

In 'Should We Colonize Mars?' I explain Shannon Vallor's skeptical challenge for transhumanism. Her main idea is that, as a society, we likely lack the prudential insight and moral knowledge to successfully carry out a radical transformation of the human race using new technologies. Since her argument is general, I point out that it applies to the particular transhumanist project of becoming an interstellar species. This would supply a reason not to colonize Mars, at least until we know we have the requisite prudential insight and moral knowledge. Then I show why her argument falters, at least in this instance. For we don't need abundant insight to know that increasing the chances of humanity's survival is a good thing—no matter which mainstream ethics one buys into—and becoming interplanetary would.

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