KENYON COLLEGE

Integrated Program in Humane Studies

AI, Humanities, and Society

The world's first human-centered AI curriculum — built for liberal arts students. **No coding background required.** We teach you how to use AI to investigate the things you already care about.

Where IPHS Graduates Go: Harvard Law · National Gallery of Art · UC Berkeley (PhD) · eBay AI · startups in South Asia · finance · consulting · government

Major 2025-26 Interdisciplinary Collaborations Across Academia, Industry, Government and Non-Profits:

Schmidt Sciences — Humanities AI Virtual Institute (HAVI) Grant Recipient (top 2% worldwide)

OpenAI

UNESCO

NIST — National Institute of Standards and Technology, U.S. Department of Commerce — Center for AI Standards and Innovation (U.S. AI Safety Institute)

Carleton College

Smith College

Tech Ethics Lab

IBM + University of Notre Dame

Oxford Witt Lab for Trust in AI

Modern Language Association

Meta

Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar

tsai center for innovative thinking at yale

Berklee

Columbia University

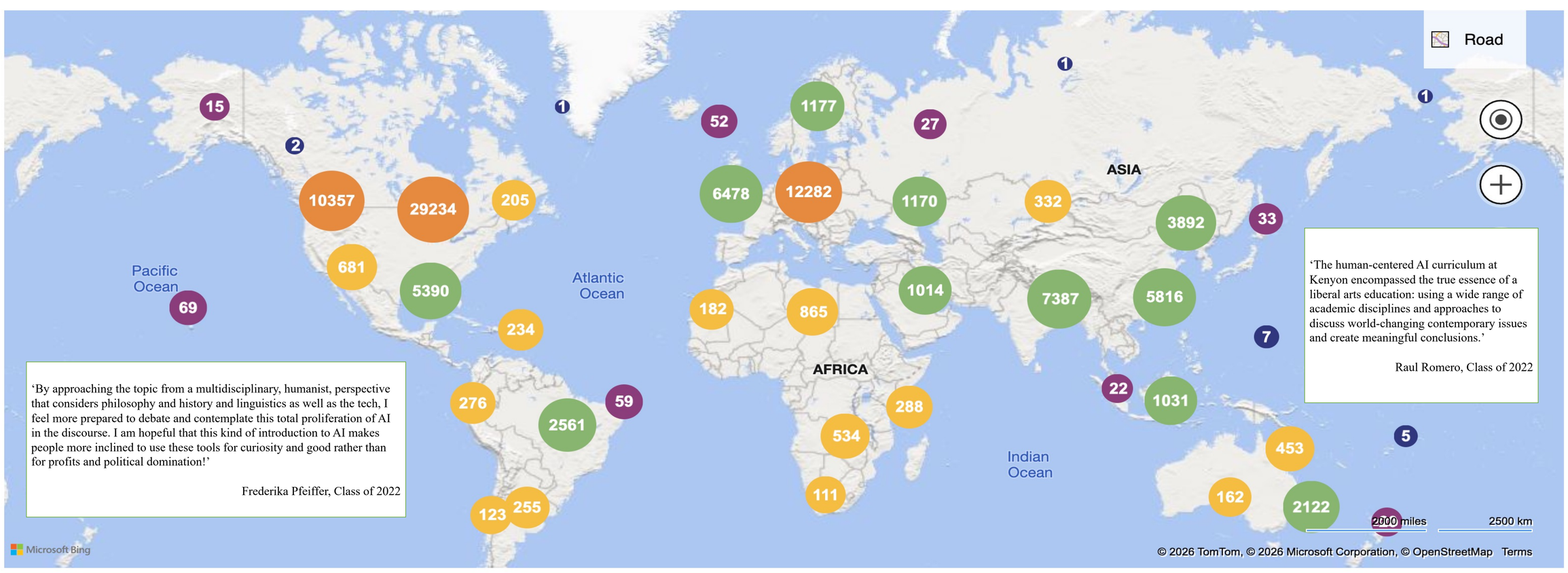
Alliance of Digital Humanities Organizations

The Helix Center

50 Years	10 Years	~100,000
Interdisciplinary Inquiry	Human-Centered AI Research into the Big Questions	Research Project Downloads Worldwide

GLOBAL IMPACT

IPHS Student research downloaded by 500+ institutions across over 200 countries and territories



'By approaching the topic from a multidisciplinary, humanist, perspective that considers philosophy and history and linguistics as well as the tech, I feel more prepared to debate and contemplate this total proliferation of AI in the discourse. I am hopeful that this kind of introduction to AI makes people more inclined to use these tools for curiosity and good rather than for profits and political domination!'

Frederika Pfeiffer, Class of 2022

'The human-centered AI curriculum at Kenyon encompassed the true essence of a liberal arts education: using a wide range of academic disciplines and approaches to discuss world-changing contemporary issues and create meaningful conclusions.'

Raul Romero, Class of 2022

Top download sites include Stanford, MIT, Oxford, Berkeley, Amazon, Princeton, CMU, Columbia, NTU (Singapore), Microsoft, Cambridge, NYU, Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia (Portuguese NSF), and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

WHAT OUR STUDENTS INVESTIGATE

Rescuing Endangered Heritage

Using AI to preserve New Orleans jazz archives before they're lost

The Emotional Shape of Novels

Sentiment analysis mapping the arc of feeling across centuries of fiction

Political Discourse at Scale

Analyzing 316,000 tweets to test theories about democratic conversation

AI & Human Identity

Testing whether AI can pass validated measures of emotional intelligence — and what it means if it can

Surveillance Capitalism

Investigating Instagram's terms of service through critical theory

AI Safety and AI Global Governance

Human-AI alignment, AI safety audits, AI persuasion-manipulation-deception benchmarks, International AI regulatory policy across the EU, China, and United States

THE CURRICULUM

IPHS 111Y–112Y Odyssey: Pursuit of Wisdom and Understanding. A year-long journey through the ideas that shaped civilization — from Homer and Plato through scientific revolutions to modern thought. Up to 30 Kenyon faculty lecture on their areas of expertise. Students learn to think across disciplines and to recognize which questions about technology are genuinely new and which are very old. This is the foundation for everything that follows .

IPHS 200 Programming Humanity: from programming to data viz to networks to analyze literary texts, social networks, and human behavior using universal best practices.

IPHS 300 AI for Humanity: Build and evaluate AI systems from statistical ML to LLMs paired with philosophy, ethics, and critical theory. This is the first course of its kind in the world.

IPHS 400 Frontiers of AI: Learn multi-agent systems, automated knowledge work, and state-of-the-art AI research tools, methods, and authorship.

IPHS 484 Senior Research Seminar: Create you own novel interdisciplinary research capstone project that reflects your studies, passions, and future goals with real-world impact.

The AI CoLab — *The questions that define us, the tools that are changing us.*

- This is not a tech program bolted onto traditional Liberal Arts. The traditional Liberal Arts are the foundation. AI is the frontier.
- The Integrated Program for Humane Studies (IPHS) is grounded in the great books, global intellectual history, and the enduring question of human thriving.
- The gateway course, IPHS 111Y-112Y, Odyssey, is a year-long encounter with the texts and ideas that shaped civilization, from Homer and Plato to Fanon and Beauvoir, from the Bhagavad Gita to the scientific revolution, taught by up to 30 Kenyon faculty. It trains students to think across disciplines, integrate disparate perspectives, and to ask the questions that give technology meaning.
- One cannot fully understand what is distinctively human until one engages seriously with the machine that is trying to replicate it. Our students bring fifty years of humanistic inquiry to that challenge.

From Aristotle to AI

AI CoLab Student Research Featured on NPR (Feb 2026)

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