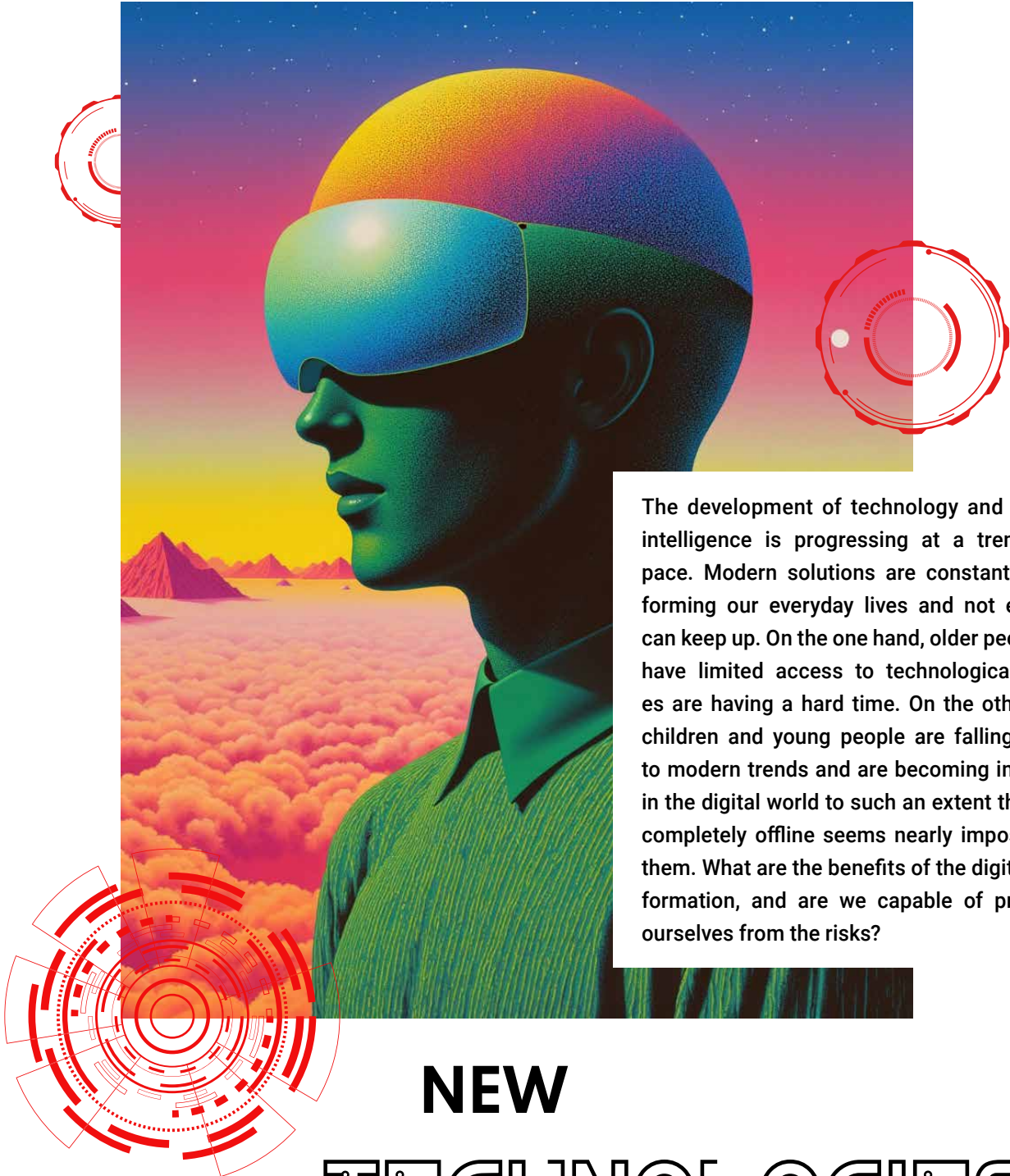# ARTIFICIAL
INTELLIGENCE

The development of technology and artificial intelligence is progressing at a tremendous pace. Modern solutions are constantly transforming our everyday lives and not everyone can keep up. On the one hand, older people who have limited access to technological services are having a hard time. On the other hand, children and young people are falling victims to modern trends and are becoming immersed in the digital world to such an extent that living completely offline seems nearly impossible to them. What are the benefits of the digital transformation, and are we capable of protecting ourselves from the risks?

NEW
TECHNOLOGIES

NO limits

HOW TO USE THEM WISELY?

Katarzyna Suchańska

Tomasz Kopczyński, PhD, Associate Professor
Institute of Pedagogy
Faculty of Arts and Educational Science
University of Silesia
tomasz.kopczynski@us.edu.pl

Tomasz Kopczyński, PhD, Associate Professor, from the Faculty of Arts and Educational Science of the University of Silesia in Cieszyn, conducts research on new technologies and their use in education. His interests also include neurodidactics, and one of the subjects he teaches is new technologies in education and upbringing.

'Nowadays, we can find many applications of technology and artificial intelligence in education. We could start with the e-learning platform Moodle, which has its fair share of both supporters and opponents, then point to Google Classroom, Microsoft Teams and other platforms for online meetings and education, which began to develop rapidly during the pandemic. One programme that has received a lot of praise is Duolingo, a mobile app that helps you learn a foreign language in a structured way'.

The scientist also lists more elaborate platforms such as Khan Academy's Khanmigo, which uses complex algorithms to personalise the learning process, and VR headsets – devices that allow for an immersive learning experience in the form of virtual conversations (Mondly VR – a language learning app allowing users to talk with AI and Maya by Sesame AI – a free and recently popular AI conversation partner), travel (Brink Traveler) and interactive biology classes (Human Anatomy Puzzle and eduLabVR).

Despite such a rich educational programme, which undoubtedly facilitates learning and makes it more attractive for people of all ages, there is a risk of missing out on the world of books, encyclopaedias, and dictionaries. The scientist claims that this is simply an unavoidable generational shift.

'A few decades ago, children did not have access to such forms of entertainment as computer games. They spent their free time socialising with their peers, creating games based on their imagination and shared experiences. In the past, life was centred around activities done outside the home: in playgrounds, orchards, rug-beating stands, and on the streets. Today, we have closed ourselves off in our homes and children in their rooms and digital spaces', notes Tomasz Kopczyński.

The burden of upbringing, regardless of the times, has always rested on the parents because children learn most effectively through imitation. It is difficult for modern parents to be the providers of all entertainment, although it is up to them to plan and organise family time. Unfortunately, the working style of modern parents often forces them to be constantly 'on call', which means they spend a lot of time in front of their computer screens outside of working hours. However, people are beginning to realise the importance of work-life balance, which is often the answer to the question: what is more important to me?

New tools often give rise to new professions. Over time, we can observe a significant increase in the number of ways to earn a living by taking on such roles or specialisations as youtubers, influencers, streamers, and gamers. Tomasz Kopczyński says that these are not professions that would generally bring any significant social benefits (e.g. the popularity of educational and scientific channels vs. entertainment channels). Although older generations do not understand these professions, it does not mean that the world is heading in the wrong direction or that technology is clouding our minds.

'First and foremost, the development of technology and the virtual world is the result of human ingenuity and imagination. These days, it is hardly possible to find areas that have not benefited from it. We see it not only in education and science but also in art. Thanks to the development of AI, it is now possible to create beautiful visualisations of the ancient or prehistoric worlds based on objects discovered during archaeological expeditions. Medical students are using this kind of technology to see what individual organs look like and to carry out interactive surgery with the aim of becoming specialists in their field', the scientist explains.

The development of artificial intelligence certainly brings many benefits in various areas of our lives. It is difficult to answer the question of what the future holds and which direction technology will take. Certainly, we should be aware of the risks it carries and try to protect ourselves and young technology users from them.

'I think there are reasons to believe that the digital world is developing for the good of humankind and that, by sensibly using the advantages of new technologies, we can achieve many great things that will not only make our everyday lives easier but also support the development of science, innovation, and many other areas of our society', concludes Tomasz Kopczyński.