

## About Extropy Institute

Extropy Institute brings together the most critical and creative minds to meet the technology-driven challenges and opportunities of the future.

Extropy Institute is the original transhumanist organization founded in 1991 as the networking center for bringing people together to talk about the future.

Extropy Institute formed the world's first Internet email list on new technologies, how rapid technological change can and would affect society and the pros and cons of both developing and using new technologies. Along with the famed "Extropians" email list, Extropy Institute produced the glossy magazine on transhumanist ideas in its magazine Extropy: The Journal of Transhumanist Thought. With a circulation of several thousand, this transhumanist publication was sold in leading bookstores and newsstands from 1988–1996, before moving online.



As the original think-tank for transhumanists, our approach is proactive, our focus critical, and our ideas principled in addressing social concerns and questions that will make or break the future of humanity.

Extropy Institute has been catalytic in networking leading thinkers to help bring about the best possible outcomes from the development and deployment of technologies that extend life span, enhance human cognition, refine emotions, and that open new social, economic, and political options. Transhumanism is a direct outgrowth of the Extro Conferences and the mailing list. The conferences were held on the West Coast of North America from 1991 until 2001.

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In 2001, Extropy Institute made a decision to step back and provide ample space for other organizations to build their structures and work with us to build transhumanism. It has been rewarding to be a part of the development and growth of transhumanist organizations worldwide.

Today, Extropy Institute is working toward realizing many of its early goals. Being ahead of the times can be exciting and enabling. It also requires patience and understanding of how society adapts to change, especially the radical changes that transhumanism proposes. After a few-year pause to reflect, regroup and reapproach topics that had incubated early on at Extropy Institute central, mainstream society has finally caught up. Many of our early members and current members are now recognized in the worldwide press as being leaders in their fields.

## Extropy Institute is focusing on four strategic priorities

1. **Develop Organizational Core:** Continue to build the Institute's role as a provider of substantial and reliable resources for strategic planning, scenario construction, risk management, and policy development on issues relating to rapid and radical technological change.
2. **Advance Information and Education:** ExI is compiling an anthology of email posts from the original Extropians email list and the newer extropy-chat email list, from 1991 to 2005, where pioneering ideas that were ahead of their time were and continue to be incubated. ExI is also working with its members to produce the book, *The World's Most Dangerous Idea*.
3. **Advance Proactionary Principle:** ExI is developing an advanced, comprehensive, balanced, and proactive means for evaluating the benefits and risks of new technologies and alternative means of deploying them. The core of this effort is the Proactionary Principle, supplemented by others tools such as decision markets.



4. **Develop Networking Vehicle:** Develop strategy for enhancing the Extropy Institute network through electronic venues, such as the email list and online Summits, and also aggressively being proactive about meeting people, making connections and building joint projects. One timely project is the development of a Transhumanism Course at Extropy Campus.

## About Transhumanism

Extropy Institute has plenty of resources to use in developing your own library of transhumanist ideas. For example, our transhumanist FAQ contains the earliest ideas about transhumanism as well as the most recent discoveries. Among the many contributors, we especially thank Alexander "Sasha" Chislenko, who also spearheaded the Transhumanist Principles, and Alex Bokov, who worked with members of ExI to create the Transhumanist FAQ—which originated on the transhuman mailing list in the mid-1990s.

Extropy Institute also has a gold mine of ideas generated from the earliest "Extropians" email list. We have kept all these ideas intact for our archives of transhumanism and are happy to share them with you.

### Transhumanism:

- Any philosophy of life that seeks the continuation and acceleration of the evolution of intelligent life beyond its currently human form and human limitations by means of science and technology, guided by life-promoting principles and values. [Max More, 1990]
- Any philosophy of life that seeks the acceleration of our development beyond its current human limitations by means of science, technology, creativity, and other rational methods. [Max More, rev.1998]