



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

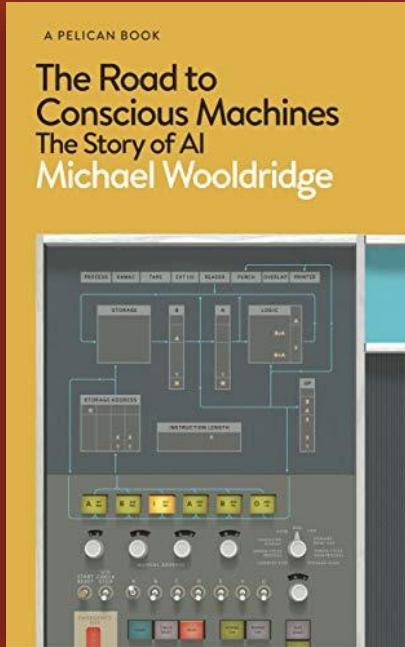


Prof. Dr. Dagmar Monett
Computer Science Dept., FB 2

1

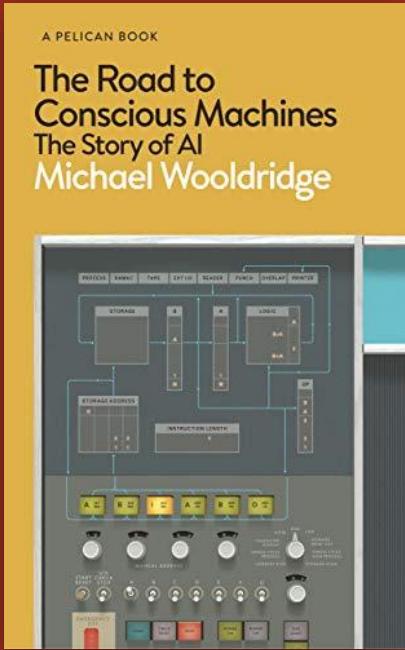
The “state of AI”

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.”

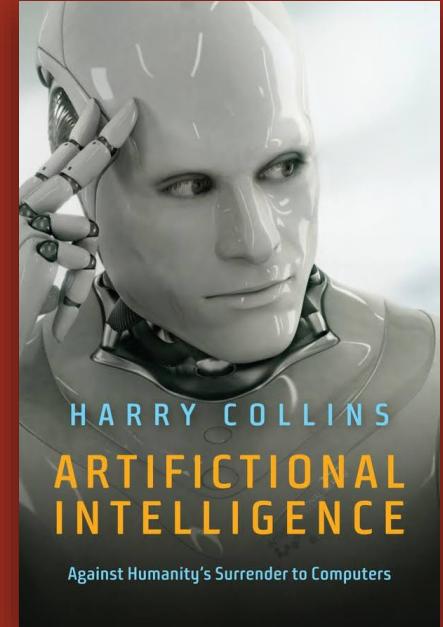
Wooldridge, M. (2020). *The Road to Conscious Machines: The Story of AI*. UK: Pelican Random House.



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

Wooldridge, M. (2020). *The Road to Conscious Machines: The Story of AI*. UK: Pelican Random House.

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



Collins, H. (2018). *Artifictional 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

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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 Jidovianu 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



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?
It's 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

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”

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**



**The Cambridge Handbook of Behavioural
Data Science**

1

THE CAMBRIDGE HANDBOOK OF
BEHAVIOURAL
DATA SCIENCE



Coming soon

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

Select format

JODDE Journal of Open,
Distance, and
Digital Education

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Home / Archives / Vol. 2 No. 1 (2025) / Critical Reflections

Against the Commodification of Education — if harms then not AI

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

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

**Publications
sabbatical**



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

European Conference on e-Learning

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

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



International Conference on AI Research

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

Home / Archives / Vol. 4 No. 1 (2022) / Academic

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

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

Showing 1 to 10 of 81 entries

81 books

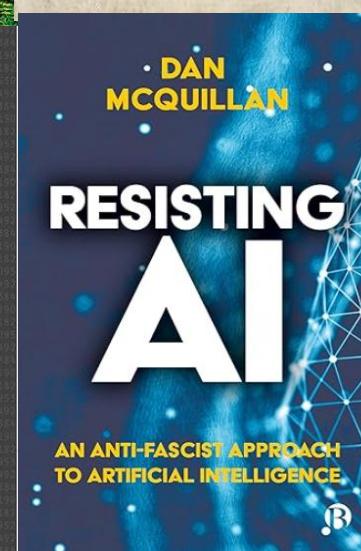
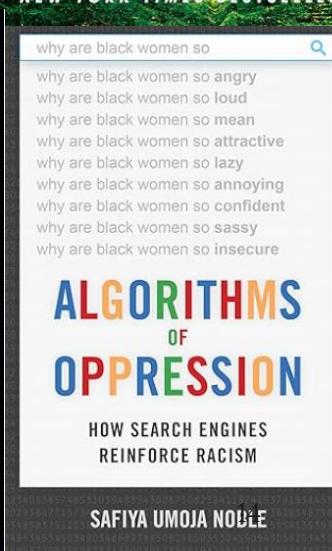
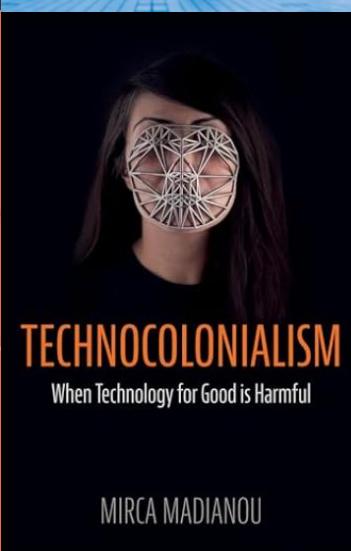
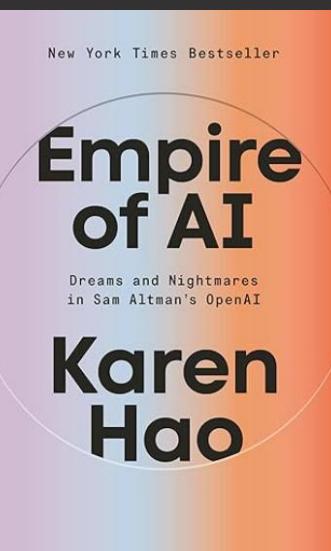
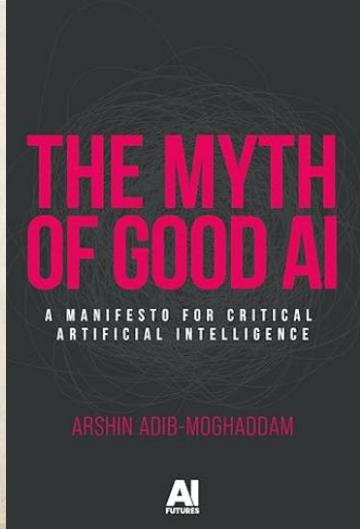
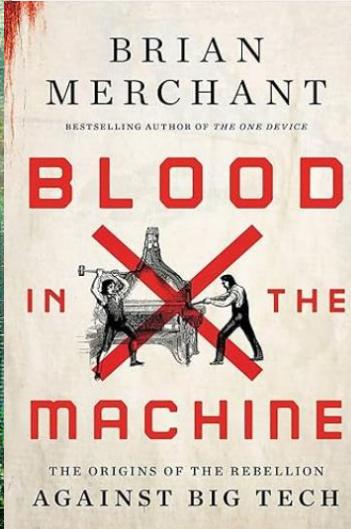
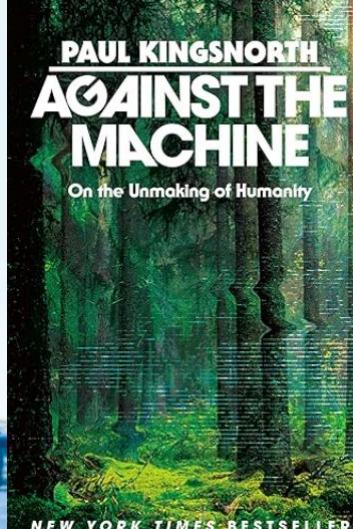
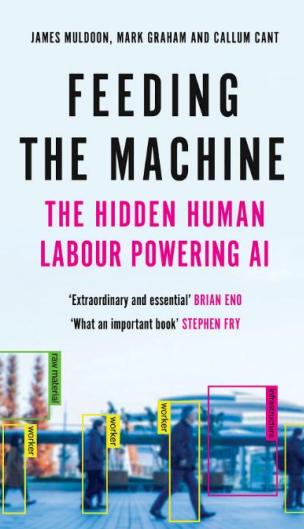
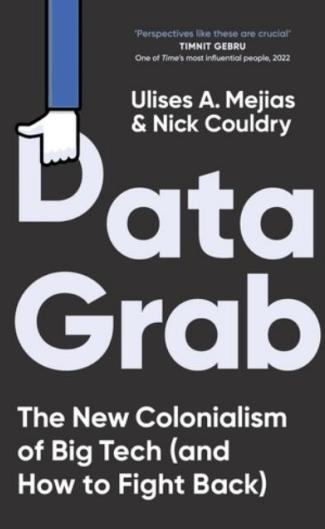
« < 2 3 4 5 ... 9 > »

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 Escallos, 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>

Four examples among many!

17

spurious scholar

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

Step 1: Gather a bunch of data. [Note](#)

Step 2: Dredge that data to find random correlations between variables. [Note](#)

Step 3: Calculate the correlation coefficient, confidence interval, and p -value to see if the connection is statistically significant. [Note](#)

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. [Note](#)

Step 6: ...publish:

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

(Messeri & Crockett, 2024)

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

(Naddaf, 2025)

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)

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 UNCRITICAL ADOPTION OF 'AI' TECHNOLOGIES IN ACADEMIA

Olivia Guest^{1,2}, Marcela Suarez¹, Barbara C. N. Müller³, Edwin van Meerkerk⁴, Arnoud Oude Groote Beverborg⁵, Ronald de Haan⁶, Andrea Reyes Elizondo⁷, Mark Blokpoel^{1,2}, Natalia Scharfenberg^{1,2}, Annelies Kleinherenbrink^{1,8}, Ileana Camerino¹, Marieke Woensdregt^{1,2}, Dagmar Monett⁹, Jed Brown¹⁰, Lucy Avraamidou¹¹, Juliette Alenda-Demoutiez¹², Feliinne Hermans¹³, and Iris van Rooij^{1,2,14}

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²Donders Institute for Brain, Cognition, and Behaviour, Radboud University, The Netherlands

³Communication & Media, Behavioural Science Institute, Radboud University, The Netherlands

⁴Radboud Institute for Culture and History, Radboud University, The Netherlands

⁵Pedagogical and Educational Sciences, Radboud University, The Netherlands

⁶Institute for Logic, Language and Computation, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands

⁷CWTS & LUCAS, Faculties of Social Sciences & Humanities, Leiden University, The Netherlands

⁸Gender and Diversity, Radboud University, The Netherlands

⁹Computer Science Dept., Berlin School of Economics and Law, Germany

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¹²Department of Economics and Business Economics, Radboud University, The Netherlands

¹³Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, The Netherlands

¹⁴Department 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 noisy, 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 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?



— 30th 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

SESSION 1

11:00-12:00

The Metascience of Peer Review

Guest speaker: Tom Stafford

SESSION 2

13:00-14:30

Risks of Chatbots in Online Surveys

Guest speakers: Phoebe Wallman, Alexandra Lautarescu

SESSION 3

15:00-16:30

The Uncritical Adoption of AI Technologies in Academia

Guest speakers: Olivia Guest, Iris van Rooij

30th January 2026 10:30 – 16:30

(UK time)



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



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!)

