

# Inheritance and Redesign of Traditional Spiritual Ceremonies

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**Abstract:** This paper aims to explore potential and challenges of artificial intelligence (AI) technology in spiritual practices by combining it with ancient Chinese divination text, I Ching. First, by using the four key phenomenological concepts of intentionality, lifeworld, phenomenological suspension of judgment and reduction, and phenomenological reflection, this paper systematically analyzes how AI technology affects users' experiences and understanding in spiritual practices. Second, this paper delves into the role of AI in cross-cultural design, by combining modern technology with traditional culture, redesigning and digitally preserving traditional spiritual rituals, showcasing the possibilities of cultural innovation. Third, this paper demonstrates how AI can enhance users' cultural identity and spiritual experience by generating personalized I Ching interpretations and their impact on users' lifeworld, further validating design feasibility of combining AI with traditional culture through case analysis. Finally, the study reflects on ethical issues of AI technology in design and spiritual practices, emphasizing importance of cultural adaptability and fairness, and proposing future optimization directions for AI in cross-cultural design.

**Keywords:** artificial intelligence (AI), spiritual practices, traditional cultural heritage, cross-cultural design, I Ching, phenomenology, cultural identity, interactive design, design innovation, midjourney, ChatGPT

## 1. Introduction

In contemporary design, artificial intelligence(AI) is increasingly important as a driver of innovation, especially in boosting productivity and creativity. However, combining AI with traditional spiritual culture, especially the ancient Chinese I Ching, to explore its potential in design still needs further research. This project aims to reconnect and design traditional spiritual rituals through AI, exploring their impact on the contemporary spiritual landscape. The research systematically analyzes the interaction of AI with the spiritual practice of I Ching in Eastern cultures and reflects on the role of AI in cultural understanding and cross-cultural biases, with AI m of promoting in-depth discussions on AI ethics and biases. The project redesigned the traditional I Ching card through AI technology, combined with audio-visual interactive experience, demonstrated the possibility of integrating technology and traditional culture, and provided new ideas for future design. Based on phenomenology, the project starts from four key concepts of intentionality, life world, phenomenological suspension and restoration, and phenomenological reflection, and analyzes the role of AI in spiritual practice, especially its application in the interpretation of I Ching. This project has not only enriched design research in theory, but also provided practical methods for the integration of AI and traditional culture.

## 2. Project context

This project aims to explore how young people interact with spirituality and faith through artificial intelligence experiments and gain insight into their spiritual needs and practices. The project begins by defining goals and conducting user research, collecting data about spiritual experiences through interviews, including reflections on oneself and others. The target group is young people born after 1990, who come from different countries and cultural backgrounds and have experienced many forms of spiritual activities. The user study covers the background information of five participants, analyzing their needs, preferences, and pain points. Before the interview, the author explained the background of the project and defined the spiritual content, such as religion, meditation, yoga, etc. Through questionnaires and one-to-one interviews, we can deeply understand users' views and needs on spiritual experience and get feedback. Based on ethical and cultural sensitivities, the project explores how AI can understand spiritual experiences and optimize design and guides a series of interactive experiments by visualizing its elements and structure.

This research would like to explore the integration of AI as a design tool and spiritual practice with the help of four key theories of phenomenology. Intentionality means that consciousness always points to something[1]. The study explores how AI combine spiritual design, analyzing how users project consciousness and shape their worldview and spiritual experience through divination or interpretation of I Ching. Life world is the direct experience of everyday life without reflection[2]. The

study looks at how AI is integrated into users' lives, revealing how I Ching divination interaction changes users' perception of the world and meaning construction. Epoché (suspension) and Eidetic Reduction claims to reveal the nature of phenomena by suspending preconceptions. The research hopes to suspend presuppositions about AI and spiritual practice and focus on user's direct experience to gain a deeper understanding of how AI can be involved as a tool for spiritual practice. Phenomenological reflection helps individuals gain insight into their own experience[3]. Participants were encouraged to reflect on the experience of AI interacting with spirituality, reveal its impact on personal meaning-making, and explore role of AI in the interpretation of I Ching and its impact on users' understanding of their lives. Through interaction with AI and in-depth interviews, this study reveals individualization and subjectivity of spiritual exploration, and emphasizes influence of cultural background on spiritual practice. This project's definition of Spirituality is belief in something beyond the self. Common needs of users are mental activities to relieve stress, improve quality of life, provide inner peace and self-improvement. Common pain points are respondents generally under pressure to explore more effective spiritual experiences and tools.

The images generated by AI are mostly close-ups of people, combined with natural elements, often accompanied by images symbolizing "super power" such as wind and fire, and influenced by Chinese style. After removing the style restrictions, observe the pure changes generated by AI. Understanding the needs of the audience helps to design more responsive I Ching cards and optimize AI generation design. Karen Sawrey visualizes biblical themes to understand traditional texts in visual form. These infographics do not replace the original text, but give it new life through visual design. This method is consistent with goal of this project to reinterpret I Ching through artificial intelligence, and verifies applicability of theoretical framework. Japanese designer Aya Kishi uses an optical prism combined with the refraction of rainwater to create a "spectral tomb" project that turns sad emotions into positive experiences. This innovative monument design aligns with the project's goal of redesigning traditional I Ching rituals through artificial intelligence, demonstrating potential of modern technology in traditional spiritual practices. The project validates great potential of AI in mental design, providing confidence and motivation for project research.

### **3. Discovery: Cultural understanding and bias in artificial Intelligence**

When AI model lacks cultural background, output content tends to Western culture, which is derived from the Western dominance and development background of training data. The experiment shows that content of ChatGPT shows a Christian tendency when no Chinese background is input; After the input of Chinese culture, the generated content reflects symbols of Chinese culture, highlighting the importance of cultural context to generated content.

Identifying a user's cultural context can help generate more culturally adaptable content and enhance empathy and cultural identity. Designers need to respect the user's background to guide the design needs and direction. AI's cultural bias shows the importance of multicultural inclusion. In order to ensure that the spiritual practice of users with different cultural backgrounds is respected, this study does not set a specific style when designing I Ching card, but uses AI to generate real effects to help users understand the picture content. AI interaction experiment showed that AI's understanding of spiritual practice presents a transcendental state through images, similar to the meditative mindset. While some elements generated by AI are difficult to explain, it stimulates design thinking and demonstrates empathy and aesthetic abilities. How designers use AI and their understanding of emotion are still open questions.

### **4. Refection**

This project uses AI to reconnect and redesign traditional spiritual rituals, through the application of AI technology to spiritual practice research, reveals its problems in cultural understanding and cross-cultural bias, and excavates relevant design reflections based on phenomenological perspectives in the design process. In this project, AI technology is involved in analyzing and understanding spiritual practices(such as generating images related to "spirituality" through MidJourney) and influencing users' conscious experiences(such as audio-visual interactive videos). Intentionality helps analyze how users project their consciousness and cultural context into AI-assisted spiritual practices, which reminds designers to pay attention to data diversity and model fairness. In the project, by observing how AI is integrated into the user's living world(such as audio-visual interactive videos generated through AI), it demonstrates AI as a bridge of cross-cultural understanding, driving cultural heritage conservation and innovation. This project reveals the personalization of AI as a tool for spiritual practice(generating content according to user needs), immediacy(such as ChatGPT instant interpretation), and adaptability(flexible response to different cultural contexts). This project demonstrates the potential of AI to generate personalized content and diverse interpretations, enhancing designers' ability to understand user needs when using AI tools.

By understanding the cultural context of users, designers can use AI technology to create designs that are culturally adaptable and deeply spiritual. Future technological advances will further enhance the cultural adaptability and personalized

interpretation ability of AI models, so that they can better serve the spiritual needs of users. Combining AI technology with digital preservation, cultural dissemination and innovative re-creation, traditional cultural heritage will shine in modern society.

## 5. Outputs

This project generates I Ching card design through MidJourney, and combines AI produced by TouchDesigner to generate music and audio-visual interactive videos to enhance the interactive experience and sense of ceremony. The combination of AI and spiritual experience helps projects respect the user's cultural background and create designs that demonstrate cultural adaptability and depth.

## 6. Conclusion

This study explores the challenges and opportunities of artificial intelligence in cultural understanding and cross-cultural prejudice through the reconnection and design of traditional spiritual rituals by artificial intelligence technology. Based on the four core concepts of phenomenology, this project systematically analyzes how artificial intelligence affects users' experiences and perceptions in spiritual practice, demonstrating the innovative potential of the integration of technology and traditional culture. The study reveals AI's ability to generate personalized content, enhance cultural identity, and drive design innovation, while highlighting the importance of data diversity and model fairness. In the future, with the development of technology, artificial intelligence will play a broader role in cross-cultural design and spiritual practice, and promote the inheritance and re-creation of traditional cultural heritage in modern society.

## References

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