



Public lecture

Accelerated Salvation?

AI Sermons, Digital Religion and Spiritual Optimisation

Professor Pauline Hope Cheong

Wednesday 19 August
5:00pm – 7:00pm

Artificial intelligence is increasingly woven in religious communication through sermon generators, pastoral chatbots, devotional assistants and personalised spiritual guidance platforms. These technical innovations reflect a broader drive toward optimisation in religious organisations, where efficiency, immediacy and responsiveness are proffered as solutions by the rising ChurchTech enterprise in response to growing demands on ministry leaders. Based on extensive fieldwork in digital religion and the adoption of AI tools in faith contexts, this talk will explore the paradoxes surrounding AI sermon construction and content creation expectations. Responses from religious leaders to the uptake of AI applications illustrate new and adaptive practices of authority and governance, with profound implications for information and formation within contemporary religious life.

Hosted by the Centre for Technology and Human Futures. For more information, please contact cthf@nd.edu.au.

Register now



DATE

19 August 2026

TIME

5:00pm – 7:00pm

VENUE

NDS2/301, St Benedict's
The University of Notre Dame Australia
104 Broadway, Chippendale

SPEAKER



Professor Pauline Hope Cheong holds several distinguished positions at Arizona State University (ASU). She is the President's Professor and

Zebulon Pearce Distinguished Teacher of the Social Sciences. She was the Founding Director of Engagement and Innovation at the Hugh Downs School of Human Communication, where she still holds a professorship. She is a Focal Lead at the Global Futures Laboratory and affiliate faculty at both the Center on Technology, Data and Society and the Center for the Study of Religion and Conflict at ASU. Her research is multidisciplinary and multimethod, focusing on the interactions between communication technologies and diverse cultural communities worldwide. Current projects investigate how religious and civic organisations utilise AI, robotics and digital media to foster local and transnational communities. Professor Cheong has authored more than 120 articles and books and has co-led funded research projects totalling over \$3 million USD.



Institute for
Ethics & Society

THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME AUSTRALIA

**The Notre Dame Centre for
Technology and Human Futures**

Human approaches to technology and the futures we create