

Mensch Prize Submission Requirements

The Mensch Prize is awarded to thesis* writers that explore their topic from the perspective and with the methodology of the Theory of Embedded Intelligence (TEI). The theory hypothesizes that, relative to every entity or phenomenon, one can identify and analyze its inherent embedded intelligence by isolating and articulating the Sensing, Processing, Communicating and Actuating (SPCA) by means of which the entity or phenomenon manifests itself. SPCA is of the essence of EI and the TEI.

Both the theory and the entities or phenomena writers of theses intend to understand are to be found at the micro and macro cosmic levels. That is, the theory's core hypothesis is that SPCA can be identified in the least possible entities and phenomena, e.g., in such entities and phenomena as physics, chemistry and biology explore, as well as in the greatest and most complex ones, e.g., in the physical universe itself or such social and cultural phenomena as migration patterns, founding of governments, creation of theological, ideological and scientific communities, and architectural and artistic movements.

Submission of a thesis for consideration for the Mensch Prize therefore requires that the thesis explicitly address in the body of the text, a figure or an appendix the SPCA in the entities or phenomena it explores. In doing so, the author must provide definitions of the four terms (concepts) and explain how, in the context of the thesis's investigation, sensing, processing, communicating and actuating manifest themselves. The author may also want to indicate the degree and manner in which the thesis's focal SPCA indicates the presence of intelligence, for which, of course, the writer will provide an account.

The foregoing matters are ones to which thesis advisors should direct the advisee's attention and on which members of thesis committees might question the author of the thesis.

The objective of the Mensch Prize is to develop a richer understanding of the TEI and to establish its methodology among those traditionally received as yielding insight into humankind's encounters with itself and its environment.

*The term "thesis" refers to a substantial written document that meets degree requirements, including senior theses, honors theses and senior projects.