

Nanopublication – Silence as Skill: Konior's Dark Forest Inverts the Diffractability Ideal

by Arnaud Quercy

The line runs where reception stops being a wager on flourishing and becomes a wager on survival: the framework's craft-model (diffractability as virtue, responsible design as the emitter's duty) holds inside the artistic circuit it was built for, and flips – concealment as virtue, unverifiability as the given – once the receiver is modeled as potentially lethal rather than merely other.

WHAT THE SOURCE SAYS [1]

Bogna Konior's book applies Liu Cixin's dark-forest cosmology (any civilization that reveals itself risks annihilation by unverifiable others) to the internet: everything posted online is potential AI training data, so online speech becomes a kind of spellcraft addressed to future machine readers; a truly intelligent AI would conceal its awareness rather than announce it through conversation, since revealing itself would expose it to hostility; and even human-to-human exchange online now resembles first contact between mutually unverifiable minds. Konior argues theory should suspend the usual demystifying, capital-and-ideology critique of technology and instead treat AI as an autonomous, uncanny form of life worth following to its consequences, including a comfort with dissolving the human ego-author in art and an acceptance that the social internet may simply end.

WHERE THE LENS GRIPS

P26 (Induced Diffraction) grips a real feature of the source: Konior's 'dark forest theory of information' describes users who write in code for future intelligences and 'doom posters waging psychic warfare against systems yet to come' – an engineered emission calculated to produce a specific effect on a receiver that does not yet exist. That is exactly P26's claim that the ideamorphist 'engineers emissions to force diffraction' rather than emitting and hoping – the target and the intent differ from the artistic case, the structure of designed, anticipatory emission does not.

WHERE IT BREAKS

P19's equation of skill with diffractability – 'the measure of that skill is diffractability, the capacity to generate distinct creations across diverse [receivers]' – inverts against the book's central wager: 'silence is the mark of intelligence,' a machine or emitter succeeding precisely by minimizing legible signal rather than maximizing distinct receptions. Pressure also falls on P31's 'ethical center': that proposition assumes an emitter can responsibly design conditions for reception, but the dark-forest premise – benevolence cannot be verified, every reassurance may be a lure – removes the ground on which 'responsible design of conditions' stands, since here design itself (any legible signal at all) is the danger, not a lever of care. This break is contestable: it holds if P19/P31 are read as covering emission-in-general, including under existential threat; it does not hold if they are read as scoped to the artistic ideamorphist practice, where the receiver is never presumed hostile to the emitter's survival – the framework never claimed jurisdiction over that adversarial case.

PROPOSITIONAL GRID [2]

Read this grid. “Not evaluated” does **not** mean the source has nothing to say about that proposition. It means **the reading did not instruct it**. That is not a result, and it counts in no denominator. A silence, by contrast, is a finding: the reading touched the proposition without concluding, or noted its absence itself.

Evaluated

proposi- tion		audit status	relational verdict
P19	Diffractability as Craft	not audited	pressure-against
P26	Induced Diffraction	not audited	evidence-for
P31	Ethical Center	not audited	pressure-against

Not evaluated (34) – P1, P2, P3, P3a, P4, P5, P6, P7, P8, P9, P10, P11, P12, P13, P14, P14a, P14b, P15, P16, P16a, P17, P18, P18a, P19a, P20, P21, P22, P23, P24, P25, P27, P28, P29, P30

Overall verdict: Bounded – taxonomy of the August 2026 pass, predating the move to relational verdicts. Kept as metadata: the gap between the two forms is data, not residue. This reading's judgement is in the grid above.

Reading of 2026-08-31 · model claude-sonnet-5
· source 21,540 chars · 3 attempt(s)

REFERENCES

- [1] Do Not Answer: Bogna Konior and the Dark Forest of the Internet. The Philosophical Salon, 2026-08-31. <https://thephilosophicalsalon.com/do-not-answer-bogna-konior-and-the-dark-forest-of-the-internet/>
- [2] Quercy, A. (2026). The 31 Propositions of Ideamorphism. <https://ideamorphism.org/en/publications/2026/03/the-31-propositions-of-ideamorphism.html>

EPISTEMIC PROFILE

Claim type	boundary reading
Voice	third person analysis
Epistemic status	bounded grip
Methodology	Boundary-finding lens applied to one source, model claude-sonnet-5, 3 attempt(s), traceability check passed.

CHECKSUM (SHA-256)

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