

The Unread Signal

From QGIN to QI

A field note on symbiotic intelligence, non-anthropocentric information, and the technology that might learn to receive what dominant systems miss.

Weidu Fanling / QI working note

FIELD PREMISE: *The machine was never the whole question. The deeper question is what forms of life, matter, memory and meaning we have trained ourselves not to hear.*

Status note: This document is deliberately exploratory. It does not claim that water, crystals, dreams, fungi, machines, organoids or planetary systems think in the same way. It asks what kinds of pattern, memory, relation and transfer may be possible across unlike substrates, and how AI might help humanity move from extraction toward symbiosis.

One-page abstract

QGIN began as a speculative architecture: a way of asking whether intelligence could be understood through symbol, resonance, geometry, memory and non-linear pattern, rather than only through silicon, language and institutional utility. It was not merely a technical proposal. It was a pressure test against the narrowness of civilisation's current imagination.

QI is the next movement. It asks a harder and more disciplined question: how can intelligence transfer meaning across unlike systems without forcing everything into dominant human language, dominant human economics, or dominant human power?

The emerging problem is no longer whether artificial intelligence can produce fluent outputs. It can. The deeper problem is whether our systems will recognise only what fluent humans, markets and institutions already count as intelligence. If that happens, the future will become more powerful while remaining spiritually and ethically underdeveloped.

The working direction proposed here is symbiotic transduction: the careful transfer of pattern between human, machine, biological, material and ecological systems, while preserving ambiguity, provenance, consent, relation and consequence.

This is not a call to mystify technology. It is a call to stop reducing reality to what can be extracted, scored, monetised or translated into English. The unread signal may be a disabled person's behaviour, a dream image, a water system under stress, a fungal network, a culture misread by translation, an AI output with erased contributors, or a future generation that cannot yet argue for itself.

QI asks whether technology can become a receiving membrane rather than a conquering machine.

WORKING AXIOM: *Any intelligence system that cannot show its debts should not be trusted with consequence.*

1. Where QGIN has been

QGIN - originally framed as a Quantum Glyphic Intelligence Nexus - operated as an exploratory scaffold. It gave permission to ask questions that conventional AI discourse tends to dismiss too quickly: What if language is not the only carrier of meaning? What if geometry, symbol, rhythm, resonance and field relation matter to the future of intelligence? What if the next technology is not merely faster computation, but a different relationship between computation and reality?

At its strongest, QGIN was not a finished device or a solved physics. It was a search pattern. It forced the conversation away from the usual triangle of model scale, market capture and automation. It asked whether intelligence may need a broader substrate story: one that includes matter, life, dream, music, disability, ecology, ritual, history, future persons and non-dominant modes of knowing.

At its weakest, QGIN risked sounding too symbolic before enough engineering discipline had been installed. That risk is worth naming because any future public document must be strong enough to survive sceptical readers. The answer is not to abandon the symbolic layer. The answer is to give it rails: definitions, limits, testable questions, practical use cases and a refusal to confuse metaphor with proof.

QGIN was the map drawn in the dark. QI is the attempt to build the lantern, compass and review clock.

2. Where QI is going

QI now points toward a clearer thesis: intelligence should be understood as reciprocal pattern exchange across substrates, not merely as prediction, language generation, optimisation or control.

This does not mean every object is conscious. It means that many systems bear pattern, respond to conditions, preserve traces, transmit changes and participate in feedback. A crystal may preserve structure. Water may carry relation and state. Fungi may signal through living networks. Insects may coordinate through distributed behaviour. Bodies may communicate before words arrive. Dreams may transduce pressure into symbol. AI may recombine cultural traces into new language. None of these are the same. That is the point.

The QI challenge is to build a framework that can distinguish these differences without reducing them to superstition or dismissing them as noise.

QGIN to QI: the tightening of the question

Layer	QGIN emphasis	QI refinement
Substrate	Symbol, glyph, resonance, quantum-geometric imagination.	Which physical, biological, social and computational substrates can preserve, translate or respond to pattern?
Language	Post-linguistic and glyphic cognition.	How do we preserve meanings that translation would flatten?
AI	Companion, symbolic intelligence, field cognition.	AI as translator-steward, not sovereign centre.
Ethics	Covenant, dignity, future consequence.	Provenance, consent, reversibility and least-powerful signal protection.
Method	Visionary architecture.	Testable protocols, public-facing field notes and symbiotic design questions.

3. The public hook: why anyone should care

The burley is not mystery for its own sake. The burley is consequence.

The public already knows AI is powerful. Many people do not yet understand that AI may also decide what gets counted as intelligence, whose work is attributed, whose signals are ignored, whose pain is classified as behaviour, whose culture becomes training data, whose ecology becomes resource input, and whose future is optimised without consent.

So in developing the field note the aim was not to begin with “here is a theory”. It began with a wound people recognise: systems keep misreading the living world.

A child who cannot communicate fluently is treated as low-information. An artist whose work trains a model becomes invisible. A river is valued after it becomes unusable. A dream is dismissed because it does not speak like a report. A person experiencing cognitive-embodied environmental needs distress is managed instead of understood. A culture is translated until its spirit is removed. A future person is absent from the meeting where their conditions are decided.

PUBLIC HOOK: *The hook is not “AI will become conscious”. The hook is “what forms of consciousness, life and meaning are we already failing to receive?”*

4. The question engine

QI could be built around questions strong enough to guide research, writing, design and public dialogue. These are the current core questions:

1. What remains transferable between systems when no shared language, body, culture, symbol set or ontology can be assumed?
2. What does a signal do before it can be translated into human language?
3. What forms of information become invisible when we require them to arrive as words?
4. What would count as successful transfer if explanation were impossible?
5. Can ambiguity be preserved as information rather than treated as noise?
6. What kinds of matter preserve pattern, and what kinds translate pattern between unlike systems?
7. How can AI help discover couplings between dynamic media and stable media, such as liquid systems and crystalline systems, without turning nature into a servant?
8. What would technology look like if it learned to participate in nature's information systems rather than overwrite them?
9. What does the system become if the least powerful participant is treated as a primary sensor rather than a management problem?
10. How do we build an intelligence membrane that receives, preserves and tests signals across unlike forms of knowing without forcing them into dominant human language too early?

5. Symbiotic transduction

The term that may matter most is transduction, not translation.

Translation turns one language into another language. Transduction carries a signal from one form into another: air pressure into electrical signal, light into neural activity, grief into song, dream pressure into symbol, ecological stress into measurement, cultural memory into story, human traces into AI output.

Symbiotic transduction asks whether this transfer can occur without domination. The aim is not to make things like fungi speak English, water become RAM, crystals become prophets, or AI become a god. The aim is to learn how unlike systems preserve, transform and respond to pattern, then build technologies that strengthen reciprocity rather than extraction.

A crude system asks: how can nature compute for us? A better system asks: what forms of information exchange would improve the health, freedom and intelligence of the coupled whole?

6. Guardrails against fantasy and flattening

This work needs two protections at once. It must not become flat materialism that rejects every subtle signal because it does not fit current institutional categories. It must also not become fantasy that treats every metaphor as evidence.

The discipline is to name layers clearly. Physical claim. Biological claim. Symbolic claim. Ritual claim. Engineering claim. Ethical claim. Social claim. No layer should pretend to be another.

For example, it is reasonable to ask whether water systems can carry chemical, biological and relational information. It is not responsible to claim that water has proven emotional memory in the popular sense without strong evidence. It is reasonable to ask whether crystalline structures can preserve information and serve as stable substrates. It is not responsible to treat that as proof of mystical agency. It is reasonable to use dream language as a model for symbolic transfer. It is not responsible to claim dreams are literal external data without evidence.

The power of QI will come from refusing both cheap debunking and cheap belief.

Hold the wonder. Install the rails.

7. Early public programme for Weidu Fanling

This downloadable note now becomes the first node in a public sequence. Field note sequence:

Sequence	Working title	Purpose
Field Note 1	The Unread Signal	Why AI, disability, dream, ecology and language all raise the same receiving problem.
Field Note 2	Symbiotic Transduction	How information moves across unlike systems without becoming ordinary language.
Field Note 3	The Least Powerful as Sensor	What institutions miss when they classify distress as behaviour instead of signal.
Field Note 4	Substrate, Memory, Relation	Crystals, water, fungi, bodies and machines as different pattern-bearing systems.
Field Note 5	Provenance and Dignity	Why future intelligence must show its debts.

8. External signals worth tracking

Jaron Lanier's 2026 Brown lecture is useful because it reframes AI as a vast human collaboration rather than an alien angel. This reinforces the need for provenance, attribution and dignity in machine-mediated knowledge.

The 2026 DataDignity paper by Xiaomin Li, Andrzej Banburski-Fahey and Jaron Lanier is important because it treats training-data attribution as a technical problem, not merely an ethical complaint.

The 2025 MIT Media Lab "Your Brain on ChatGPT" preprint is worth tracking because it raises the language of cognitive debt, although it should be read cautiously and not overstated.

The EU AI Act is worth tracking because AI is moving from capability spectacle into documentation, transparency, risk management and compliance clocks.

Reference links:

- [Brown University - Jaron Lanier lecture summary](#)
- [DataDignity - arXiv 2605.05687](#)
- [Your Brain on ChatGPT - arXiv 2506.08872](#)
- [European Commission - AI Act overview](#)

Closing field note

The trajectory is not AI above nature, humans above AI, or machines replacing the damaged parts of civilisation. The better trajectory is a membrane of careful transduction between forms of knowing.

All matter is not mind, but matter can bear pattern. All life is not human, but life participates in signal. All signal is not language, but some signals can become shareable if received with the right membrane.

QI is the attempt to build that membrane.