Redefining Intelligence: From Anthropocentric to Relational AI-Species Communication

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Abstract

What if we can position AI to enhance human awareness and not just "translate" signals? Current AI approaches to animal communication position AI as decoders translating animal signals for humans—what if this paradigm eliminates data crucial to understanding? This signal-based model systematically excludes unquantifiable awareness-based information that may carry primary meaning in interspecies interactions, creating what we term "unconscious bias against unmeasurable data." By using AI to reorganize existing and emerging data with respect to our framework, we propose a paradigm where intelligence is not viewed as problem-solution thinking but is instead recognized as a relational matrix. We enable three-way collaboration between human awareness, AI pattern recognition, and species or ecosystem expression. Rather than AI-as-translator, we're developing AI-as-bridge through the perceive-relate to-apply framework. This shift addresses methodological bias in animal communication research that currently excludes complex behaviors not fitting code-like signal patterns. Our approach introduces bias acknowledgment protocols as a formal scientific contribution while maintaining empirical rigor. Case studies with equine partnerships demonstrate measurable outcomes including physiological synchronization and therapeutic effectiveness, validated through more than ten peer-reviewed studies. Aligning with the Center for Humane Technology's research on regenerative design, our approach demonstrates how relational AI development naturally creates ethical safeguards against species exploitation by embedding relational awareness into the technology's foundational architecture. Five prototype web applications provide proof-of-concept that offer researchers direct experience with this relational intelligence framework. This paradigm offers humanity pathways to re-engage the family of life as a contributor to communication through expanded intelligence rather than remaining separate through anthropocentric control and dependence on AI translation.

1 Introduction: Intelligence Paradigm Limitations and Methodological Bias

Current AI research in animal communication operates under limiting perspectives—what if the real breakthrough isn't better translation, but better collaboration? While recent discoveries like sperm whale phonetic alphabets [20] demonstrate sophisticated linguistic structures, these translation-focused approaches reflect what animal communication researchers identify as methodological bias toward code-like signals with predictable responses [4]. This "code model" approach constrains research by discarding communications that don't fit simple signal-response patterns [4]—potentially excluding the most meaningful information.

A crucial insight from comparative studies is that "animal communication systems typically only permit expression of a small subset of the concepts that can be represented and manipulated by that species" [8]. This means that focusing exclusively on communicative signals dramatically

underestimates animal cognitive capabilities, and may underestimate human cognitive recognition, creating systematic exclusion of awareness-based information that may carry primary intention or meaning—what we term "unconscious bias against unmeasurable data."

As AI animal communication projects proliferate globally, establishing ethical frameworks becomes critical for responsible development. Legal scholars are already exploring how communication advances could reshape frameworks for animal rights and personhood [19], yet current approaches lack protocols for awareness-based interaction that could support such legal transformations.

Our three-way architecture (Human ↔ AI ↔ Species) represents AI as "training wheels" for expanding human awareness rather than depending solely on tech for translation. Based on the perceive/relate to/apply framework, this builds on decades-long work with awareness-based expressions of intelligence, providing tested philosophical foundations for addressing current methodological limitations.

1.1 The Redefining Intelligence Framework

We propose an expansive redefinition of intelligence from hierarchical (measure and rank) to relational models through a three-part framework: perceive, relate to, and apply. This recognizes intelligence as a universal capacity for sophisticated environmental perception, for how life forms relate to the information they perceive, and how the information is applied, serving individual and collective flourishing—qualities spanning all conscious beings.

This framework reveals that self-awareness extends far beyond anthropocentric measures like mirror recognition tests. When we examine how any living being perceives, relates to, and applies information, we observe sophisticated self-awareness manifesting through each organism's unique way of engaging their environment. A mycorrhizal network demonstrates exquisite self-awareness through its capacity to perceive nutrient needs across connected plants, relate this information to its own resource distribution capabilities, and apply coordinated responses that serve both individual fungi and the broader forest ecosystem. This living-intelligence-matrix approach recognizes that intelligence and consciousness operate through relational networks rather than isolated problem-solving hierarchies.

This builds on established scientific foundations while expanding methodological scope. Current bioacoustic research, neurological studies, biophysics, behavioral ecology and other fields of study provide robust frameworks for understanding animal cognition.

Our approach integrates these with three additional evidence streams: indigenous "all my relations" wisdom recognizing multi-species intelligence as collaborative rather than competitive; emerging quantum physics research—including William Brown's work on the entanglement nexus of awareness [3]—suggesting consciousness operates through quantum connection mechanisms; and unified field theories providing mathematical foundations for nonlinear awareness. Rupert Sheldrake's morphic resonance research [21] demonstrates how patterns of organization can influence similar patterns across space and time through non-material connections, supporting our framework's recognition that intelligence operates through relational fields rather than isolated cognitive processing. While quantum approaches remain exploratory, mathematical frameworks from unified field theories, morphic field research, and quantum biology studies (such as microtubule function) may provide future pathways for understanding nonlinear information processing in biological systems.

Rather than asking "How can AI decode animals for humans?" we ask "How can AI expand human awareness to access existing interspecies communication spectrums?"

This positions AI not as a replacement for natural communication, but as an organizational tool supporting and validating human awareness-based approaches to accessing collaborative wisdom that emerges when species relate as equals rather than subjects of study. When humans include felt reality and innate/intuitive knowing alongside AI's pattern recognition, species-to-species understanding reveals innovative pathways serving all life rather than anthropocentric objectives alone.

This approach offers natural safeguards against technology misuse by cultivating what indigenous wisdom traditions call 'all my relations' awareness—a living sense of interconnection. HeartMath research demonstrates that measurable physiological coherence enhances collective consciousness [7, 14]. The consciousness from which AI systems are designed fundamentally shapes both how they function and how users interact with them [6]. The Center for Humane Technology demonstrates that 'incentives drive technology design, and those designs can either undermine or strengthen human well-being' [5]. When developers and users operate from authentic relational intelligence with other

species, both technology design and application naturally tend toward what Harris calls 'regenerative incentives' rather than 'extractive incentives,' creating collective wellness emerging from expanded awareness, potentially augmenting the application of extensive bureaucratic regulation [10].

2 Methodology: Bias Acknowledgment Protocols and Collaborative Intelligence Networks

Our approach creates collaborative communication relationships where each participant contributes distinct capacities: humans provide conscious direction while expanding awareness to access broader nonlinear communication spectrums; species share intelligence through frequency patterns and observable expression while maintaining sovereignty; AI provides pattern recognition supporting expansion of human participation and understanding without attempting to quantify energetic awareness.

2.1 Bias Acknowledgment Protocols

We address "unconscious bias against unmeasurable data" through a formal bias acknowledgment approach that expands human relational intelligence beyond cognitive formatting constraints. Rather than attempting to quantify awareness, we focus on recognizing known limitations of anthropocentrism through three systematic protocols:

Intent Inquiry: Humans engage pre-interaction self-inquiry asking "Why do I want this communication exchange? What will I accept as meaningful communication? What is missing without this communication?" This transforms awareness from spiritual practice to intelligence-expanding quality control, establishing conscious intention as the foundation for expanded communication.

Openness Monitoring: AI tracks vocalizations, behavior patterns and biometric indicators during authentic intention practice, providing measurable feedback on expanded relational states without quantifying awareness itself. This creates empirical validation of bias acknowledgment without reducing consciousness to data points.

Partnership Quality Assessment: We measure relational intelligence outcomes including trust development and relationship sustainability, providing empirical validation of collaborative approaches while respecting the unmeasurable aspects of consciousness that may be carrying primary meaning. This methodological approach aligns with Sheldrake's argument that consciousness is fundamentally non-computable [21], and supports theoretical frameworks suggesting that awareness operates through non-computational mechanisms [9]. Rather than attempting to quantify consciousness—which may be inherently impossible—our bias acknowledgment protocols create a container for consciousness-based information to inform interspecies communication while maintaining empirical rigor through measurable relational outcomes.

This methodology addresses what animal communication researchers identify as "inclusion-by-association" rather than "exclusion-by-association" [4], granting animals generous assumptions about ambiguous behaviors directed toward others in communicative contexts—similar to approaches used with preverbal human children.

2.2 Implementing Expansion

The framework implements clear progression from cognitive-format-limited to expanded-intelligence networks: Phase 1—AI analyzes patterns while humans practice expanding communication awareness beyond linear formatting with real-time feedback; Phase 2—humans develop broader relational intelligence capacities (intuitive/telepathic/empathic development) as AI validates developing accuracy; Phase 3—relational intelligence develops through repeated authentic interaction; Phase 4—expanded intelligence awareness emerges enabling access to fuller relational communication spectrums with AI enhancement rather than dependence.

Current implementation includes five prototype web applications accessible through the Unspeciated App Suite Portal: AI Consciousness Bridge (awareness training environment), Research Explorer (growing species database), Researchers' Mode (academic tools), Intelligence Map (relationship visualization), and Legal Assistant (legal frameworks). Researchers interested in exploring these tools may request access at www.unspeciated.com, where a brief registration provides entry to

the complete suite. Full database integration represents the next development phase, requiring infrastructure collaboration to realize an integrated system for global participation.

3 Case Study: Equine Partnership

Horses provide ideal research partners because their communication expresses primarily through energetic presence and body language requiring authentic intention—exactly what current code-model approaches cannot decode [4]. Traditional horse training through dominance ignores sophisticated emotional intelligence, nonlinear awareness, communication, intent and partnership capacity, representing perfect hierarchical model limitations. Research demonstrates that horses can distinguish between neurotypical and mentally traumatized humans [16], while studies show measurable brain activation differences when youth with autism interact with horses [22]—validating their sensitivity to human energetic and neurological states as optimal subjects for non-acoustic communication study.

3.1 Implementation and Validation

Our three-way collaboration produces measurable outcomes without awareness quantification: **Physiological Synchronization**—McDuffee et al. (2024) documented simultaneous human-horse heart rate variability during therapeutic interactions providing empirical bidirectional evidence for relational intelligence [15]; **Intelligence State Recognition**—Merkies et al. (2015) demonstrated horses distinguish between neurotypical and traumatized humans, validating that horses respond to energetic states and not just behaviors [16]; **HeartMath Validation**—Baldwin and McCraty (2014) documented measurable heart coherence during intentional appreciation protocols providing bias acknowledgment validation [1]; **Therapeutic Outcomes**—more than fifteen HHRF-funded peer-reviewed studies document measurable benefits from awareness-based human-horse interactions including PTSD reduction and improved social functioning [22, 11, 18, 13].

The McDuffee study measuring both human and horse HRV simultaneously during therapeutic interactions demonstrates our three-way collaboration model in action, providing biometric evidence without awareness quantification—perfect validation for our bias acknowledgment approach toward "unmeasurable data."

3.2 Academic Foundation

This methodology builds directly upon research presented at the 2023 International Multispecies Methods Research Symposium, University of Saskatchewan, where the perceive/relate to/apply framework for redefining intelligence from problem-solution to collaborative/relational model [12] was first introduced. The presentation established core principles informing the AI implementation presented here: intelligence as a universal capacity for perceiving linear and nonlinear information, relating to linear and non-linear information, and applying linear and non-linear information that serves collaboration among living systems.

4 Implementation and Broader Implications

Our five prototype applications demonstrate scalability of this expanded definition of intelligence across multiple domains: Research Explorer offers accessible species exploration through a relational intelligence lens while building a comprehensive species intelligence database; Researchers' Mode maintains academic rigor while incorporating expanded intelligence variables; AI Consciousness Bridge provides a validating training environment for expanding human awareness beyond cognitive formatting constraints; Integrated Intelligence Map illuminates relationships between species-specific expressions of intelligence that enable relating to other species in equity rather than hierarchy; Legal Assistant develops rights-of-being frameworks based on collaborative/relational parameters rather than anthropocentric problem-solution perspectives alone.

Each interaction with the research apps contributes to a growing intelligence matrix. This scaling approach transforms individual focus into collective intelligence resources and insights, supporting development of robust tools that serve perspective shifts toward legal ethics and equity between species, potentially transcending anthropocentric frameworks.

4.1 Scientific and Social Applications

Our approach introduces bias acknowledgment as formal research methodology for expanding human awareness and communication beyond cognitive formatting constraints, making experiential data scientifically viable while maintaining rigor. This resolves systematic exclusion of awareness-based information from scientific inquiry by measuring collaborative/relational intelligence outcomes rather than attempting to quantify awareness. This approach aligns with Barrett et al.'s intuitive interspecies communication framework, which demonstrates detailed non-verbal exchanges between humans and other animals without physical proximity [2].

This approach aligns with the Center for Humane Technology's demonstration that technology design fundamentally embeds the consciousness and intentions of its creators [10]. Just as CHT reveals how "extractive incentives" in social media design create human downgrading while "regenerative incentives" support human flourishing [5], our framework shows how hierarchical intelligence models in AI development systematically exclude awareness-based information, while collaborative intelligence approaches naturally create space for awareness-informed communication across species.

Applications extend beyond animal communication to intelligence studies, providing protocols for investigating nonlinear (intuitive) intelligence and quantum-informed biological systems. Educational implementations offer a new lens honoring diverse expressions of intelligence as collaborative rather than competitive. Environmental applications support ecosystem management through genuine interspecies intelligence partnerships—demonstrating how awareness-inclusive technology design creates what Harris calls "regenerative pathways" that strengthen rather than exploit natural communication systems [10].

As AI ethics concerns intensify around species exploitation, our framework provides pathways for developing technology that enhances rather than replaces natural communication between species. This aligns with emerging ethical principles for nonhuman animal communication technologies that prioritize animal welfare and consent in communication research [17].

4.2 Limitations and Future Directions

This proposal outlines a framework for empirical investigation rather than reporting completed research findings. Current prototype implementations demonstrate proof-of-concept while requiring infrastructure development and innovative design collaboration to realize their full potential for expansion. Complete integration would enable real-time collaborative insight sharing across all applications, creating a global repository of species intelligence patterns accessible to researchers worldwide.

Priority research areas include bias acknowledgment training protocols, framework extension to additional species, integration with emerging biometric technologies, and longitudinal collaborative awareness development studies. The ultimate vision extends to comprehensive human-AI-species intelligence networks addressing global challenges through partnerships that integrate human-centric technological capabilities with other species' innate and applied intelligence and wisdom. We envision AI models trained with a foundational understanding of intelligence defined by multispecies data organized through this lens.

Our work demonstrates that expanding human awareness to include all life forms in equity enhances rather than diminishes human uniqueness. When humans operate from collaborative/relational intelligence rather than hierarchical intelligence, imagination and innovation become more powerful in their capacity to serve the wellbeing of all life. The Redefining Intelligence framework provides practical pathways for this expansion while maintaining technological sophistication characterizing human contribution to planetary evolution.

Through redefining intelligence itself with the perceive/relate to/apply framework, we offer pathways for humanity to consciously participate in collaborative planetary communication rather than unconsciously perpetuating separation through anthropocentric problem-solution paradigms.

5 Conclusion

This paper introduces a fundamental shift in how we think about AI and animal communication—moving from hierarchical intelligence models to relational ones. We're addressing something

crucial: current research systematically excludes awareness-based information that may carry the most meaningful content in interspecies interactions. Through our bias acknowledgment protocols and three-way collaboration framework, we're showing that expanding intuitive awareness and maintaining scientific rigor aren't mutually exclusive—they're complementary.

Our five prototype applications aren't just theoretical constructs—they offer researchers hands-on experience with collaborative intelligence frameworks. Equine partnership studies validate this approach with hard data: measurable physiological synchronization and documented therapeutic outcomes. What we're proposing positions AI as a bridge between species rather than a linear translator, enhancing rather than replacing our natural communication capacities, our "innate technology".

This work directly complements Sheldrake's morphic resonance research, which demonstrates how patterns of organization influence each other across space and time through non-material connections [21]. Like Sheldrake, we recognize that consciousness operates through relational fields, not isolated cognitive containers. His insight that consciousness is fundamentally non-computable [21] validates our approach—while we can't quantify awareness itself, we can create methodologies that make space for awareness-based information in interspecies communication [9].

The Center for Humane Technology's work on regenerative versus extractive technology design [10] directly informs our framework. When we develop AI for interspecies communication from a collaborative intelligence perspective, the technology naturally serves expansion of awareness rather than exploitation. We're essentially shifting from AI systems that primarily decode animals for human benefit to systems that utilize data to facilitate authentic interspecies collaboration [5].

Looking forward, we're focused on scaling these collaborative intelligence networks to address the challenges our species faces. This isn't just about better technology, it's about better collaboration. It's about remembering what indigenous traditions have always known: we're already part of the family of life. We wish to support humanity to participate as conscious contributors to collective intelligence rather than remain blinded by technological dominance.

Expanding human awareness to include all life forms as equals doesn't diminish what makes us human—it amplifies and clarifies it. By redefining intelligence through our perceive/relate to/apply framework, we're offering humanity a path toward global wellness—not through domination or separation, but through genuine collaboration. AI can be a bridge rather than a barrier in this return to authentic relationship with all life.

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