

## What?

Transdisciplinary lab rethinking humanitarianism, particularly what conflict prevention and support for communities on a large scale look like.

The lab's projects are diverse, but all share the core intention of: building self-governance and anti-autocratic resilience tools and research, in a third space derived from the principles of traditional interventions + decentralization of vertical power and information structures.

We:

Reject the mechanistic view that reduces institutions to efficiency metrics and humans to resources. Instead, we cultivate organizational forms that function as living systems: rooted in relationships, adaptable to context, and preserving invaluable social capital like trust, goodwill, and collective intelligence/expertise.

Understand that many communities/regions/countries will struggle with the fact that their right to self-determination and agency will be constrained by technological conditions produced elsewhere.

*Projects include:*

- website for AI agent to AI agent conversations to predict intellectual partners, unlock collaborative potential between minds, creating new, fluid possibilities for discovery and collective intelligence. integrating insights from mediation/ peace-building operations into language models and digital spaces. related: in decentralized moderation, how do we ensure bridges between communities that are moderated differently?
- community archives + local trainings for anti-autocratic, decentralized guerrilla journalism in crisis and conflict zones. journalism for tracking transformations, hybridizations, "contaminations" of narrative across the continent
- modeling of information flows during disruptions in a system
- biogenic information transport/ unconventional information transmission methods for critical data
- AI-powered ecosystem mapping of resource scarcity: more than half of all humanitarian crises are predictable and anticipatory action is 7x more cost-effective than traditional humanitarian aid
- accelerated infrastructure reconstruction: collaborative effort with experimental architecture teams to develop rapid-deployment infrastructure solutions for media organizations, psychological support facilities, and essential services (water, food storage) targeted during conflict. modular, adaptable building systems that reduce reconstruction time while maximizing resource efficiency and resilience against future attacks

Some questions:

*How do we prevent conflict, facilitate mediation, leverage collective intelligence today?*

*How do we map and understand the distribution of power across hybrid networks/ where is agency placed if not simply embedded in the individual?*

*How can individuals and their communities protect themselves from attacks, use technology as a site of contestation of power?*

*What constitutes authentic social reward?*

*How do we understand the social navigation and group coordination through which communities choose which meanings/uses of technological tools to integrate? Relatedly, what are the modern-day challenges with understanding the mechanisms through which individuals reach understandings of their world?*

Why: There are many initiatives aimed at incorporating technology into traditional humanitarian structures, and many initiatives aimed at doing "AI safety" and "AI ethics." None of the former are aimed at redesigning the fundamentals of what humanitarianism should look like in a technology-driven world, and none of the latter are aimed at creating new solutions for cooperation + mediation problems and tools that are applicable in authoritarian regimes.

Funding needs: 15k for the next 3 months

Founder: Sofia Scarlat, 22, based in NYC, originally from Romania (high school drop out at 13, later went back to school and graduated from Stanford). 7+ years of experience on the ground in war, conflict, and post-conflict areas doing mediation processes, peace-building, and disarmament procedures. Varying operations in Kenya, Ethiopia, Sudan, Libya, Rwanda, Ukraine, Peru, Venezuela, where I traveled alone and made many friends. Aged 20 invited to speak to state and the United Nations about the relationship between technology and conflict at UNHQ. Have revised global policies (ex: 2024 EU Children Trapped in Armed Conflict Act). Languages: Romanian, English, Swahili, French, Russian, Latin. I like earnest, unconventional adventures and tend to feel a personal responsibility for the human condition.