



# AI promises, fallacies, and pitfalls: Inhibitors and stepping-stones for progress in Artificial Intelligence



**Prof. Dr. Dagmar Monett**  
Computer Science Dept., FB 2

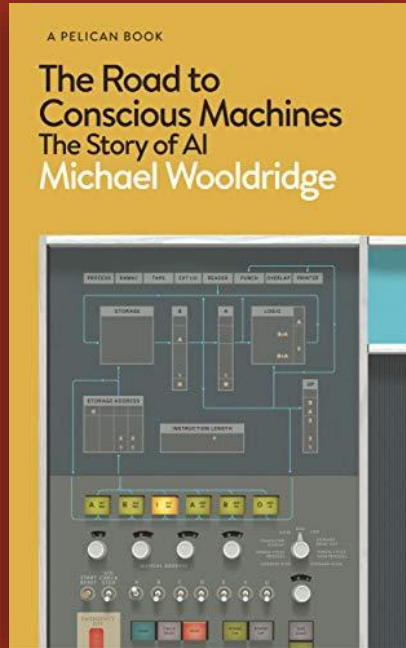


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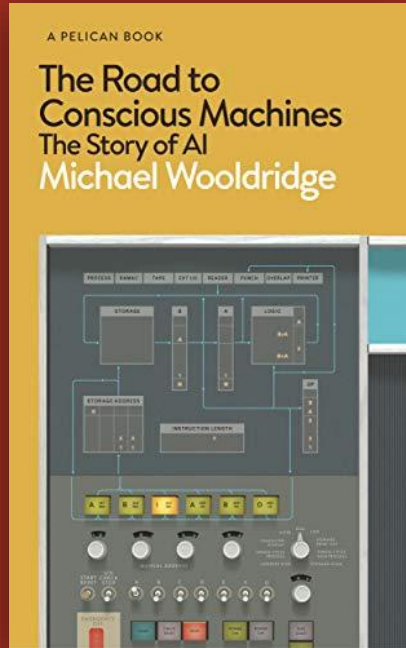
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# The “state of AI”

A reality check

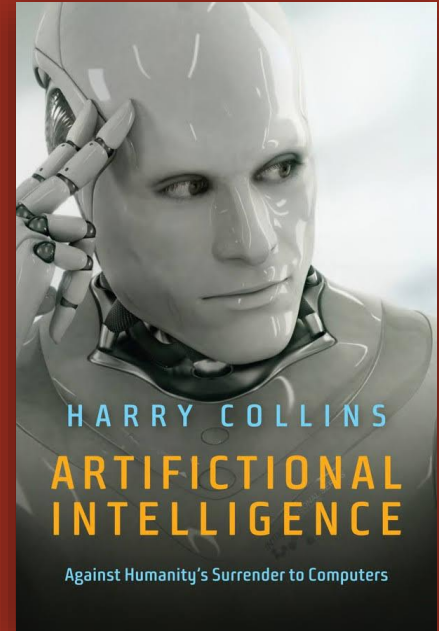


“The long-term dream of AI is to build machines that have the **full range of capabilities for intelligent actions** that people have—to build machines that are self-aware, conscious and autonomous in the same way that people like you and me are.”



*“The reality of AI for the foreseeable future [still] is **very different** to the grand dream.”*

**Artificial Intelligence,**  
the one “available  
through the newspapers,  
books and films.” And in  
the hype and techno-  
illusions of AI broliarchs.



Collins, H. (2018). *Artificial Intelligence: Against Humanity's Surrender to Computers*. Cambridge, UK: Polity Press.

# Meet the gig workers making AI models smarter

As artificial intelligence gets more powerful, the workers training the top generative AI systems are largely underpaid, overworked, and stuck in precarious employment situations

JOE CASTALDO

PUBLISHED SEPTEMBER 16, 2023

## AI startup 'magically' generating 3D images was actually using humans

Not so magic after all...

By Denham Sadler on Sep 11 2023 10:16 PM

[Print article](#)

[Tweet](#)

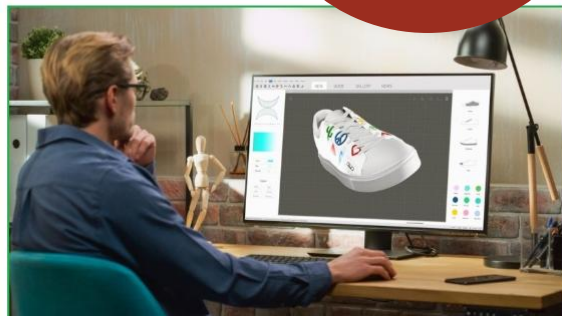
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An AI startup that claimed to "magically" produce 3D models in minutes using machine learning has actually been using human artists to do a lot of the work, according to a new report.

Kaedim, founded in London in 2020, claims to use artificial intelligence to convert a client's 2D drawing into a 3D image in minutes.

Its founder, Konstantina Psoma, was included in *Forbes'* 30 Under 30 Europe recently, and the company has raised



Not  
artificial  
but very  
human



Richard Mathenge led a team that moderated sexual content for OpenAI in Nairobi.

## Cleaning Up ChatGPT Takes Heavy Toll on Human Workers

Contractors in Kenya say they were traumatized by effort to screen out descriptions of violence and sexual abuse during run-up to OpenAI's hit chatbot

By [Karen Hao](#) [Follow](#) and [Deepa Seetharaman](#) [Follow](#) | Photographs by Natalia Jidovanu for *The Wall Street Journal*

July 24, 2023 12:01 am ET



Nash Weerasekera for Noema Magazine

## The Exploited Labor Behind Artificial Intelligence

Supporting transnational worker organizing should be at the center of the fight for "ethical AI."

ESSAY TECHNOLOGY & THE HUMAN

BY ADRIENNE WILLIAMS,  
MILAGROS MICELI AND TIMNIT  
GEBRU

OCTOBER 13, 2022

2

# The core of my research sabbatical

in one slide

# WORKPLACE AI IMPLEMENTATION

## B I N G O

AI increases efficiency & productivity	This is not deskilling, it's upskilling	It frees time for more valuable work	AI is here to stay	It's early tech, but will get better soon
AI is already helping me in my job	You must align with company values	Everyone else is using AI, we can't fall behind	There are ways to use AI ethically	Are you some sort of Luddite?
Its workers job to review bad AI output	If you don't learn AI, you won't grow your career		AI is what we need to excite investors	Funders/ the board are asking us to use it
You're just not using it right	This is the wave of the future	Customers are clamoring for it!	AI is just a tool	AI does the grunt work, you can be creative!
You used an early version, it's much better now!	You're not being mentally curious	We'll ensure data safety and privacy	We're not paid to worry about social harms	It's a fad, play along and let it blow over

<https://workersdecide.tech>

## Well-known tropes regarding “AI”

*“AI is here to stay”*

*“AI increases efficiency & productivity”*

*“It frees time for more valuable work”*

*“There are ways to use AI ethically”*

*“AI is just a tool”*

*“If you don't learn AI, you won't grow your career”*

*“Everyone else is using AI, we can't fall behind”*

*“AI is already helping me in my job”*

*“This is the wave of the future”*

AI Implementation Bingo. AI Chaos Prevention Committee.

<https://www.workersdecide.tech/resources/2025-09-18-bingo/>



3

# The core of my research sabbatical

in more slides

## Vertrauen Sie KI? Einblicke in das Thema Künstliche Intelligenz und warum Vertrauen eine Schlüsselrolle im Umgang mit neuen Technologien spielt



**JURNAL SIGNAL**  
PRODI ILMU KOMUNIKASI FAKULTAS ILMU SOSIAL DAN ILMU POLITIK  
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HOME / ARCHIVES / VOL. 11 NO. 2 (2023): JURNAL SIGNAL / Artikel

**AI AND ETHICS: MOVING TOWARDS A FUTURE WHERE AI BENEFITS – RATHER THAN DESTROYS – HUMANITY**

Preprint

File available

## The commodification of education and the (generative) AI-induced scam-like culture

## European Conference on e-Learning

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

Publisher

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About

Home / Archives / Vol. 23 No. 1 (2024): Proceedings of the 23rd European Conference on e-Learning - ECEL 2024 / Academic papers

## Deconstructing the AI Myth: Fallacies and Harms of Algorithmification

## The Cambridge Handbook of Behavioural Data Science

Coming soon

Edited by Ganna Pogrebnia, The Alan Turing Institute, Thomas T. Hills, University Warwick

Select format

**JODDE** Journal of Open, Distance, and Digital Education

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## Against the Commodification of Education — if harms then not AI

## International Conference on AI Research

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

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## Narratives That Speak AI Lingua? AI Vocabulary in Listed Companies' Annual Reports

## Chapter 14: AI-based service systems: digital-ethical issues and their impact on value co-creation

## Digital Ethics in Data-Driven Organizations and AI Ethics as Application Example

## Digitale Ethik und deren Implikationen für KI-Anwendungen im Tourismus

# “AI” momentum with consequences



## Technology

**Computing power**, chips, micro- & multiprocessors, other **hardware**, cameras, sensors, wearables, etc.



## Exploitation

**Exploitation** of millions of miserably-paid people in the background working to make algorithms appear “intelligent” and obfuscate value **extraction**.



## Data

Massive amounts of **data** in the form of text, images, video, and audio, also **derived from users’ behavior** (clicks, wearables, etc.) and **AI slop**.



## Access, courses

**Low entry level** to the field, conferences, papers, courses, books, and lately also including AI-generated and **superficial** content.



## Software, Tools

(AI) **algorithms** and models, the former mostly around for a longer while (several **decades** in most cases), limited benchmarks.



## \$, Media

**Investments** to buy technology, build huge data centres and research facilities. And PR and media to **hype** them, **inflate** the **bubble** and the AI **myth**.



(Monett & Grigorescu, 2024; Monett & Paquet, 2024, 2025), etc.

- **Misuse** and **abuse** of terminology, **anthropomorphism**, **hype**, **ahistoricism**
- **Degenerative AI** worsens the **devastation** of natural resources and the environment, **exploitation** of labour, modern AI **colonialism**, morally **unjustifiable**
- AI **inevitability**, **techno-solutionism**, **commodification**, **determinism**, and the financing of companies' products with taxpayers' money, corporate-AI **coup**
- **Stagnated “progress”** in only one very specific sub-sub-sub-field of AI, deep learning **monoculture**, **theft** of intellectual property, explosion of AI “experts”
- **Degeneration** of (academic) writing, critical thinking, learning, doing research
- **Deskilling** of students, content **pollution**, **destruction** of research integrity, **collapse** of research & review systems, covert **plagiarism**, **algorithmification**
- Mass **gullibility**, *clicky-learners* – loss of agency, **degradation** of cognitive abilities
- **Aggressive push** for more AI **despite the harms**, no opt-out option
- **Ethics washing**, **critical washing**—encouraging AI use while being ‘aware of the risks’, excessive **FOMO**, **uncritical** adoption, **unsustainable**

# A non-exhaustive collection of worth-reading books on topics strongly related to Critical AI (6th edition)

Curated by [Prof. Dr. Dagmar Monett](#)

(Click on the headers to sort columns' content differently!)

10 entries per page

Search:

First author	Coauthors	Year	Book title	Publisher
Adib-Moghaddam, Arshin		2025	<a href="#">The Myth of Good AI: A manifesto for critical Artificial Intelligence</a>	Manchester University Press
Becker, Adam		2025	<a href="#">More Everything Forever: AI Overlords, Space Empires, and Silicon Valley's Crusade to Control the Fate of Humanity</a>	Basic Books
Beer, David		2024	<a href="#">The Tensions of Algorithmic Thinking: Automation, Intelligence and the Politics of Knowing</a>	Bristol University Press
Bender, Emily M.	Hanna, Alex	2025	<a href="#">The AI Con: How to Fight Big Tech's Hype and Create the Future We Want</a>	HarperCollins Publishers
Benjamin, Ruha		2019	<a href="#">Race after Technology: Abolitionist Tools for the New Jim Code</a>	John Wiley & Sons
Benjamin, Ruha		2025	<a href="#">Imagination: A Manifesto</a>	W. W. Norton & Company
Berry, Carlotta A.	Marshall, Brandeis	2025	<a href="#">Mitigating Bias in Machine Learning</a>	McGraw Hill
Binfield, Kevin		2015	<a href="#">Writings of the Luddites</a>	Johns Hopkins University Press
Blix, Hagen	Glimmer, Ingeborg	2025	<a href="#">Why We Fear AI: On the Interpretation of Nightmares</a>	Common Notions
Bridle, James		2019	<a href="#">New Dark Age: Technology and the End of the Future</a>	Verso

Showing 1 to 10 of 81 entries

← 81 books

« < 1 2 3 4 5 ... 9 > »

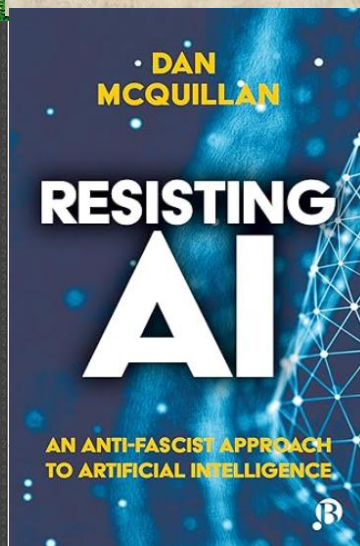
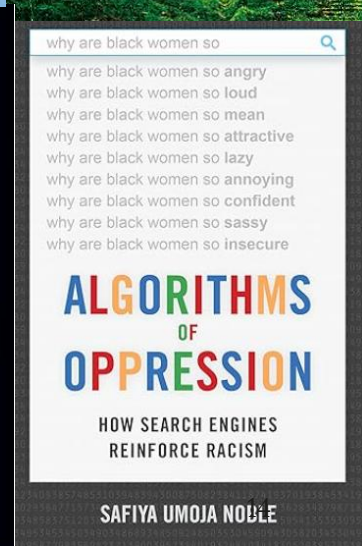
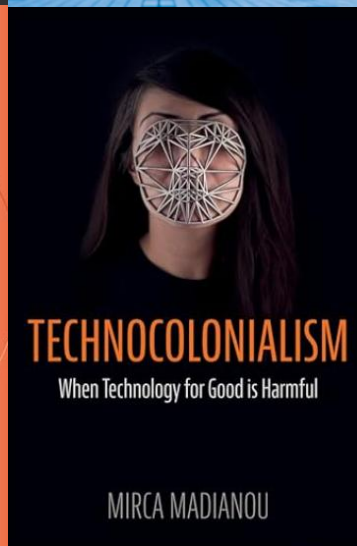
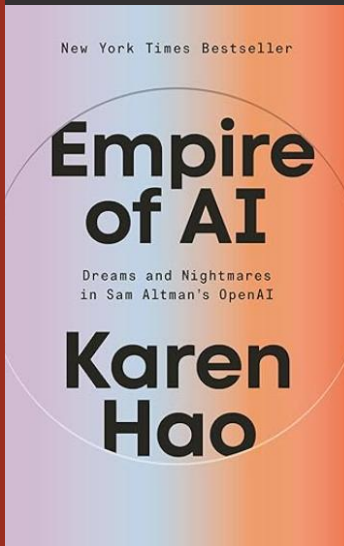
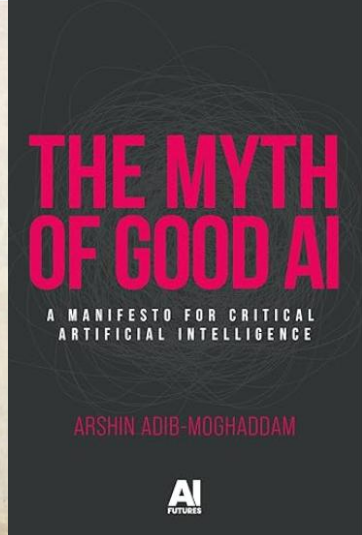
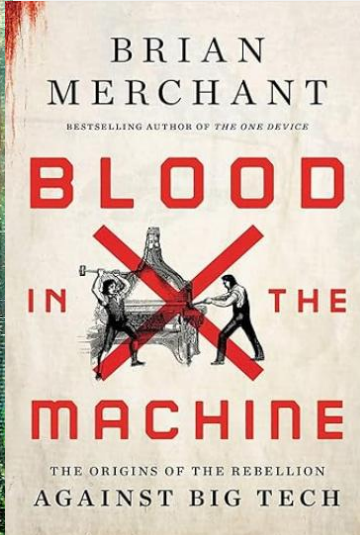
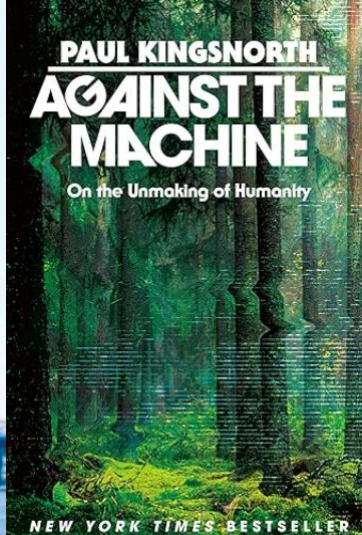
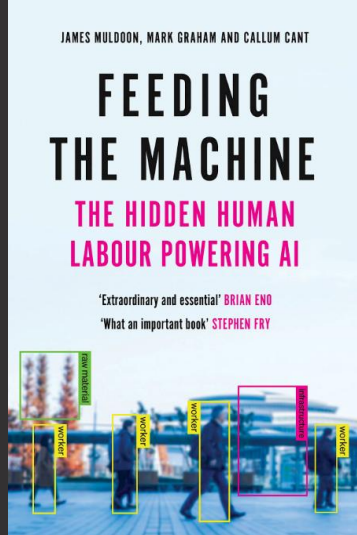
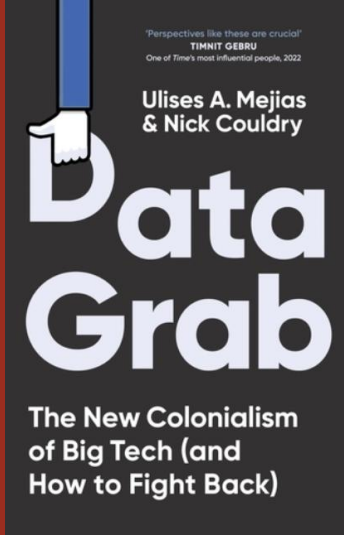
## Download:

Do you prefer the collection as a PDF document instead (though with entries listed in no specific order)?

[Download the file here!](#)



"AI"  
won't  
save  
us



Among  
many  
other  
books!

4

# Impact, dissemination

also beyond the sabbatical



## Panels, Talks, Keynotes (a selection)

- AI and Education: The myth, the challenges, and the path forward. **Council of Europe Conf AI and education**. France, 10/2022 (O).
- Is data-driven technological solutionism the answer to the future of education? **EMINENT 2022**, Ireland, 12/2022.
- Desiderata for (AI-based) digital technologies. **EU Horizon2020 SwafS Citizen Science project**. Munich, 12/2022.
- IA: qué es, su estado actual, retos y oportunidades (engl.: AI: what it is, its current state, challenges, and opportunities). **NTT DATA**, México, 03/2023 (O).
- Pitfalls, Challenges and Opportunities of AI in Public Services. **Lean Startup Sprint: AI in Public Service Design**, Berlin, 10/2023.
- Panel Inteligencia Artificial confiable para la resiliencia del estado de derecho (engl.: Reliable Artificial Intelligence for the resilience of the rule of law). **University Santiago de Compostela**, Spain, 10/2023.
- Panel Escollos, desafíos y oportunidades de la IA en los servicios públicos (engl.: Pitfalls, Challenges and Opportunities of AI in Public Services). **University Santiago de Compostela**, Spain, 11/2023.
- The allure and dangers of the Silicolonization of our lives. **Int. Conf. on AI: Risks, Regulations and Roadmaps**, Denmark, 12/2023 (O).
- Panel What's the Point of Artificial Intelligence? **FILMFEST DRESDEN**, 04/2024.
- Intelligence, the everlasting elusive and ambivalent concept of past, current and future AI. **NHL Stenden UAS**, The Netherlands, 04/2024.
- Rethinking how to deal with contemporary AI: Ethics is not a ballast but a need. **NHL Stenden UAS**, The Netherlands, 04/2024.
- Ethical judgement and responsibility in times of AI. **St. Pölten UAS**, Austria, 05/2024.
- AI is neither A nor I. **St. Pölten UAS**, Austria, 05/2024.
- The allure and dangers of the Silicolonization of our lives. **2nd Symposium on AI Opportunities and Challenges**, Sweden, 06/2024.



# AI Detectors Falsely Accuse Students of Cheating—With Big Consequences

About two-thirds of teachers report regularly using tools for detecting AI-generated content. At that scale, even tiny error rates can add up quickly.

By Jackie Davalos and Leon Yin

October 18, 2024 at 5:00 PM GMT+2

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/features/2024-10-18/do-ai-detectors-work-students-face-false-cheating-accusations>

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-025-02810-5>

WORLD VIEW | 09 September 2025

## AI chatbots are already biasing research — we must establish guidelines for their use now



The academic community has looked at how artificial-intelligence tools help researchers to write papers, but not how they distort the literature scientists choose to cite.

By Zhicheng Lin



Dr. Amy Clukey  
@AmyClukey

I'm no longer a teacher. I'm just a human plagiarism detector.

I used to spend my grading time giving comments for improving writing skills. Now most of that time is just checking to see if a student wrote their own paper. What a waste of life.

1:14 AM · Oct 5, 2024 · 27.7M Views

5.2K

30K

463K

24K



<https://x.com/AmyClukey/status/1842342623295533117>

<https://tylervigen.com/spurious-scholar>

### spurious scholar

*Because if  $p < 0.05$ , why not publish?*

- Step 1: Gather a bunch of data. <sup>Note</sup>
- Step 2: Dredge that data to find random correlations between variables. <sup>Note</sup>
- Step 3: Calculate the correlation coefficient, confidence interval, and  $p$ -value to see if the connection is statistically significant. <sup>Note</sup>
- Step 4: If it is, have a large language model draft a research paper.
- Step 5: Remind everyone that **these papers are AI-generated and are not real.**
- Seriously, just pick one and read the lit review section. <sup>Note</sup>
- Step 6: ...publish:

Four examples among many!

**Be very skeptical about “AI” in/for research/education**

**AI chatbots are already biasing research – we must establish guidelines for their use now**

(Lin, 2025)

**Combining Psychology With Artificial Intelligence: What Could Possibly Go Wrong?**

(van Rooij & Guest, 2025)

**AI slop and the destruction of knowledge**

(van Rooij, 2025)

**Artificial intelligence and illusions of understanding in scientific research**

(Messerli & Crockett, 2024)

**Science Is Drowning in AI Slop**

(Andersen, 2026)

**ChatGPT is blind to bad science**

(Zheng & Thelwall, 2025)

**Generative AI lacks the human creativity to achieve scientific discovery from scratch**

(Ding & Li, 2025)

**#bropenscience is broken science**

(Whitaker & Guest, 2020)

**Can researchers stop AI making up citations?**

(Gibney, 2025)

**AI chatbots are sycophants – researchers say it’s harming science**

(Naddaf, 2025)

**Generalization bias in large language model summarization of scientific research**

(Peters & Chin-Yee, 2025)



# Against the uncritical adoption

(Guest et al., 2025b)

**Guest, O., Suarez, M., Müller, B., van Meerkerk, E., Oude Groote Beverborg, A., de Haan, R., Reyes Elizondo, A., Blokpoel, M., Scharfenberg, N., Kleinherenbrink, A., Camerino, I., Woensdregt, M., Monett, D., Brown, J., Avraamidou, L., Alenda-Demoutiez, J., Hermans, F., & van Rooij, I. (2025). *Against the Uncritical Adoption of 'AI' Technologies in Academia*. Zenodo.**

<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.17065099>

**18 authors, 8 HigherEd institutions from The Netherlands:** Radboud University, University of Amsterdam, Leiden University, University of Groningen, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam; **Germany:** Berlin School of Economics and Law **USA:** University of Colorado; **Denmark:** Aarhus University

(Guest et al., 2025a)

**Guest, O. et al. (2025, June 27). *Open Letter: Stop the Uncritical Adoption of AI Technologies in Academia*. <https://openletter.earth/open-letter-stop-the-uncritical-adoption-of-ai-technologies-in-academia-b65bba1e>**



**1,660**  
signatures  
1,552 verified

106K  
VIEWS

65K  
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Against the Uncritical Adoption of 'AI' Technologies in Academia



## AGAINST THE UNCITICAL ADOPTION OF 'AI' TECHNOLOGIES IN ACADEMIA

Olivia Guest<sup>1,2</sup>, Marcela Suarez<sup>1</sup>, Barbara C. N. Müller<sup>3</sup>, Edwin van Meerkerk<sup>4</sup>, Arnoud Oude Groote Beverborg<sup>5</sup>, Ronald de Haan<sup>6</sup>, Andrea Reyes Elizondo<sup>7</sup>, Mark Blokpoel<sup>1,2</sup>, Natalia Scharfenberg<sup>1,2</sup>, Annelies Kleinherenbrink<sup>1,8</sup>, Ileana Camerino<sup>1</sup>, Marieke Woensdregt<sup>1,2</sup>, Dagnar Monett<sup>9</sup>, Jed Brown<sup>10</sup>, Lucy Avraamidou<sup>11</sup>, Juliette Alenda-Demoutiez<sup>12</sup>, Feliene Hermans<sup>13</sup>, and Iris van Rooij<sup>1,2,14</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Cognitive Science and Artificial Intelligence, Radboud University, The Netherlands

<sup>2</sup>Donders Institute for Brain, Cognition, and Behaviour, Radboud University, The Netherlands

<sup>3</sup>Communication & Media, Behavioural Science Institute, Radboud University, The Netherlands

<sup>4</sup>Radboud Institute for Culture and History, Radboud University, The Netherlands

<sup>5</sup>Pedagogical and Educational Sciences, Radboud University, The Netherlands

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<sup>11</sup>Institute for Science Education and Communication, University of Groningen, The Netherlands

<sup>12</sup>Department of Economics and Business Economics, Radboud University, The Netherlands

<sup>13</sup>Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, The Netherlands

<sup>14</sup>Department of Linguistics, Cognitive Science, and Semiotics, Aarhus University, Denmark

**Abstract:** Under the banner of progress, products have been uncritically adopted or even imposed on users — in past centuries with tobacco and combustion engines, and in the 21st with social media. For these collective blunders, we now regret our involvement or apathy as scientists, and society struggles to put the genie back in the bottle. Currently, we are similarly entangled with artificial intelligence (AI) technology. For example, software updates are rolled out seamlessly and non-consensually, Microsoft Office is bundled with chatbots, and we, our students, and our employers have had no say, as it is not considered a valid position to reject AI technologies in our teaching and research. This is why in June 2025, we co-authored an Open Letter calling on our employers to reverse and rethink their stance on uncritically adopting AI technologies. In this position piece, we expand on why universities must take their role seriously to a) counter the technology industry's marketing, hype, and harm; and to b) safeguard higher education, critical thinking, expertise, academic freedom, and scientific integrity. We include pointers to relevant work to further inform our colleagues.

**Keywords:** higher education; artificial intelligence; digital technology; critical analysis; open letter; policy

## Against the Uncritical Adoption of 'AI' Technologies in Academia

(Guest et al., 2025)

Against the Commodification of Education — if harms then not AI

(Monett & Paquet, 2025)

**I am no longer chairing defenses or joining committees where students use generative AI for their writing**

(Lizzie, 2025)

Why I'm Not Teaching with GenAI Even Though Students are Using It

(Fernandes, 2025)

An open letter from educators who refuse the call to adopt GenAI in education

(Dusseau et al., 2025)

**Why I'm betting against AI.**

Is AI the future? I don't fucking give a shit.

(Knox, 2025)

Refusing Gen-AI: Seeing the Signs that are Hiding in Plain Sight

(Keel, 2025)

**Large Language Muddle**

It's OK to be a Luddite!

(n+1, 2025)

**'I'm a modern-day luddite': Meet the students who don't use laptops**

(Vall, 2025)

*The role of the University is to resist AI*

(McQuillan, 2025)

**Sometimes We Resist AI for Good Reasons**

(Gannon, 2025)

# Does AI threaten research integrity?



— 30<sup>th</sup> January 2026 10:30 – 16:30  
Eleanor Rathbone Building (2.62) &  
online —

**SESSION 1** **The Metascience of Peer Review**  
11:00-12:00 Guest speaker: Tom Stafford

**SESSION 2** **Risks of Chatbots in Online Surveys**  
13:00-14:30 Guest speakers: Phoebe Wallman,  
Alexandra Lautarescu

**SESSION 3** **The Uncritical Adoption of AI Technologies in Academia**  
15:00-16:30 Guest speakers: Olivia Guest, Iris van Rooij

16:30 **Discussion & After-Party**

— **FREE ENTRY – [SIGN UP HERE:](#)**

Breakfast pastries, coffee & lunch provided



Organising team: Alexis Makin: [alexis.makin@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:alexis.makin@liverpool.ac.uk), Angelika Stefan: [angelika.stefan@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:angelika.stefan@liverpool.ac.uk),  
Andrew Jessop: [andrew.jessop@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:andrew.jessop@liverpool.ac.uk), Angelo Pirrone: [a.pirrone@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:a.pirrone@liverpool.ac.uk)

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Guest speakers: Olivia Guest, Iris van Rooij

30<sup>th</sup> January 2026 10:30 – 16:30

(UK time)





**535** participants

## Examples of open comments (98 in total)

- “AI is great” / “Everyone does it”
- “there is a general lack of knowledge about the negative impact of overusing AI”
- “Terrifying” / “**Democracy is in danger**”

(Paper soon!)

