Whatever the mixed feelings and contradictory ideas that Darwin's evolution theory has given rise to, there surely can be no qualms about the fact that we, as human beings, share the same basic instincts of animals. However it has to be acknowledged that the human brain provides us with rational, cognitive, and conceptual mental processes that elevate us above all other living creatures.

In the opening article of this edition of SHARE 16 magazine, Nebojsa Kujundzic highlights the concept of ‘techne’ which originated in ancient Greek society and encompasses the unique human skills and abilities that have radically expanded and transformed our societies. The trajectory of technology from the very first tools developed by pre-historic man has radically transformed not only human lives but the whole life on the planet.

However, it is in the field of Artificial Intelligence (AI) whereby humanity has unleashed the greatest potential force to transform life on earth beyond the scope of human consciousness and imagination. Futuristic thoughts of humanity being wiped out by intelligent machines that they have themselves created, has become a popular theme of many movies and science fictions stories. The question of whether AI will lead in the future to a utopian society or a dystopian one, seems always to hang over our heads. Our contributors to this debatable question - Philip Larrey, Matthew Montebello, Steven S. Gouveia, Godwin Darmanin, Ingrid Vella, Vanessa Camilleri and Alexander Lazarov offer a diversity of interesting perspectives that share a common argument - humanity must retain control of AI if it wants to avoid any disruptive consequences that such technological innovations always bring.

The book review by François Zammit 'Race After Technology' authored by Ruha Benjamin aptly follows this discussion as it alerts us to the dangerous impact that technological developments can have on minorities while tending to reinforce the social and political powers of established hierarchies.

The position of humanity in nature is tackled from a different angle by Sandra Dingli with an interesting reference to the mind-body problem. Dingli deals with this conflicting duality by referring to the works of South African philosopher John McDowell who viewed reason as part of the natural processes and originating from a second nature inherent in our language and culture.

This edition of SHARE 16, features an interview with Claude Mangion who has been Head of the Department of Philosophy at the University of Malta for the past five years.

The interview with Claude Mangion focuses on the subject of philosophy within the local context and in the process provide perceptive insights on how philosophy can contribute positively towards humanity.

Another contributor to this issue of SHARE is philosopher Marianne Talbot who was asked to explain why in her previous contribution on philosophy and coronavirus (SHARE-14), she found Canadian acclaimed psychologist Jordan Peterson so controversial and worth exploring in her free time. In her article, Talbot underlines the importance of philosophy in enabling us to question and rethink certain arguments, even when posited by gifted communicators like Peterson.

SHARE 16 celebrates the birth centenary of two great international thinkers - Paulo Freire (1921-1997) and Raymond Williams (1921-1988).

Peter Mayo exposes Freire’s stance of the oppressors-oppressed relationship inherent in colonial rule. Freire’s greatest contribution to humanity was his calls for the decolonisation of education in oppressed native countries to help them regain their freedom in a true manner.

In their birth centenary celebration article of Raymond Williams, Eugenio Enrique Cortez-Ramirez and Juan Carlo Gomez Alonso alerts us to the Theory of Culture developed by Williams that emphasises how all cultural forms within a society are constituted by its historical-material relationships and processes.

SHARE 16 includes another book review by Ian Rizzo on Matt Qvortrup’s 'Death by a Thousand Cuts.’ The main concern raised by this book is how an established democracy can slide towards dictatorial leadership following the legitimate election of populist strongmen.

Finally as has become customary, the magazine, ends with another series from the Philosopher’s Manifesto. This time, the focus is on the environment. The extreme high temperatures during the summer months of 2021 and the heavy flooding that occurred in many countries, provides evidence of the existential threat currently haunting humanity. The manifesto argues that as long as humans keep viewing their existence as being independent from nature, the global issues of climate change and the current environmental problems will remain ineffectively addressed and compromised by economic selfish pursuits. Our economic and political systems must adapt to the urgency of the pressing issues of the environment. The question remains: Will humanity, despite its rationality ever learn?