

CAMPUS *mundi*

147

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Campus Mundi
MY AIU MAGAZINE
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choose
the contents
of this magazine
with you
in mind
-to inspire you
and make you
think

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in touch

New Auxiliary Bishop



NOVEMBER 11, 2025. We congratulate missionary **John Kwamevi Cudjoe** on his appointment

as the new Auxiliary Bishop of Guayaquil by **Pope Leo XIV.**

The Ecuadorian Episcopal Conference (CEE) announced that His Holiness **Pope Leo XIV** appointed Reverend **Father John Kwamevi Cudjoe**, S.V.D., a member of the Congregation of the Divine Word Missionaries, as Auxiliary

Bishop of the Archdiocese of Guayaquil, granting him the Titular See of Calama.

Until now, **Father Cudjoe** served as parish priest of “Mary Mother of the Church” in Huaquillas, which belongs to the Diocese of Machala.

The Ecuadorian Episcopal Conference expressed its gratitude to God and the Holy Father for this appointment, joining “in prayer for the new Auxiliary Bishop of Guayaquil, that the Lord may grant him abundant gifts in his episcopal ministry, in service to the

People of God in Ecuador.” **John Kwamevi Cudjoe** has completed a Master program in Psychology at **Atlantic International University.** ... **More information:** <https://adn.celam.org/el-papa-leon-xiv-nombra-al-misionero-john-kwamevi-cudjoe-como-nuevo-obispo-auxiliar-de-guayaquil/>



Image: commons.wikimedia.org

21ST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON Interdisciplinary Social Sciences



Image: worldstudies.com

Call for Papers

This Conference will be hosted **15-17 July 2026** by **University of Galway**, Galway, Ireland. + Online

We invite proposals for paper presentations, workshops/ interactive sessions, posters/ exhibits, colloquia, focused discussions, innovation show-cases, virtual posters, or virtual lightning talks.

2026 Special Focus:

“Bridging Boundaries: Collaborative Solutions to Complex Social Issues in an Interconnected World”

Theme 1: Social and Community Studies.

- Theme 2:** Civic and Political Studies.
- Theme 3:** Cultural Studies.
- Theme 4:** Global Studies.
- Theme 5:** Environmental Studies.
- Theme 6:** Organizational Studies.
- Theme 7:** Educational Studies.
- Theme 8:** Communication.

Become a Presenter:

1. Submit a proposal
2. Review timeline
3. Register

Regular proposal deadline

15 April 2026

Late registration deadline

15 June 2026

Visit the website:

<https://thesocialsciences.com>

FIND MORE NEWS FROM AIU FAMILY

Latest News: <https://www.aiu.edu/aiu-news/>

Graduated with Distinction

JANUARY, 2026. These graduate student completed their program with a high cumulative grade point average, which reflects the quality of performance within their respective major.

Congratulations!



DISTINCTION

Araceli Fuentes Osnaya

Master of Marketing and E-Commerce
MARKETING AND E-COMMERCE



DISTINCTION

Zeynab Schmitz

Doctor of Philosophy
LEGAL STUDIES ORIENTED IN ISLAMIC LEGAL STUDIES



Graduates of the month

Image: www.freepik.es

JANUARY 2026

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Civil Engineering
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Strategy Analysis and Management
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Educational Management and Leadership
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MY LIFE IS A SUCCESS • <https://www.aiu.edu/university/np/mylifeisasuccess/?NoTracking>

Lilian Gabriela Cerna's dedication to psychological excellence



Edward Lambert / AIU Academic Director • Lilian Cerna Cartes / Master of Psychology – Child Psychology (Cum Laude)

Lilian Gabriela Cerna's journey to success is nothing short of inspiring. It showcases a relentless pursuit of excellence in psychology. Armed with a Master's degree in Psychology from the United States, **Lilian** seamlessly blends academic prowess with practical experience, creating a compelling success story.

Healing minds, changing lives

Lilian's career trajectory began at the *Male Social Rehabilitation Center* in Ecuador, where she served as a Clinical Psychologist and Coordinator of Diagnosis and Evaluation from January 2013 to January 2015. During her tenure, she developed, coordinated,

and implemented counseling and rehabilitation programs for inmates, demonstrating her commitment to positively impacting individuals within the justice system.

Her dedication extended to the *CLINIKA Medical Center* in Ecuador, where **Lilian** worked part-time as a Clinical Psychologist from June 2013 to June 2015. Here, she conducted private psychological counseling, psychometric testing, and evaluations for children and adults from schools and businesses, showcasing her versatility in addressing a diverse range of psychological needs.

Adding to her accomplishments, **Lilian** contributed significantly to the *Health Control*

Medical Center in Ecuador from June 2012 to June 2014. In her part-time role as a Clinical Psychologist, she conducted private counseling sessions, psychometric testing, and evaluations for children and adults, further solidifying her reputation as a skilled and compassionate professional.

Commitment beyond clinical practice

Lilian's impact extends beyond clinical settings, as evidenced by her notable publications and participation in impactful events. As a panelist at the International Congress of Physical Disabilities in Ecuador, she presented on "*Educational Inclusion and Training of Resource Classrooms*

and *Psycho-pedagogical Support*," showcasing her commitment to advancing knowledge in her field. Additionally, her involvement as a panelist in the *National Debate of Abused Women* reflects her dedication to addressing critical social issues.

Lilian received recognition from a national newspaper for her remarkable ten years of service working with children with disabilities in Ecuador. Her commitment to creating positive change is further highlighted by her involvement in the "*Creating Smiles at Guayas*" project, a program to train parents to cope with a child's disabilities.

Success fueled by AIU's support

Lilian Gabriela Cerna credits the AIU for enriching her journey in psychology. The experience was rewarding and filled with valuable knowledge and updated insights. The dedicated tutors at AIU played a pivotal role, offering necessary assistance and guidance, while the academic

servers demonstrated a unique capability to explain procedures and recognize professional merits. This recognition accelerated **Lilian's** master's degree journey.

The flexibility of AIU's study methodology empowered professionals like **Lilian** to progress gradually, ensuring they met and exceeded the objectives set by the university, thus shaping her into a successful and accomplished psychologist.

A legacy in the field of psychology

Lilian Gabriela Cerna's success story is a testament to her unwavering dedication, diverse skill set, and passion for making a difference in the lives of those she serves. Her journey exemplifies one individual's impact on psychology, creating a legacy that will undoubtedly inspire future generations in the field.

WATCH VIDEO: <https://www.aiu.edu/university/np/mylifeisasuccess/discover/lilian-gabriela-terna.html?NoTracking#content>

The path to happiness in 2026



We begin a new year and, as always, we surely make many promises: that we will reach our goals, that we will be happy, and so on. At the end of 2025, we are aware that there are many global problems to solve and that we must be very analytical to chart a course that allows us to create a life project

that brings us satisfaction. First and foremost, happiness is not about accumulating possessions or money; happiness is about recognizing our abilities, the knowledge we can acquire, and the space to develop them. We are witnesses to the extensive progress we have made in science, to the extraordinary

results we have achieved. One example of the achievements of science is the Nobel Prize. These laureates have been recognized for their creativity in providing solutions to the major problems we humans have created. The *World Economic Forum* declared this year the International Year of Quan-

tum Science and Technology.

According to the *World Economic Forum*, the value of quantum communication and security could reach two trillion dollars by 2035.

Let's look at the Nobel Prize-winning achievements. *WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM. THE 2025 NOBEL PRIZE WINNERS, AND WHY THEIR WORK MATTERS. OCTOBER 2025. https://es.weforum.org/stories/2025/10/los-ganadores-del-premio-nobel-2025-y-por-que-su-trabajo-es-importante/*

In Physics, the Nobel Prize was awarded for work in quantum mechanics, which is of paramount importance because the *World Economic Forum*, in its analysis, projects a serious economic situation in the next 12 months, or 2026, due to geopolitical problems.

The winners of the Nobel Prize in **Physics** are **Michel H. Devoret, John Clarke, and John M. Martinis** for their work on the quantum tunneling effect.

The Nobel Prize in **Physiology or Medicine** was awarded to **Shimon Sakaguchi, Mary Brunkow, and Fred Ramsdell** for their work on preventing immune cells from attacking

our own bodies; these cells were called regulatory T cells.

This discovery sheds light on why many people is spared from certain diseases. It will also allow for new cancer treatments.

The Nobel Prize in **Chemistry** was awarded to **Omar Yaghi, Susumu Kitagawa, and Richard Robson** for creating the molecular architecture that could solve problems such as the climate crisis and water scarcity. These two problems are expected to reach critical levels in the coming decade.

The Nobel Prize in **Economics** was awarded to **Philippe Aghion, Joel Mokyr, and Peter Howitt** for their work on how innovation should create a self-sustaining process of growth, not destruction. The above only occurs when there



By Dr. Rosa Hilda Lora M. Advisor at AIU | rosa@aiu.edu

are scientific explanations for how technologies work. This will be the case with Artificial Intelligence (AI).

There are the Nobel Prizes for Literature and Peace, which call upon human beings to embrace the inherent virtues necessary for a way of life different from the one we have today. In addition to such important scientific research, let's see what organizations that conduct necessary and valuable studies for the development of society have to say, studies that will allow for a life of well-being for all human beings.

"The global economy faces significant challenges stemming largely from increased trade tensions and greater global policy uncertainty. For emerging market and developing economies (EMDEs), the subdued outlook limits their ability to boost job creation and reduce extreme poverty." *WORLD BANK. GLOBAL ECONOMIC PROSPECTS. JUNE 2025* <https://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/global-economic-prospects>

Therefore, the *World Bank* has analyzed the current situation resulting from the tensions created in countries' trade relations.

It continues: "Global growth is slowing following a sharp increase in trade barriers and greater policy uncertainty.

Growth is projected to weaken to 2.3 percent in 2025 —a significant downward revision from previous forecasts— with only a slight recovery expected in 2026–27." *WORLD BANK. GLOBAL ECONOMIC PROSPECTS. JUNE 2025* <https://www.worldbank.org/es/publication/global-economic-prospects>

It is common knowledge that trade tensions have increased, and global organizations dedicated to analyzing countries' economic situations have already made projections and proposals regarding potential growth, offering analyses that suggest economic growth will be weak. One such organization is the European Union, which analyzes all aspects that affect the group's economy to negotiate and address what it can achieve.

Below, we present the *World Bank's* projection for mid-2025.

"East Asia and the Pacific: Growth is projected to slow to 4.5 percent in 2025 and 4.0 percent in 2026. For more information, see the regional outlook (i).

Europe and Central Asia: Growth is projected to decelerate to 2.4 percent in 2025 and then gradually increase to 2.6 percent in 2026–27. For more information, see the regional outlook (i).

Latin America and the Caribbean: Growth is anticipated

to remain steady at 2.3 percent in 2025 before strengthening to an average of 2.5 percent in 2026–27. For more information, see the regional outlook." *WORLD BANK. GLOBAL ECONOMIC PROSPECTS. JUNE 2025.* <https://www.worldbank.org/es/publication/global-economic-prospects>

For the Middle East, the World Bank made the following projections:

"Middle East and North Africa: Growth is projected to increase to 2.7 percent in 2025 and then strengthen to an average of 3.9 percent in 2026–27. For more information, see the regional outlook (i).

South Asia: Growth is expected to moderate to 5.8 percent in 2025 and then strengthen to an average of 6.2 percent in 2026–27. For more information, see the regional outlook (i).

Sub-Saharan Africa: Growth is projected to reach 3.7 percent in 2025 and average 4.2 percent in 2026–27. For more information, see the regional outlook (i)." *WORLD BANK. GLOBAL ECONOMIC PROSPECTS. JUNE 2025.* <https://www.worldbank.org/es/publication/global-economic-prospects>

Due to global developments in trade relations, organizations that analyze global

growth have lowered their projected indicators.

The 2026 World Economic Forum in Davos will address the following topics:

1. How can we cooperate in a world facing challenges?
2. How can we access new sources of growth?
3. How can we invest better in people?
4. How can we implement innovations on a large scale and responsibly?
5. How can we create prosperity without exceeding planetary boundaries?

The *United Nations* (UN) doesn't have year-to-year programs;





it continues with its Sustainable Development Programme (UNDP), developing strategies for 2026–2029.

The UNDP has the following objectives:

1. Human development while protecting the planet.
2. Prosperity for all.
3. Effective governance.
4. Resilience to crises.

“UNDP will continue to support countries in their progress toward a high level of human development, while protecting the planet. Four strategic objectives —prosperity for all, effective governance, resilience to crises, and a healthy

planet— define its strategic guidelines, driven by three accelerators: digital transformation and artificial intelligence (AI), gender equality, and sustainable finance. All of these are based on a commitment to human rights and the principle of leaving no one behind”.

UNITED NATIONS. UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME. STRATEGIC PLAN 2026–2029. <https://strategicplan.undp.org/assets/docs/UNDP-Strategic-Plan-Spanish-Summary.pdf>

To the analysis above, we must add the state of communication in the world we live in hate speech and disinformation.

It seems there are bets being

placed on who can be the most aggressive and who can tell the most lies.

In such a society, it is very difficult to reach agreements that produce global growth.

People don’t listen to what others are saying, they’re only concerned about who can be the most aggressive.

Alongside aggressive behavior lies are also prevalent; from what we see, these are lies crafted in the cruelest way.

The question is: How do we achieve a coexistence that creates a society toward growth?

As Aristotle said in Ancient Greece, human beings are

gregarious by nature: they only develop in society.

Animals are born and achieve their full development on their own; human beings need others. This is evident in Aristotle’s works: *Politics and Nicomachean Ethics*.

For 2026, as human beings, we must:

1. Learn to relate to others.

2. Learn to listen to others.
3. Learn to respond with respect for listener, recognizing them as someone who needs and deserves respect.
4. Learn to listen in any social setting to provide assertive responses that foster genuine communication.

You are enrolled in a program of study at **Atlantic International University (AIU)**.

- 1 Study so you can learn the truth as demonstrated by science and not become a target of misinformation.
- 2 Study so you can communicate effectively and achieve the happy you desire in 2026.
- 3 Study so you can enjoy communicating with others by learning to give in order to receive.

BIBLIOGRAPHY. Banco Mundial. Perspectivas Económicas Mundiales. Junio 2025. <https://www.bancomundial.org/es/publication/global-economic-prospects> | **Foro Económico Mundial.** Los Ganadores del premio Nobel 2025, y por qué su trabajo es importante. Octubre 2025. <https://es.weforum.org/stories/2025/10/los-ganadores-del-premio-nobel-2025-y-por-que-su-trabajo-es-importante/> | **Foro Económico Mundial.** Reunión anual de 2026. 19– 23 de enero 2026. <https://es.weforum.org/meetings/world-economic-forum-annual-meeting-2026/> | **Naciones Unidas.** Programa de la Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo. Plan Estratégico 2026–2029. <https://strategicplan.undp.org/assets/docs/UNDP-Strategic-Plan-Spanish-Summary.pdf>

From buildings to discipleship

Lessons from church closures in Rwanda

Tumusiime Moses | Doctorate in Human Trafficking and Prevention | Part 2/2

TABLE 1:1 DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF RESPONDENTS (N=133)

CHARACTERISTIC	CATEGORY	FREQUENCY (N)	PERCENTAGE %
Gender	Male	78	58.6
	Female	55	41.4
Respondent role	Pastors	40	30.1
	Christian leaders	20	15.0
	Lay believers	40	30.1
	Theological educators and students	20	15.0
	Policy makers	13	9.8
Education Level	Secondary or below	25	18.8
	Tertiary (College/University)	75	56.4
	Postgraduate	33	24.8
Total		133	100

As presented in **Table 1** (above), the respondents comprised 58.6% males (n=78) and 41.4% females (n=55), ensuring representation of both genders. In terms of roles, pastors and lay believers were the largest groups, each constituting 30.1% (n=40). Christian leaders and theological educators/students accounted for 15.0% (n=20) each, while policy makers represented 9.8% (n=13). This reflects a balanced inclusion of voices from both practitio-

ners and decision-makers. Regarding education, more than half of the respondents (56.4%) had attained tertiary education, followed by postgraduate degree holders (24.8%), while those with secondary or below education constituted 18.8%. This indicates that the sample is relatively well educated, which supports informed perspectives on theological and ecclesial issues. Overall, the demographic profile demonstrates diversity in gender, roles, and educa-

tion levels, which strengthens the reliability of the findings by capturing insights from different strata of the church community.

**Objective 1:
New Testament perspectives on the Church**

See **Table 2** (below)

Analysis:

Most of the respondents concurred that the Church's primary mission is discipleship and community-focused rather

than building-centered. Pastors and theological educators were slightly stressed spiritual formation, while lay believers pointed out community aspects.

**Objective 2:
Impact of Rwandan Church Closures**

See **Table 3** (below)

Analysis:

The closing down of churches

TABLE 3: PERCEIVED EFFECTS OF CHURCH CLOSURES (N=133)

EFFECT/CHALLENGE	FREQUENCY (N)	PERCENTAGE %
Difficulty gathering for worship	90	67.7
Reduced fellowship and community life	85	63.9
Need for innovative home-based gatherings	70	52.6
Disruption of discipleship programs	65	48.9

significantly affected traditional, building-centered models. Pastors pointed out challenges in leadership continuity, while lay believers emphasized reduced community interactions.

TABLE 2: RESPONDENTS' AGREEMENT WITH STATEMENTS ON THE NATURE AND MISSION OF THE CHURCH (N=133)

STATEMENT	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	NEUTRAL	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	TOTAL
The Church's primary mission is to make disciples	60 (45.1%)	50 (37.6%)	15 (11.3%)	5 (3.8%)	3 (2.3%)	100
The Church is primarily a community, not a building	55 (41.4%)	50 (37.6%)	20 (15.0%)	5 (3.8%)	3 (2.3%)	100
The Church should focus on spiritual formation of members	65 (48.9%)	45 (33.8%)	15 (11.3%)	5 (3.8%)	3 (2.3%)	100



Image: www.freepik.es

**Objective 3:
Relational Discipleship,
Community Life,
Spiritual Formation**

See Table 4 (below)

Analysis:

From Table 4, small groups and house churches are perceived as the most effective alternatives. Online fellowship is useful but less preferred, especially among older participants.

**Objective 4: Practical
Strategies for Resilient,**

**Multiplication-Focused
Communities**

See Table 5 (below)

Analysis

The findings point out leadership training as mostly recommended strategy (75%), underscoring the critical role of equipping lay leaders in building resilient communities. This suggests that respondents assess sustainability and growth as best achieved by empowering ordinary members rather than relying solely



**TABLE 4: PERCEIVED EFFECTIVENESS
OF ALTERNATIVE RELATIONAL MODELS (N=133)**

STRATEGY / PRACTICE	VERY EFFECTIVE	EFFECTIVE	NEUTRAL	INEFFECTIVE	VERY INEFFECTIVE	TOTAL %
House churches	55 (41.4%)	50 (37.6%)	20 (15.0%)	5 (3.8%)	3 (2.3%)	100
Small group discipleship	60 (45.1%)	50 (37.6%)	15 (11.3%)	5 (3.8%)	3 (2.3%)	100
Mentorship / one-on-one discipleship	50 (37.6%)	55 (41.4%)	20 (15.0%)	5 (3.8%)	3 (2.3%)	100
Online fellowship / virtual groups	30 (22.6%)	50 (37.6%)	35 (26.3%)	10 (7.5%)	8 (6.0%)	100

TABLE 5: RECOMMENDED STRATEGIES BY RESPONDENTS (N=133)

STRATEGY	FREQUENCY MENTIONED	PERCENTAGE %
Training lay leaders	75	75
Home-based gatherings	70	52.6
Community service projects	50	37.6
Intentional multiplication of disciples	60	45.1
Digital/online engagement	40	30.1

on formal clergy or centralized leadership structures.

Home-based gatherings (52.6%) also emerged as a highly valued approach, reflecting a preference for relational, decentralized expressions of discipleship. Such gatherings provide adaptability and resilience, especially in contexts where formal church structures may be restricted. Closely linked to this is intentional disciple multiplication (45.1%), which points to the centrality of deliberate relational investment in sustaining growth.

While community service projects (37.6%) and digital engagement (30.1%) were mentioned less frequently, they

add complementary dimensions. Service projects highlight the outward-facing witness of communities, fostering trust and integration within society, while digital strategies reveal a growing awareness of technology’s role in extending reach. The relatively lower emphasis on digital tools may point to barriers such as limited access, digital literacy, or a stronger reliance on in-person methods.

Taken together, these findings suggest that respondents envision resilient, multiplication-focused communities as those rooted in decentralized leadership, relational gatherings, and intentional disciple-making, while also embracing

service and digital tools where possible. This pattern indicates a balance between traditional relational approaches and adaptive innovations for sustainable growth.

**Discussion and
Recommendations**

**From Buildings to Discipleship:
A Call for Adjustment**

Church closure in Rwanda provides an opportunity for ecclesial realignment. Rather than comparing success with large congregations or physical infrastructure, churches are invited to regain their biblical mandate of spiritual formation, authentic community, and missional engagement. The key



Image: www.cfr.org

point to this shift is intentional, relational, and reproducible discipleship, equipping every believer to grow in Christ and disciple others. Models such as small groups, house fellowships, and leadership development strategies reminiscent of the early church offer sustainable pathways for ministry. This requires a decisive movement from consumer-oriented patterns to a missional, sending posture that is adaptable and resilient in the face of sociopolitical disruptions.

Prospects for the Rwandan Church:

Despite the challenges of

closure, the Rwandan Church stands at a strategic juncture. Several opportunities emerge: **Reinforcing Discipleship Processes:** by developing leaders through accessible, reproducible training.

Embracing Simplicity and Authenticity: Understanding that worship and fellowship can thrive beyond formal buildings, within homes and local communities.

Re-engaging Youth and Families: Utilizing smaller gatherings to promote inclusive, intergenerational ministry.

Fostering Interdenominational Collaboration: Enhancing ministerial credibility through

shared training, accountability, and pooled resources. These opportunities highlight the potential for a more agile and contextually responsive ecclesiology.

Case Studies and Testimonials:

Practical evidence from Rwanda shows that decentralized ministry models are already yielding fruit. Emerging house church networks emphasize Scripture, prayer, accountability, and outreach, producing testimonies of personal transformation, restored families, and renewed evangelistic momentum. Globally, similar developments in countries such

as China and Iran —contexts characterized by restrictions on religious freedom— illustrate how decentralized structures can sustain and expand the church under pressure. These cases provide both comparative insight and encouragement for the Rwandan context.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Although initially perceived as a setback, the widespread closure of churches may be understood as a providential moment for renewal. The early church thrived without reliance on buildings because of its deep Christ-centeredness, communal life, and missional

focus. To flourish in the current context, the Rwandan Church should:

- Re imagine the church as a living body rather than a physical space.
- Prioritize relational discipleship and the intentional multiplication of leaders.
- Embrace flexibility, creativity, and simplicity in worship and ministry practices.

By adopting these orientations, the church in Rwanda can emerge not only resilient but also more faithful to its New Testament roots vibrant, mission-driven, and equipped to meet contemporary challenges.

THE END

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Publications by Students: aiu.edu/StudentPublication.html



learning



Image: The New York Public Library on Unsplash

AI Hallucinations

How to spot them like a reference librarian.

ChatGPT doesn't lie, exactly. It patterns matches. When you ask for a "cited article about remote work productivity," it knows what citations look like. Author name, year, compelling title, respectable journal. It assembles these patterns into something that feels right. Like a dream where everything makes sense until you wake up. ...

In library school, they taught us something called "citation chaining," but I've adapted it for the age of AI hallucinations. Think of it as three increasingly paranoid levels of verification.

Layer one: The existence check

Does this source exist at all? Not "does it sound real" but actually exist. Google the exact title in quotes. Check the journal's website. Search the author's name with the institution they

supposedly work at. About 40% of AI citations fail this basic test. ...

Layer two: The content check

So the source exists. Great. Does it actually say what the AI claims it says? This is where things get weird. I've seen ChatGPT cite real articles but completely fabricate their findings. It's like it remembers the article exists but not what it actually argued. ...

Layer three: The context check

This is the librarian special. Even if the source exists and says what's claimed, is it being used appropriately? Is this a preliminary study being treated as definitive? Is this one contrarian researcher being positioned as consensus? Is this correlation being presented as causation? ...

Read full text at Card Catalog: <https://cardcatalogforlife.substack.com/p/how-to-spot-ai-hallucinations-like>

Sexism

Nantes, the french city striving to stamp it out.

The public spaces in Nantes, a city along the Loire River in the west of France, might at first glance seem just like those in any other part of Europe. Across the city, there are numerous bike lanes, bustling fresh produce markets and pretty, historic squares. But on closer inspection, there are signs of a profound attempt to make the city, its facilities and its built environment a more equitable place for women.

Hundreds of streets now bear the names of women, including **Joséphine Baker**, **Frida Kahlo** and **Clémence Lefevre** — the little-known creator of local specialty *beurre blanc* sauce. School yards, once dominated by soccer pitches, have been remodeled to incorporate spaces for calm and creativity. Stations for breastfeeding have

been built in the city center to improve maternal comfort and visibly counter stigma. Free tampon dispensers have been installed in libraries, gyms and all kinds of other municipal buildings.

These initiatives form part of mayor **Johanna Rolland's** bold plan to make Nantes, which is home to around 700,000 people and is the sixth largest city in France, a *ville non-sexiste*, or non-sexist city. From redesigning public areas to reallocating spending and inaugurating France's leading center to counter gender-based violence, Nantes is trailblazing the way to safer, less discriminatory urban life.

"We couldn't wait for change anymore, we had to take action," says **Mathaut Bertu** ... Read full text at **Reasons to be cheerful**: <https://reasonstobecheerful.world/nantes-france-non-sexist-city/>



Image: Christiane Blanchard / Nantes Métropole

Citad'elles provides free, around the clock support for women victims of violence.

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Atlas

Next-generation humanoid robot.

Robotics company Boston Dynamics has struck a partnership with Google’s AI research lab to speed up the development of its next-generation humanoid robot Atlas —and make it act more human around people.

The partnership, which was announced during the Hyundai press conference at CES 2026, is centered on robotics research that will use Google DeepMind’s AI foundation models. Atlas will be the first test case, according to **Carolina Parada**, senior director of robotics at Google DeepMind.

“We’re looking to integrate our cutting-edge AI foundation models with Boston Dynamics’ new Atlas robots, and we’ll aim to develop the world’s most advanced robot foundation model to

fulfill the promise of true general-purpose human needs,” **Parada** said.

The tie-up comes less than a year after the Google AI research lab announced new AI models called Gemini Robotics that are designed to allow robots to perceive, reason, use tools, and interact with humans. Gemini Robotics is based on a large-scale multimodal generative AI model, Gemini. At the time, Google DeepMind said the robotics AI model was trained to generalize behavior across a range of different robotics hardware.

A prototype of Atlas walked onstage during the press conference, showing off ... **Read full text at TechCrunch:** <https://techcrunch.com/2026/01/05/boston-dynamics-next-gen-humanoid-robot-will-have-google-deepmind-dna/>

Lupus

Stanford Medicine scientists tie it to a virus many carry.

One of humanity’s most ubiquitous infectious pathogens bears the blame for the chronic autoimmune condition called systemic lupus erythematosus or, colloquially, lupus, Stanford Medicine investigators and their colleagues have found.

The Epstein-Barr virus (EBV), which resides silently inside the bodies of 19 out of 20 Americans, is directly responsible for commandeering what starts out as a minuscule number of immune cells to go rogue and persuade far more of their fellow immune cells to launch a widespread assault on the body’s tissues, the scientists have shown.

The findings were published Nov. 12 2025 in *Science Translational Medicine*.

“This is the single most impactful finding to emerge from my lab in my

entire career,” said **William Robinson**, MD, PhD, a professor of immunology and rheumatology and the study’s senior author. “We think it applies to 100% of lupus cases.” The study’s lead author is **Shady Younis**, PhD, an instructor in immunology and rheumatology.

Several hundred thousand Americans (by some estimates close to a million) and about 5 million worldwide have lupus, in which the immune system attacks the contents of cell nuclei. This results in damage to organs and tissues throughout the body —skin, joints, kidneys, heart, nerves and elsewhere— with symptoms varying widely among individuals. For unknown reasons, nine out of 10 lupus patients are women. ...

Read full text at Stanford Medicine: <https://med.stanford.edu/news/all-news/2025/11/lupus-epstein-barr.html>

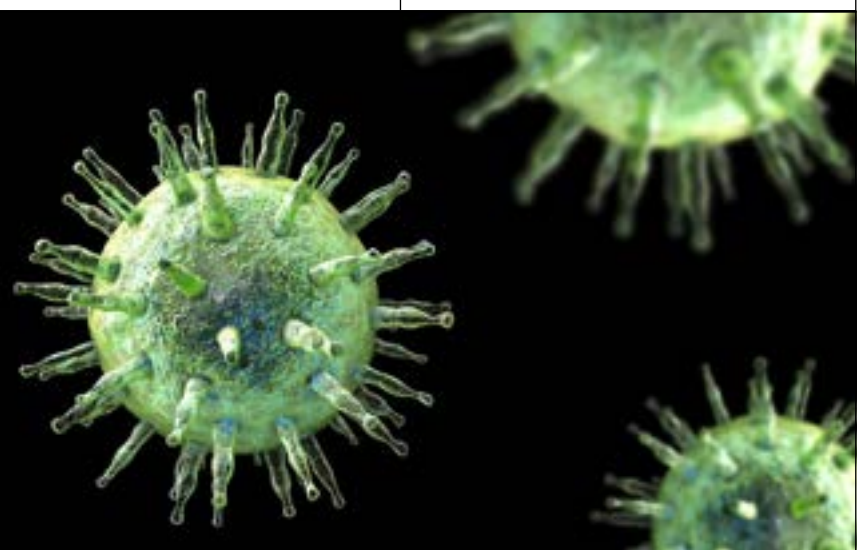


Image: Kateryna Kom / Dreamstime

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Image: www.coolhike.jp

Art TV

The inevitable rise

New televisions from Amazon, Hisense, TCL, and others are designed to display fine art and look like a painting when they're switched off. It's all thanks to smaller living spaces and new screen tech.

The Samsung frame TV, first announced in 2017, doesn't look all that great as an actual television. But switch it off and it sure is pretty —certainly much better to look at than an empty black void. Whatever fine art you choose to display on the TV when it's in standby will make it resemble a framed painting. Through a few updates, the Frame TV has become one of the more considered options for people who live in smaller spaces without dedicated rooms for watching TV.

It has taken a while for other brands to catch up, but we're now seeing a huge wave of Frame-like TVs. The trend is largely driven by aesthetes in cities where smaller living rooms are the norm, but it's getting a boost from advances in screen design. ...

Read full text at Wired: <https://www.wired.com/story/art-frame-tv-trends/>

MOCHI

Keeps windows almost transparent, while blocking heat.

During winter, cold weather means for many drafty windows that waste energy and keep you from being cozy inside your home. Some turn to clear plastic shrink-wrap insulation kits.

But researchers from the University of Colorado Boulder have a more high-tech, long-lasting solution for insulating windows without obstructing the view. They have made a material that lets 99% of light through while blocking 10 times as much heat as conventional windows.

The researchers can make the material as flexible square-meter-sized films that could be applied to existing windows, as well as slabs that are multiple centimeters thick made at the square-meter scale. The durable material should last for 20 years.

Buildings consume about 40% of all energy generated worldwide. And over a quarter of a building's energy is lost through glass windows. "You can put a lot of insulation in your walls, but windows need to be transparent," said **Ivan Smalyukh**, a professor of physics at CU Boulder. "Finding insulators that are transparent is really challenging."

Their latest material, reported in the journal *Science*, is a silicone-based gel with a complex microstructure. The material, which they call Mesoporous Optically Clear Heat Insulator, or MOCHI, contains precisely arranged pockets of air that are much thinner than a human hair.

The researchers make it by suspending molecules called surfactants in a liquid silicone solution. The surfactants bind to each other to form a complicated pipelike network, and the silicone sticks to the outside of these threads. Then the researchers wash away the surfactant and water, and replace it with air.

MOCHI is 90% air, and it allows more than 99% of light falling on it to pass through. Its thermal transmittance —which measures the heat is lost through a window for every degree of temperature difference between the inside and outside— beats conventional windows by a big margin. While the best commercial windows have a transmittance of 0.2 Watts per meter square per Kelvin, the new material boasts 0.01 W/m²K. ...

Read full text at Anthropocene Magazine: <https://www.anthropocenemagazine.org/2025/12/chasing-the-dream-of-transparent-insulation-researchers-hit-on-a-solution-high-tech-bubble-wrap/>



Samoana Matagi was one of the four participants in a study that tested the capabilities of a new bionic hand. Here, Matagi wears the bionic hand on one arm and a common prosthetic called a body-powered hook on the other.

Image: Dave Titensor / Utah NeuroRobotics Lab

Bionic hands

Get a little help from AI

Researchers have built a prosthetic hand that can act a lot more like a natural one. The key is to have the hand recognize when the user wants to do something, then share control of the motions needed to complete the task.

Postdoctoral researcher **Erin Kunz** holds up a microelectrode array that can be placed on the brain's surface as part of a brain-computer interface.

The approach, which combined AI with special sensors, helped four people missing a hand simulate drinking from a cup, says **Marshall Trout**, a researcher at the University of Utah and the study's lead author. ...

The success, described in the journal *Nature Communications*, is notable because "the ability to exert grasp force is one of the things we really struggle with in prosthetics right now," says **John Downey** ...

Read full text at NPR: https://www.npr.org/sections/shots-health-news/2025/12/12/nx-s1-5639925/bionic-hand-prosthetic-artificial-intelligence?utm_campaign=website&utm_medium=email&utm_source=nautilus-newsletter

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Staying indoors

...most of the time. What is that doing to your body?

Most people don't describe their problem as being indoors too much. They say they're exhausted. Anxious. Wired at night and foggy during the day. Sleep doesn't fix it. Rest doesn't feel possible. According to Dr. John La Puma, that cluster of symptoms has a common root we've gotten very good at ignoring.

He calls it digital obesity. Not a productivity problem or a motivation failure, but a biological state.

"What's getting overfed is the brain's alerting system," La Puma explained, and details in his upcoming book *Indoor Epidemic*. Screens, artificial light, constant novelty, and cognitive demand keep the nervous system switched on for most of the day. The inputs that normally allow it to recover, daylight,

darkness at night, distance vision, and time outside, barely show up anymore.

Doomscrolling is the most concentrated version of this pattern. You stay alert without resolution. Clinically, La Puma sees it show up as lower heart rate variability, elevated evening cortisol, delayed melatonin, shallow sleep, impaired glucose control, and weight gain. People feel tired but wired. Anxious but unfocused. Rest stops restoring them.

Americans spend about 87 percent of their time indoors and another six percent in vehicles, based on large time-use studies summarized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Office workers, remote workers, and students usually exceed that. ... Read full text at Vice:

<https://www.vice.com/en/article/americans-spend-93-of-their-time-indoors-a-doctor-explained-what-thats-doing-to-us/>

ADHD meds

...don't work the way we thought they did.

Stimulant drugs that are widely used in the treatment of attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) have a different mechanism of action than scientists thought. New data reveals these drugs primarily act on the brain's reward and wakefulness areas, rather than the regions specifically focused on attention as had previously been assumed.

ADHD is an increasingly common diagnosis, and many patients — kids and adults alike — find medication to be a helpful tool in managing their symptoms. An estimated 3.5 million children aged 3-17 take one of these medications in the US alone.

"I prescribe a lot of stimulants as a child neurologist, and I've always been taught that they facilitate attention systems to give people more voluntary

control over what they pay attention to," said assistant professor of neurology Benjamin Kay, MD, PhD. However, a new study from Kay and coauthors is casting doubt on this long-held presumption.

The team, led by researchers at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, examined brain imaging data from almost 6,000 children included in the Adolescent Brain Cognitive Development Study, a long-term study taking place across multiple centers nationwide. The data comprised functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) scans, which allowed the team to compare patterns of brain connectivity between children ... Read full text at IFLScience:

<https://www.iflscience.com/adhd-meds-used-by-millions-of-kids-and-adults-dont-work-the-way-we-thought-they-did-82047>



Image: www.freeplk.es

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There are 113 abandoned ski lifts in France, nearly three-quarters of which are in protected areas.

Images: Thomas Valentin / The Guardian

‘Ghost resorts’

Hundreds of ski slopes abandoned. Will nature reclaim the Alps?

When Céúze 2000 ski resort closed at the end of the season in 2018, the workers assumed they would be back the following winter. ... The Céúze resort in the southern French Alps had been open for 85 years and was one of the oldest in the country. Today, it is one of scores of ski resorts abandoned across France —part of a new landscape of “ghost stations”. More than 186 have been permanently closed already, raising questions about how we leave mountains —among the last wild spaces in Europe— once the lifts stop running.

As global heating pushes the snow line higher across the Alps, thousands of structures are being left to rot —some of them breaking down and contaminating the surrounding earth, driving debate about what should happen to the remnants of old ways of life— and whether

to let nature reclaim the mountains. ...

In France, there are today 113 ski lifts totalling nearly 40 miles (63km) in length that have been abandoned, nearly three-quarters of them in protected areas. It is not just ski infrastructure. The Mountain Wilderness association estimates that there are more than 3,000 abandoned structures dotted around French mountains, slowly degrading Europe’s richest wild terrain. This includes military, industrial and forestry waste, such as old cables, bits of barbed wire, fencing and old machinery. ... Some believe the resorts should remain memorialised landscapes; others believe they should be returned to wild landscapes with their machinery removed. ... **Read full text at The Guardian:**

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2025/dec/27/alps-france-skiing-snow-warming-resorts-closing-ceuze-landscape>

Mayan Train

A train for agribusiness in Yucatán Peninsula.

The Mennonites arrived in Tekax about five or six years ago (at the same time as construction of the Mayan Train was progressing). They started by renting hectares, says **Alan**, a Mayan beekeeper from the municipality of Tekax, Yucatán, as he stands looking at the land deforested by this religious group that settled in Mexico in the early 20th century and on the Peninsula more than 40 years ago.

Alan’s plots are part of the San Antonio Tekax ejido, a place where, until 2019, the tajonal flourished as a sign that there would be a good honey harvest all year round. Now, only the memory of that remains. ... For him, it is the first sign of what is happening: the Mennonite agro-industrial expansion invading Yucatán. ... The land no longer has trees; it is levelled, ready for monoculture.

Mennonite communities contributed significantly to the 285,000 hectares of land deforested between 2019 and 2023 in the Yucatan Peninsula, according to the Mexican Civil Council for Sustainable Forestry. ... The route of the megaproject revealed the path that the Mennonite plantations would take. A train that was announced as essentially a tourist attraction, though Mayan organizations warned from the outset that it would be used for freight. The agro-industrial production model used by Mennonites requires the use of pesticides, insecticides, herbicides, and fungicides. Over the past three years, the use of highly dangerous pesticides on different monoculture plots has caused the death of bees. ... **Read full text at Schools for Chiapas:**

<https://schoolsforchiapas.org/a-train-for-agribusiness/>



The bees now drink the pollen from the GMO sorghum, soy and corn.

Eco Fact: In Xochimilco, Mexico, one of the last habitats of the wild axolotl, sightings are increasingly rare. Get sustainable. Visit MyAIU Knowledge.

Source: www.conservation.org



A wolf stands over a pig carcass in a field in eastern Finland, near the town of Kuhmo.

Image: Mick Kreyer / CNN

Reindeer

...are under threat. Are Russia's wolves to blame?

Recently, **Juha Kujala's** reindeer herd has found itself in unusual danger. On a near daily basis, he's coming across reindeer carcasses. And he directs blame at an unlikely suspect: Russian President **Vladimir Putin**, whose war in Ukraine has long-reaching consequences.

Kujala's family has been herding reindeer in Kuusamo, northern Finland, for over 400 years. More recently, he's also opened his land to the hordes of tourists who travel from all over the world, searching for a uniquely festive experience. ... Having re-branded his farm "The World of Reindeer," **Kujala** is cashing in on the tourism boom. ...

"This year is the worst ever in this area," says **Kujala**, as he crouches down by a reindeer carcass lying in the snow.

The reindeer he's looking at was killed by a wolf just a few days before. Its tongue has been ripped out by the guilty predator and telltale pawprints were found at the scene of the crime. Foxes and ravens have since finished what was left of the meat. Losing female reindeer, as this one was, is especially painful for **Kujala**. It takes around two years for a reindeer to reach sexual maturity, and each female typically produces just one calf per year. ...

This narrative of blaming Russia for the country's woes falls neatly in line with a general anti-Russian sentiment among Finnish people, who have been preparing for a potential future conflict with their neighbor for decades. But the theory also carries surprising weight. ...

Read full text at CNN: <https://edition.cnn.com/2025/12/22/europe/finland-reindeer-russia-wolves>

Image: www.freepik.es

Living beings

All of them are intelligent: a truth beyond human pride.

For generations, humans have placed themselves at the center of intelligence —defining it in terms of language, machines, and logic that suit human life. But this narrow view blinds us to a deeper truth: intelligence exists in ways far beyond what we normally recognize. From an ant finding the fastest path to food, to a plant warning its neighbors about danger, life is constantly thinking, reacting, adapting, and surviving —all signs of intelligence.

This paper is a complete journey into that truth. It proves, through deep observation and understanding, that every form of life —animals, birds, insects, plants, fungi, parasites, even microscopic organisms— carries its own kind of intelligence. Intelligence that doesn't always need a

brain, speech, or technology. Intelligence that is built into the very way they live, eat, grow, protect, learn, and continue their species.

We examine scientific behavior, emotional responses, evolutionary patterns, and real-life examples to show how each lifeform demonstrates intelligent action in its own place. We also explore how human pride often blinds us to this reality, and why this misunderstanding has created a dangerous imbalance between humans and nature.

This research paper is not the end of a subject —it is the final word on this one truth. It is written with the hope that anyone can understand and feel the meaning inside it. ...

Read full text at FigShare: https://figshare.com/articles/preprint/All_Living_Beings_Are_Intelligent_A_Truth_Beyond_Human_Pride/28783769?file=53624081





Data drain

The land and water impacts of the AI boom.

A low hum emerges from within a vast, dimly lit tomb, whose occupant devours energy and water with a voracious, inhuman appetite. Sheltered from sunlight, active all night. And much like a vampire, at least according to folkloric tradition, it can only enter a place if it's been invited inside.

In states and counties across the US, lawmakers aren't just opening the door for these metaphorical, mechanical monsters. They're actively luring them in, with tax breaks and other incentives, eager to lay claim to new municipal revenues and a piece of the explosive growth surrounding artificial intelligence.

That may sound hyperbolic, but data centers truly are resource-ravenous. Even a mid-sized data center consumes as much water as a small town, while

larger ones require up to 5 million gallons of water every day —as much as a city of 50,000 people.

Powering and cooling their rows of server stacks also takes an astonishing amount of electricity. A conventional data center —cloud storage for your work documents or streaming videos— draws as much electricity as 10,000 to 25,000 households, according to the International Energy Agency. But a newer, AI-focused “hyperscale” data center can use as much power as 100,000 homes. Meta’s Hyperion data center in Louisiana is expected to draw more than twice the power of the entire city of New Orleans once completed. ...

Read full text at Lincoln Institute: <https://www.lincolnst.edu/publications/land-lines-magazine/articles/land-water-impacts-data-centers/>

Glyphosate

The afterlife of a ghost-written paper.

Corporate ghost-writing is a form of scientific fraud: a paper is falsely presented as the work of people other than its actual authors. When such papers circulate, they undermine the integrity of scientific research and policy decisions based wholly or in part on that research.

This paper examines the impact of a single ghost-written study, **Williams, Kroes, and Munro (2000)** (*WKM2000*), published in *Regulatory Toxicology and Pharmacology*. The paper was crafted by Monsanto to support claims of the safety of glyphosate, the active ingredient in *Roundup*. Despite revelations of its ghostwritten nature in the Monsanto Papers, the paper has not been retracted and continues to be cited. Using a case study approach, we trace the impact of

WKM2000 across three domains. We find that *WKM2000* has exerted considerable influence over two decades, shaping public understanding, scientific discourse, and policy decisions.

WKM2000 has been frequently cited on Wikipedia to support the safety of glyphosate; attempts to contextualize its ghostwritten origins have been repeatedly reversed or removed, illustrating how corporate-sponsored science infiltrates public knowledge platforms. An analysis of policy and governance documents citing *WKM2000* revealed that the vast majority referenced it uncritically. In academic literature, *WKM2000* is in the top 0.1 % by citation count among papers discussing glyphosate ... **Read full text at Science Direct:** <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1462901125001765>



Image: www.freepik.es

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campus

Some of your cells are not genetically yours

What can they tell us about life and death?



Image: www.freepik.es

“microchimerists” —scientists who discovered these fascinating shared cells. She also challenges us to consider the broader implications for health and science, and the philosophy of the fact that we are all chimaeras.

Unplanned discovery

Microchimeric cells were, we learn, discovered through a series of accidental observations. In the late 1800s, pathologist **Georg Schmorl** described ‘giant cells’ in the lungs of people who had died from eclampsia —a life-threatening inflammatory condition that can occur during pregnancy. These giant cells resembled the cells of the placenta, leading **Schmorl** to suggest that fetal cells passing into the bloodstream of mothers was the norm, rather than the exception.

Then, in 1969, a team studying immunity in pregnant people detected white blood cells that contained the Y chromosome in the blood of individuals who would eventually give birth to boys¹. For more than two decades, it was presumed that these microchimeric cells were a temporary feature of pregnancy.

It wasn’t until 1993 that geneticist **Diana Bianchi** found cells with Y chromosomes in women who had given birth to sons between one and 27 years earlier².

This finding overturned the dogma that children inherit genes from their parents and never the other way around —these transferred fetal cells move through the family tree, travelling ‘backwards in time’ from children to their mothers. **Bianchi** and others would go on to show that these cells have remarkable regenerative properties— promoting wound healing in mothers by transforming into blood vessels or skin cells.

Immunological implications

Microchimerism also calls into question a central tenet of immunology: that the immune system works by classifying cells in a binary fashion, as ‘self’ or ‘non-self’. Under this simplistic model, microchimeric cells should trigger an immune response and be rejected by the body—but they do not. **Barnéoud** challenges readers to consider whether forcing microchimerism-related discrepancies to fit into existing immunological rules

By Sing Sing Way

Hidden Guests: Migrating Cells and How the New Science of Microchimerism is Redefining Human Identity. Lise Barnéoud, transl. Bronwyn Haslam. Greystone Books (2025).

The chimaera of Greek mythology was “an evil creature with a lion’s head, a goat’s body, and a serpent’s tail”, notes journalist **Lise Barnéoud** in *Hidden Guests*.

Humans are also chimaeras — thanks to the presence of cells that are not our own inside our bodies.

Mothers carry cells that came from their biological children, passed across the placenta when the baby was in the womb. Likewise, children carry cells that were transferred to them in utero from their mothers —some of which might even be from the child’s maternal grandmothers, older siblings or twin.

These ‘microchimeric’ cells have been found in every organ that has been studied so far. But they are also rare —much rarer, for example, than the trillions of microorganisms that reside in our guts, on our skin and in many other organs. We carry only one microchimeric cell for every 10,000 to 1 million of our own cells.

In *Hidden Guests*, the author invites readers to learn about the pioneering

is appropriate, instead of allowing these cells to influence new immunological rules. At around the same time that **Bianchi** was making her groundbreaking discovery, rheumatologist **Lee Nelson** also found Y-chromosome-containing cells in people who had previously given birth to sons³. **Nelson** was studying autoimmune diseases, which disproportionately affect middle-aged women, and at the time were thought to be caused by hormone imbalances. One such disease, scleroderma, has symptoms that are strikingly similar to those of graft-versus-host disease, which occurs when donor immune cells attack a person's own tissues after transplantation. The discovery of microchimeric cells led **Nelson** to the innovative theory that autoimmunity was not triggered by hormones, but can instead reflect immune responses instigated by—or targeted against—these hidden microchimeric guests. Higher-than-typical numbers of microchimeric cells have since been found in people with a range of autoimmune conditions, including diabetes and lupus. Next, **Barnéoud** asks what the impact of microchimeric cells of maternal origin

might be in offspring. **William Burlingham**, a pioneering transplantation immunologist, tells her how he came to learn of microchimerism in the late 1980s, thanks to a teenage kidney-transplant recipient, who decided to suddenly stop his immune-suppressive therapy. To **Burlingham's** astonishment, the boy's immune system showed no signs of rejecting the kidney that his mother had donated. **Burlingham's** team would later show that microchimeric cells from the mother were suppressing the boy's immune system, which stopped rejection of the organ⁴. The researchers also discovered that maternal-tissue-matching promotes long-term survival of donor organs in a recipient⁵. These findings point to the tantalizing possibility of preventing organ rejection by finding ways to increase the number of donor microchimeric cells in the recipient's body. **An enormous effect** It's becoming clear that microchimeric cells, despite their rarity, influence a range of biological processes, including protection against infection. Consider T cells, the "orchestra conductors of the immune system". These cells keep track of the foreign particles that a person encounters during

their life, so that the immune system can rapidly spring into action should re-infection occur. Maternal microchimeric T cells, **Barnéoud** notes, can pass that memory onto the immune cells of babies, providing an advanced warning of "the dangers that await them once they exit the uterus". Microchimeric cells, asserts **Barnéoud**, could challenge the basic principles of how we define ourselves as humans. For instance, are we truly unique if our cells reside permanently inside another person? And does the persistence of our

cells across generations reflect a form of immortality that calls into question the binary distinction between life and death? Microchimerism, she muses, has blurred the boundaries between scientific reason and imagination by challenging our own self-identity. **Hidden Guests** illustrates **Barnéoud's** amazing talent for weaving complicated and seemingly isolated scientific

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observations into a captivating narrative that makes microchimeric cells come to life. This inspiring tapestry of scientific adventures is a must-read for anyone curious about science and self-identity — and willing to let their imaginations run wild.

Nature 649, 21–22 (2026)
doi: <https://doi.org/10.1038/d41586-025-04102-4>



Read full text by Sing Sing Way at Nature: <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-025-04102-4>

WISE UP AND START CREATING



Image: Graeme Robertson / The Guardian. <https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2016/oct/03/nigerian-artist-myth-authentic-african-experience-njideka-akunyili-crosby-harlem-studio-museum>

“You don’t have to give up your culture. You just carry the stories that you brought with you and exist next to other people, and it actually makes for a richer world.”

Njideka Akunyili Crosby. (1983 –) A Nigerian-born visual artist working in Los Angeles, California, USA. In 2017, she earned the prestigious Genius Grant from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.



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Native American WISDOM

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– Omaha

Source: www.mindfulecotourism.com

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A portable and attachable mini robot that cools down hot drinks and food by blowing on them so you don’t have to. The mini robot has an internal fan and features an algorithm called the ‘Fu-ing System’. The setup allows for the mini robot to randomize its blowing strength and rhythm the same way people do.

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The AIU Distance Learning Bachelor of Science in Software Engineering program will be a custom-made

program, designed just for you by you and your academic advisor. This flexibility to meet student needs is seldom found in other distance learning programs. Our online program does not require all students to take the same subjects/courses, use the same books, or learning materials. Instead, the online Bachelor program curriculum is designed individually by the student and academic advisor. It specifically addresses individual strengths and weaknesses with respect to market opportunities in the student's major and intended field of work. Understanding that industry and geographic factors should influence the content

of the curriculum instead of a standardized one-fits-all design is the hallmark of AIU's unique approach to adult education.

IMPORTANT: Below is an example of the topics or areas you may develop and work on during your studies. By no means is it a complete or required list as AIU programs do not follow a standardized curriculum. It is meant solely as a reference point and example. Want to learn more about the curriculum design at AIU? Go ahead and visit our website, especially the Course and Curriculum section: <https://www.aiu.edu/academic-freedom-and-open-curriculum/>

Orientation Courses:

- Communication & Investigation (Comprehensive Resume)
- Organization Theory (Portfolio)
- Experiential Learning (Autobiography)
- Academic Evaluation (Questionnaire)
- Fundament of Knowledge (Integration Chart)
- Fundamental Principles I (Philosophy of Education)
- Professional Evaluation (Self Evaluation Matrix)
- Development of Graduate Study (Guarantee of an Academic Degree)

Core Courses and Topics

- Introduction to Software Engineering
- Programming Fundamentals
- Object-Oriented Programming
- Data Structures and Algorithms

- Mathematics for Computing
- Computer Organization and Architecture
- Operating Systems
- Databases and Information Systems
- Software Requirements Engineering
- Software Design and Architecture
- Software Development Methodologies
- Web and Mobile Application Development
- Human-Computer Interaction
- Software Testing and Quality Assurance
- Software Project Management
- Cybersecurity Fundamentals
- Cloud Computing Concepts
- DevOps and Continuous Integration
- Software Maintenance and Evolution
- Professional Ethics and Legal Issues in Computing

Research Project

- Bachelor Thesis Project
- MBM300 Thesis Proposal
- MBM302 Bachelor Thesis (5,000 words)

Publication. Each graduate is encouraged to publish their research papers either online in the public domain or through professional journals and periodicals worldwide.

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about us



Atlantic International University offers distance learning degree programs for adult learners at bachelors, masters, and doctoral level. With self paced program taken online, **AIU** lifts the obstacles that keep professional adults from completing their educational goals. Programs are available throughout a wide range of majors and areas of study. All of this with a philosophically holistic approach towards education fitting within the balance of your life and acknowledging the key role each individual can play in their community, country, and the world.

AIU Accreditation

Atlantic International University has implemented a paradigm shifting educational model for its academic programs that have allowed it to move closer to this goal through the self-empowerment of its students, decentralization of the learning process, personalized open curriculum design, a sustainable learning model, developing 11 core elements of the Human Condition within **MyAIU**, and utilizing the quasi-infinite knowledge through the use of information technology combined with our own capacity to find solutions to all types of global issues, dynamic problems, and those of individuals and multidisciplinary teams.

AIU holds International Accreditation from **ASIC** (Accreditation Service for International Schools, Colleges, and Universities) with Premier Status for its commendable Areas of Operation. **ASIC** Accreditation is a leading, globally recognized quality standard in international education. Institutions undergo an impartial and independent external assessment process to confirm their provision meets rigorous internationally accepted standards, covering the whole spectrum of its administration, governance, and educational offering. Achieving **ASIC** Accreditation demonstrates to students and stakeholders that an institution is a high-quality education provider that delivers safe and rewarding educational experiences and is committed to continuous improvement throughout its operation.

One of the largest international accreditation agencies operating in 70+ countries, **ASIC** is recognized in the UK by UKVI – UK Visas and Immigration (part of the Home Office



of the UK Government), is ISO 9001:2015 (Quality Management Systems) Accredited and is a Full Member of *The International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education* (INQAHE), a member of the BQF (British Quality Foundation), a member of the International Schools Association (ISA), and an institutional member of EDEN (European Distance and E-Learning Network). **ASIC Affiliations & Credentials.**

Due to these differentiations and the university's mission, only a reputable accrediting agency with the vision and plasticity to integrate and adapt its processes around **AIU**'s proven and successful innovative programs could be selected.

Unfortunately, the vast majority of accrediting agencies adhere to and follow *obsolete processes and requirements* that have outlived their usefulness and are in direct conflict with the university's mission of offering a unique, dynamic, affordable,

quality higher education to the non-traditional student (one who must work, study what he really needs for professional advancement, attend family issues, etc.).

We believe that adopting outdated requirements and processes would impose increased financial burdens on students while severely limiting their opportunities to earn their degree and advance in all aspects. Thus, in selecting the **ASIC** as its accrediting agency, **AIU** ensured that its unique programs would not be transformed into a copy or clone of those offered by the 10,000+ colleges and universities around the world.

Since **ASIC** is an international accrediting agency based outside the United States, we are required by statute HRS446E to place the following disclaimer: **ATLANTIC INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY IS NOT ACCREDITED BY AN ACCREDITING AGENCY RECOGNIZED BY THE UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF EDUCATION.**

NOTE: In the United States and abroad, many licensing authorities accredited degrees as the basis for eligibility for licensing. In some cases, accredited colleges may not accept for transfer courses and degrees completed at unaccredited colleges, and some employers may require an accredited degree as a basis for eligibility for employment.

Potential students should consider how the above may affect their interests, **AIU** respects the unique rules and regulations of each country and does not seek to influence the respective authorities. In the event that a prospective student wishes to carry out any government review or process in regard to his university degree, we recommend that the requirements of such are explored in detail with the relevant authorities by the prospective student as the university

does not intervene in such processes.

AIU students can be found in over 180 countries; they actively participate and volunteer in their communities as part of their academic program and have allocated thousands of service hours to diverse causes and initiatives. **AIU** programs follow the standards commonly used by colleges and universities in the United States with regards to the following: academic program structure, degree issued, transcript, and other graduation documents. **AIU** graduation documents can include an apostille and authentication from the **US Department of State** to facilitate their use internationally. To see some of our graduates' opinion of their studies at **AIU** please see:

- [Video Interviews](#)
- [Testimonials](#)
- [AIU Press Room](#)

We encourage all **AIU** students to participate in the **AIU Pledge** which is a commitment to give back to their communities, country, and the world. One way is by integrating their academic program and professional dreams as much as possible the **17 UNESCO goals for 2030** as their feasibility and achievement are dependent on the contribution and participation by individuals. The 17 goals are interdisciplinary and cover disciplines from almost all majors and areas of study, [learn more](#).

Transforming learning experience

We believe in an open culture of inclusivity, discussion, and collaboration to add value and bring meaning to each student's educational journey. We analyze each student's progress with our expert faculty to align all our academic programs with the student's individual goals to enable them to achieve their objectives in life.



The AIU Difference

It is acknowledged that the act of learning is endogenous, (from within), rather than exogenous. This fact is the underlying rationale for “Distance Learning”, in all of the programs offered by **AIU**. The combination of the underlying principles of student “self instruction”, (with guidance), collaborative development of curriculum unique to each student, and flexibility of time and place of study, provides the ideal learning environment to satisfy individual needs. **AIU** is an institution of experiential learning and nontraditional education at a distance. There are no classrooms and attendance is not required.

Mission & Vision

MISSION: To be a higher learning institution concerned about generating cultural development alternatives likely to be sustained in order to lead to a more efficient administration of the world village and its environment; exerting human and community rights through diversity with the ultimate goal of the satisfaction and evolution of the world.

VISION: The empowerment of the individual towards the convergence of the world through a sustainable educational design based on andragogy and omniology.

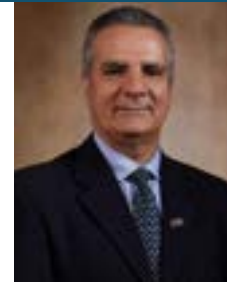


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School of Business and Economics



THE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS allows aspiring and practicing professionals, managers, and entrepreneurs in the private and public sectors to complete a self paced distance learning degree program of the highest academic standard.

The ultimate goal is to empower learners and help them take advantage of the enormous array of resources from the world environment in order to eliminate the current continuum of poverty and limitations.

Degree programs are designed for those students whose professional experience has been in business, marketing, administration,

economics, finance and management.

Areas of study: Accounting, Advertising, Banking, Business Administration, Communications, Ecommerce, Finance, Foreign Affairs, Home Economics, Human Resources, International Business, International Finance, Investing, Globalization, Marketing, Management, Macroeconomics, Microeconomics, Public Administrations, Sustainable Development, Public Relations, Telecommunications, Tourism, Trade.

School of Social and Human Studies



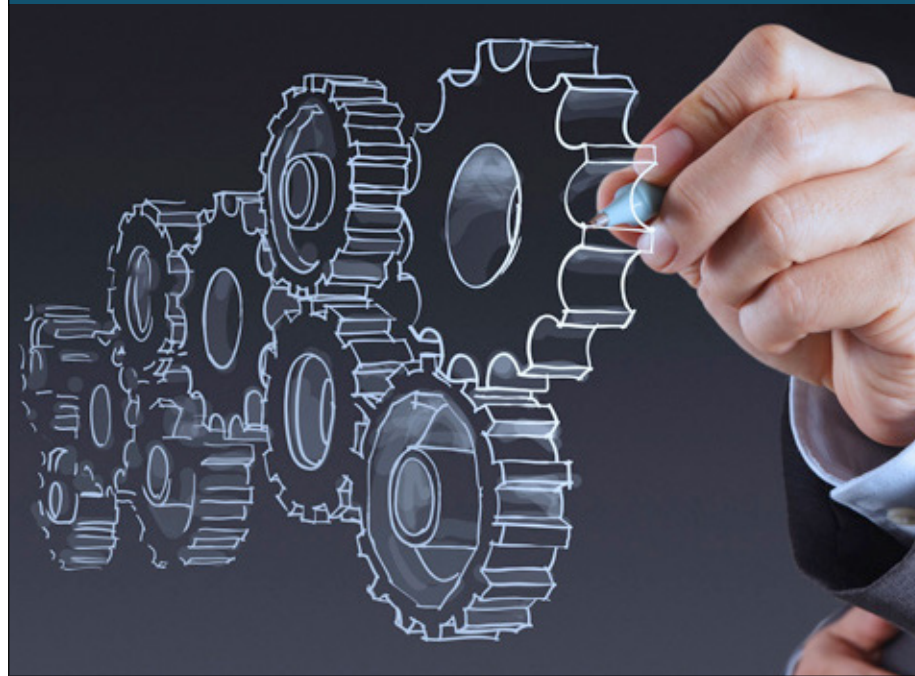
THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL AND HUMAN STUDIES is focused on to the development of studies which instill a core commitment to building a society based on social and economic justice and enhancing opportunities for human well being.

The founding principles lie on the basic right of education as outlined in the Declaration of Human Rights. We instill in our students a sense of confidence and self reliance in their ability to access the vast opportunities available through information channels, the world wide web, private, public, nonprofit, and nongovernmental organizations in an ever expanding global community.

Degree programs are aimed towards those whose professional life has been related to social and human behavior, with the arts, or with cultural studies.

Areas of Study: Psychology, International Affairs, Sociology, Political Sciences, Architecture, Legal Studies, Public Administration, Literature and languages, Art History, Ministry, African Studies, Middle Eastern Studies, Asian Studies, European Studies, Islamic Studies, Religious Studies.

School of Science and Engineering



THE SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING seeks to provide dynamic, integrated, and challenging degree programs designed for those whose experience is in industrial research, scientific production, engineering and the general sciences. Our system for research and education will keep us apace with the twenty-first century reach scientific advance in an environmentally and ecologically responsible manner to allow for the sustainability of the human population. We will foster among our students a demand for ethical behavior, an appreciation for diversity, an understanding of scientific investigation, knowledge of design innovation, a

critical appreciation for the importance of technology and technological change for the advancement of humanity.

Areas of Study: Mechanical Engineering, Industrial Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Civil Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Computer Engineering, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Mathematics, Communications, Petroleum Science, Information Technology, Telecommunications, Nutrition Science, Agricultural Science, Computer Science, Sports Science, Renewable Energy, Geology, Urban Planning.

Online Library Resources



WITH ACCESS TO A GLOBAL CATALOG created and maintained collectively by more than 9,000 participating institutions, **AIU** students have secured excellent research tools for their study programs.

The **AIU** online library contains over 2 billion records and over 300 million bibliographic records that are increasing day by day. The sources spanning thousands of years and virtually all forms of human expression. There are files of all kinds, from antique inscribed stones to e-books, from wax engravings to MP3s, DVDs and websites. In addition to the archives, the library **AIU** Online offers electronic access to more than 149,000 e-books, dozens of databases and more than 13 million full-text articles with pictures included. Being able to access 60 databases and 2393 periodicals with more than 18 million items, guarantees the information required to perform the assigned research project. Users will find that many files are enriched with artistic creations on the covers, indexes, reviews, summaries and other information. The records usually have information attached from important libraries. The user can quickly assess the relevance of the information and decide if it is the right source.

Education in the 21st century

AIU Service

AIU is striving to regain the significance of the concept of education, which is rooted into the Latin “educare”, meaning “to pull out”, breaking loose from the paradigm of most 21st century universities with their focus on “digging and placing information” into students’ heads rather than teaching them to think.

For **AIU**, the generation of “clones” that some traditional universities are spreading throughout the real world is one of the most salient reasons for today’s ills. In fact, students trained at those educational institutions never feel a desire to “change the world” or the current status quo; instead, they adjust to the environment, believe everything is fine, and are proud of it all.

IN A WORLD where knowledge and mostly information expire just like milk, we must reinvent university as a whole in which each student, as the key player, is **UNIQUE** within an intertwined environment.

This century’s university must generate new knowledge bits although this may entail its separation from both the administrative bureaucracy and the faculty that evolve there as well.

AIU thinks that a university should be increasingly integrated into the “real world”, society, the economy, and the holistic human being. As such, it should concentrate on its ultimate goal, which is the student, and get him/her deeply immersed into a daily praxis of paradigm shifts, along with the Internet and research, all these being presently accessible only to a small minority of the world community.

AIU students must accomplish their self-learning mission while conceptualizing it as the core of daily life values through the type of experiences that lead to a human being’s progress when information is converted into education.

The entire **AIU** family must think of the university as a setting that values diversity and talent in a way that trains mankind not only for the present but above all for a future that calls everyday for professionals who empower themselves in academic and professional areas highly in demand in our modern society.

We shall not forget that, at **AIU**, students are responsible for discovering their own talents and potential, which they must auto-develop in such a way that the whole finish product opens up as a flower that blossoms every year more openly.

THE AIU STANCE is against the idea of the campus as a getaway from day-to-day pressure since we believe reality is the best potential-enhancer ever; one truly learns through thinking, brainstorming ideas, which leads to new solutions, and ultimately the rebirth of a human being fully integrated in a sustainable world environment. Self-learning is actualized more from within than a top-down vantage point, that is to say, to influence instead of requesting, ideas more than power. We need to create a society where solidarity, culture, life, not political or economic rationalism and more than techno structures, are prioritized. In short, the characteristics of **AIU** students and alumni remain independence, creativity, self-confidence, and ability to take risk towards new endeavors. This is about people’s worth based not on what they know but on what they do with what they know.

Read more at: aiu.edu

AIU offers educational opportunities in the USA to adults from around the world so that they can use their own potential to manage their personal, global cultural development. The foundational axis of our philosophy lies upon self-actualized knowledge and information, with no room for obsolescence, which is embedded into a **DISTANCE LEARNING SYSTEM** based on **ANDRAGOGY** and **OMNIOLOGY**. The ultimate goal of this paradigm is to empower learners and help them take advantage of the enormous array of resources from the world environment in order to eliminate the current continuum of poverty and limitations.

This will become a crude reality with respect for, and practice of, human and community rights through experiences, investigations, practicum work, and/or examinations. Everything takes place in a setting that fosters diversity; with advisors and consultants with doctorate degrees and specializations in Human Development monitor learning processes, in addition to a worldwide web of colleagues and associations, so that they can reach the satisfaction and the progress of humanity with peace and harmony.

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