

Neville Chi Hang Li:

**The New Tower of Babel:
The Modern Attempt to Reach unto Heaven
through the AI Boom**

Pope Leo XIV's first encyclical describes humanity at a crossroads regarding the rapid development of artificial intelligence (AI). The letter warns us about the "Babel syndrome" in the recent AI boom that idolizes profit maximization by sacrificing human dignity for efficiency.

The paper debunks the myth of cost reduction by AI on two fronts: 1) the artificial inflation of AI usage costs more economically and environmentally and 2) the social values of human-oriented jobs outweigh the obsession with efficiency. It further argues that the rising wages of these high-touch sectors, e.g. healthcare and education, uphold the diverse human expressions of our morality and relationships, laying a solid foundation for the governance of AI for the common good of all people.