

## Session 1.2: Introduction

7<sup>th</sup> October 2017

**Title: Overview: Beyond a Utilitarian View of Technology**

**Speaker: Dr LEUNG Wing-Tai**

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Leung Wing-Tai has had an education spanning science, theology, media, management, and communication. He has a PhD in Communication (Regent); Master of Fine Arts in Cinema-Television (University of Southern California); MTS in Christianity & Society (Gordon-Conwell Seminary); MA in Radio-TV-Film (Bowling Green State U); and a BSc in Physics-Chemistry (HKU).

Dr Leung has demonstrated a life-long commitment to cultivate values and worldviews among youths and leaders, through the media and higher education. He served in - and later became the Head of - *Breakthrough*, a youth-culture organization. He currently serves as the founding President of Lumina College, a Christian higher education institute. He has served as the producer of award-winning youth media, and is involved in public policies for the government advisory system and church leadership. He has been an invited keynote speaker at international conferences on youth, media, culture, education, faith and futuristic concerns, and has authored ten books addressing these topics.

### **Abstract:**

This is an overview of technology beyond the utilitarian view to the philosophical, ethical and theological levels. What do we gain and lose in an invention? Does the form of technology shape human consciousness and culture? Is technology merely a tool or will it rule over humanity? What is the inner logic of technology? Is what *can* be done what *should* be done? What about the cases of gene cracking and human cloning? Are there any gender biases in technological development? What are the characteristics of convivial tools? What are the biblical views of technique and technology? What is to be said of either utopian or dystopian visions of a technological future? How, in light of this, can we redeem technology?

### **Readings:**

- “From Tools to Technocracy” in *Technopoly* (pp. 21-39) Neil Postman (1993).
- “Tool Users vs. Homo Sapiens and the Megamachine” Lewis Mumford. Article #32 in Scharff and Dusek.
- “A Moratorium on Cyborgs: computation, cognition, and commerce” Evan Selinger and Timothy Engström. Article #52 in Scharff and Dusek.