

# Exposition on the Philosophy of Information

## (An Outline)

**Lecturer**

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### **A Brief Introduction**

#### **I. The Birth of PI and a Sketch of Luciano Floridi**

1. The Birth of PI
  - Indications of New Discipline
  - Intersection of Philosophy and Computing
  - Establishment of PI
  - New Paradigm of Philosophy
  - Wide Debates
  - Fundamental Works
2. A Sketch of Luciano Floridi
  - The Interaction between European and American Academics
  - Profile of Luciano Floridi
  - Training in Philosophy and Background of Expertise

#### **II. Background Shift of Science and Technology and the Rise of PI**

1. Starting from a Policy-oriented Report
  - The *Converging Technologies of Nano-Bio-Info-Cogno* Report by NSF
  - The Background of the Report
  - Main Contents of the Report
  - Some Judgments
  - The Complementary Relationship of the Four Technologies
  - New Scheme of Science
2. Background Shift of Science
  - Physical Sciences as Exemplar of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century
  - The Rise of Intentional Sciences
  - The Leading Science of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century
  - Information as the Essential Concept of Intentional Sciences

### III. What is PI?

1. About the Title of PI
  - The State-of-the-Art
  - PCI (Philosophy of Computing and Information) (Blackwell)
  - The Relation Between Computing and Information
  - PCI (Philosophy of Communication and Information)(The 21<sup>st</sup> World Congress of Philosophy)
  - About the Chinese Title
2. A Brief History of PI
  - Some Pioneers
  - The Exploring Period
  - The Wandering Period
  - The Establishing Period
  - Three Events Inaugurated by CAP
3. PI in China
  - The Attitude Towards New Discipline in China
  - Studies on the Philosophical Problems in Cybernetics
  - On the Philosophical Problems of Information
  - On Intelligence and Philosophy of Cognitive Sciences
  - On Internet and Society
  - On Information Ethics and Virtual Reality
  - On Computing and Complexity
  - On Logic and Probability
  - On Philosophy of Information
4. PI as an Independent and Interdisciplinary Discipline in Philosophy
  - Research Area with Clear Boundaries
  - Four Prerequisites to be a Discipline
  - The Case of PI
  - A Case Study in Formal Ontology
  - What is PI?
  - Analysis on Part I of the Definition
  - Analysis on Part II of the Definition
5. Theory of Interest of PI
  - Core
  - Innovations
  - System
  - Methodology
6. Features of PI
  - Tool-driven Concept of Freeman J. Dyson
  - Misguide by Thomas Kuhn (Concept-driven)
  - IT as a Humanities Technology
  - Coalition of *Sophia* and *Techne*

#### **IV. Theoretical Claims and Context of Idea of PI**

1. PI and Metaphysics
  - The Chaotic Period of Western Philosophy
  - Rejecting Metaphysics
  - PI and Fundamentalism
  - Attitude of PI Towards Metaphysics
2. Three Trends of PI
  - Reductionist
  - Anti-Reductionist
  - Non-reductionist
3. Information Turn of Philosophy
  - The Proposal of Turn
  - Information as a more Fundamental Concept
  - Unity in a Single Theory
  - What is the Significance of the Turn
4. PI under the General Tradition of Western Philosophy
  - The Context of Western Ideas
  - Three Main Traditions of Western Philosophy (Plato or Classical, Kant or Modern and Leibniz-Russell or Formal Traditions)
  - Devaluation of Leibnizian Philosophy
  - Kantian Philosophy to Replace Leibnizian Philosophy
  - Two Implication Systems in Logic
  - Three Stages of Pure Logic
  - Semantics of Possible Worlds
  - Modal Theory of Information (Modal informationalism)
  - The Rise of Formal Tradition
  - Philosophia Prima*

#### **V. Future Trends**

1. Towards Ontology and Epistemology
2. Towards Social Epistemology
3. Towards Culture and Media
4. New Frontier of the Philosophy of Science and Technology

#### **Concluding Remarks**