



Thinking About Quantum + AI and its Implications for Policy

Dylan Barry (von Neumann Commission | Harvard Kennedy School | *The Economist*)

Monday, 29 June 2026 | 16h00–17h00 SAST

HOW TO ATTEND:

In person (main venue):

- Road House Cinema (Neelsie)
Stellenbosch University

Watch at a satellite venue:

- Seminar Room K310
Physics Building G5
North-West University

Online (live stream)

--- Please note, a recording of the lecture will be published on the NITheCS YouTube channel following the event ---

ABSTRACT

There are compelling reasons to believe that quantum computing and other quantum technologies could act as an important accelerators for machine learning and artificial intelligence in the long-term.

As governments commit themselves to various quantum and artificial intelligence strategies, this has implications for policy design.

In this talk, I will discuss the work of the von Neumann Commission, which is coordinating a comprehensive research programme to better understand this technology convergence and make recommendations for policymakers on how best to account for it when shaping future policy.

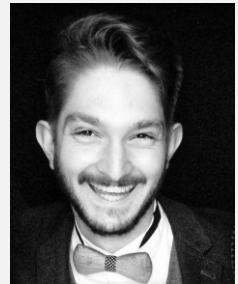
BIOGRAPHY

Dylan Barry is Executive Director of the von Neumann Commission, an independent research commission investigating the prospects for quantum computing and other quantum technologies to act as long-term accelerators or complements to AI.

He is a Non-Resident Fellow at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs at Harvard Kennedy School, and an Advisor on Quantum Computing and AI for Science & Society at the Aspen Institute. He also works closely with the Quantum Technologies team at the World Economic Forum's Centre for Innovation and Frontier Technologies.

Since 2020, Dylan has written for *The Economist* on topics including physics, AI, and neuroscience. Since 2023, he has also served as an editorial consultant to Quantonation Ventures, the world's first and largest venture capital fund dedicated to quantum and other deep-physics technologies, where he authors white papers on trends in the quantum industry. His most recent white paper was edited by Nobel Prize laureate Alain Aspect.

Dylan holds three degrees in physics and economics. Most recently, he graduated with an MPhil in Economics from the University of Oxford on a Rhodes Scholarship. In August 2026, he will begin a PhD in Strategy at Harvard University.



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