the Chief Rabbinate of Israel; Sheikh Al Mahfoudh Bin Bayyah, representing Sheikh Abdallah bin Bayyah, Head of the Abu Dhabi Forum for Peace and Chairman of the UAE Fatwa Council.

During the event, the participants were received in a papal audience, during which the Holy Father Francis said, **“I am pleased to know that you also wish to involve the other great world religions and men and women of goodwill so that “algor-ethics” – ethical reflection on the use of algorithms – will be increasingly present not only in public debate, but also in the development of technical solutions. Indeed, every person must be able to enjoy a human and supportive development, without anyone being excluded.”**

The event, which was attended by Brad Smith (Microsoft), Dario Gil (IBM) and Maximo Torero Cullen (FAO), then ended with a session that featured a keynote speech by Prof. Paolo Benanti (Scientific Director of the RenAIssance Foundation and Professor at the Gregorian University), and lectures by distinguished speakers: Prof. Ana Palacio (former Spanish Foreign Minister), Prof. Mario Rasetti (Professor Emeritus of theoretical physics at the Polytechnic University of Turin and Chairman of CENTAI’s Scientific Committee), Dr. Hamza Yusuf (President of Zaytuna College in Berkeley, CA); Prof. Aviad Hacoen (President of the Academic Center for Law and Science in Hod HaSharon, Israel, former Dean of the Law School) and Prof. Sebastiano Maffettone (Director of Ethos, at LUISS Guido Carli University in Rome).



26th October 2023

Prof. Paolo Benanti at the UN AI Advisory Body

RenAIssance Foundation's Scientific Director Prof. Paolo Benanti – one of the main proponents of the Rome Call for AI Ethics – is one of the experts appointed by United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres as a member of a new Advisory Body on Artificial Intelligence. The goal of this select group of experts, whose creation was announced on 26th October 2023, is to assess the risks, opportunities and define an international governance of artificial intelligence.

The Advisory Body on AI consists of 38 members and one permanent member of the Secretariat (the UN SG Envoy on Technology, Amandeep Gill). The expert group is diverse, representative of different sectors and balanced in terms of gender, age, geography and areas of expertise. Its members, 20 women and 19 men, are deeply experienced in the fields of government, business, the technology community, civil society, and academia.

The final report of the Advisory Body on AI will be released in the summer of 2024, before the Summit of the Future.



MAIN EVENTS SCHEDULED

8th - 11th July 2024

Joint signature of the Rome Call for AI Ethics by Eastern Religions – Hiroshima (Japan)

With a view to continuing and expanding interfaith dialogue, from 8th to 11th July 2024 the RenAIssance Foundation is organizing the signature of the Rome Call for AI Ethics with representatives of the Eastern religions.

The event will be held at the city of Hiroshima. The choice of venue is highly symbolic. In the same place that in the last century became a symbol of the potential destructiveness of technology used for evil, a document will be signed that calls for the need and urgency to direct today's main technological tool, artificial intelligence, towards good.





*Joint signature of the Rome Call for AI Ethics by the Abrahamic Religions - Vatican City, January 10th, 2023
Credits: Vatican Media.*

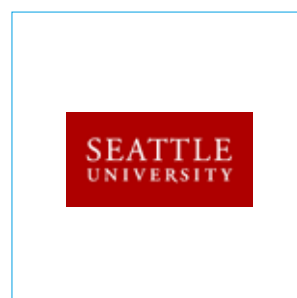
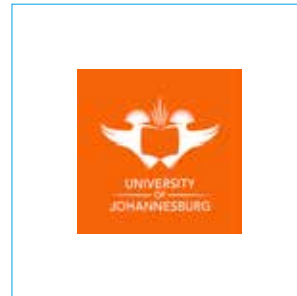


STUDY CENTRE

Established as part of the RenAIssance Foundation, the purpose of the Study Centre is to aggregate experts around strategic issues and to produce original thinking on the most innovative and contemporary topics, in order to place the Foundation and the key themes of the Rome Call within the international debate as an authoritative and pioneering interlocutor.

In April 2023, the Study Centre produced the first scientific paper, authored by Dr. Simona Bonini Baldini, entitled “L’ombra digitale del migrante: il ruolo dell’AI e delle nuove tecnologie nella gestione dei processi migratori” dedicated to the role of AI and the new technologies in the management of migration processes (soon to be published). The second part of the study will soon be completed. For the development of this second paper dedicated to AI and migrants, intensive stakeholder engagement work was initiated to establish contacts with a number of key institutions, which will be interviewed as part of the research study. These include: the German Federal Office for Migrants and Refugees (BAMF), Algorithm Watch, and the Immigration Policy Lab. Stakeholder engagement work is currently underway.

SUPPORTERS OF THE ROME CALL








RenAIssance
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If you want to support the Rome Call for AI Ethics you can

- sign it as an organization or as an individual (endorser) at romecall.org/join-us
- make a donation to the RenAIssance Foundation to help build a future with humans at its center at www.romecall.org/renaissance-foundation/

For further info:

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