

## Åke Elden, PhD

Independent Scholar | Philosophy of Technology | Theological Anthropology | Institutional Theory

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### Research Profile

My research examines how contemporary technological systems increasingly reorganize the underlying conditions through which human judgment, agency, responsibility, identity formation, and institutional participation become possible.

Working at the intersection of philosophy of technology, social epistemology, theological anthropology, institutional theory, and artificial intelligence studies, I focus on identifying the often-invisible constitutive conditions that historically structured human existence and analyzing how technological systems progressively externalize, transform, or destabilize these conditions.

My current research program investigates the philosophical consequences of technological mediation on human selfhood, responsibility attribution, epistemic authority, institutional answerability, mortality, and the anthropological structure of agency itself.

### Core Research Areas

- Philosophy of Technology
- Artificial Intelligence and Institutional Mediation
- Social Epistemology
- Theological Anthropology
- Philosophy of Agency and Responsibility
- Institutional Theory and Algorithmic Governance
- Human Formation Under Technological Conditions
- Ethics of Predictive Systems
- Ontology of Technological Mediation
- Technology and Anthropological Transformation

### Current Research Program

#### Technological Systems as Anthropological Environments

My recent work develops a broader philosophical framework arguing that contemporary technological systems increasingly do not merely assist human action but progressively restructure

the constitutive conditions under which human beings think, judge, act, become responsible, and relate to one another.

Central themes include:

- externalization of judgment
- displacement of practical wisdom
- algorithmic mediation of responsibility
- epistemic automation
- technological restructuring of agency
- transformation of mortality and finitude under AI systems
- technological reorganization of institutional answerability

### **Selected Publications (2026)**

Elden Å (2026). *The Gifted Subject: Kenosis, Phenomenology, and the Constitution of Responsive Agency*. Accepted in *Studia Theologica*.  
DOI: 10.1080/0039338X.2026.2691693

Elden Å (2026). *From Phronesis to Pronoia: Algorithmic Mediation and the Theological Displacement of Practical Wisdom*. Accepted in *Studies in Christian Ethics*.

Elden Å (2026). *When Responsibility Fails to Arise: Institutional Conditions of Action in Algorithmic Governance*. Accepted in *AI and Ethics*.

Elden Å (2026). *Formation Under Conditions of Optimization: Technological Mediation and Human Becoming*. Accepted in *Studies in Christian Ethics*.

Elden Å (2026). *Algorithmic Habitus and the Invisible Mission: Sanctification as the Re-Ordering of Desire*. Accepted in *New Blackfriars*.

Elden Å (2026). *Micro-Discipline: A Conceptual Model of Behavioural Regulation and Character Formation*. *Behavioral Sciences*, 16, 879.

Elden Å, Goth U, Ardigò LP (2026). *Amplification Chambers and Belief Persistence in Commercial Health Communication*. Accepted in *Journal of Health Communication*.

Elden Å (2026). *The Diffuse Void: Responsibility Under Conditions of Predictive Institutional Mediation*. *AI and Ethics*.

Elden Å (2026). *Algorithmic Formation and the Mimetic Self*. *Theology and Science*.

Elden Å (2026). *Epistemic Automation and the Deformation of the Human*. *Religions*, 17, 515.

### **Working Papers**

#### **When Death Stops Ending**

AI-mediated posthumous systems and the abolition of finality as a civilizational condition.

### **Post-Agential Governance**

How institutional systems progressively reorganize the origins of human judgment.

### **Outsourcing Complexity**

Technological systems as mechanisms of involuntary cognitive burden transfer.

### **Second-Personal Exclusion**

Algorithmic mediation and the disappearance of institutional answerability.

### **Epistemic Infrastructure and Human Judgment Formation**

How AI systems reorganize knowledge production and epistemic autonomy.

### **Academic Formation**

PhD in Psychology

UiT The Arctic University of Norway

Marie Curie Fellow (Postdoctoral Research)

ULP, Strasbourg France

MSc in Behavioral Science

Norwegian University of Science and Technology

- institutional philosophy
- contemporary philosophy of AI

Intellectual influences include:

Martin Heidegger

Bernard Stiegler

Hannah Arendt

Jacques Derrida

Hans Jonas

Paul Verbeek

Charles Taylor

René Girard