

ARTS ISIT WELCOME BACK CONFERENCE

System Failure

Reimagining the Future of AI



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Arts Instructional Support & Information Technology
Faculty of Arts

Presenters

Moderator: Dr. Andrew Owen, Assoc. Dean Academic;
Assoc. Professor of Teaching, Political Science

Panelist: Dr. Scott Anderson, Assoc. Professor, Philosophy

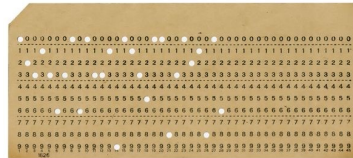
Panelist: Dr. Loch Brown, Assoc. Professor of Teaching, Geography

Panelist: Dr. Lisa Nathan, Assoc. Professor, School of Information

Panelist: Dr. Heidi Tworek, Professor, History

Scott Anderson (born 1964)

- Associate Professor of Philosophy at UBC, specializing in ethics, social and political philosophy, and issues in sex and gender. Especially interested in coercion and social power relations more generally.
- Has occasionally made my living by doing technology training and consulting (albeit at the very low end).
- Upper right is the first computer I learned on; bottom right is the first computer I owned; lower left is the first medium I stored programs on; bottom center is the first medium I wrote programs on at university.



Loch Brown

My research and teaching explore the theory and practice of political ecology, with a focus on global human-environmental systems, emerging technologies, and environmental/geographic education.

Of note to our conversation today, I am particularly interested in the role of emerging information technologies in wider socio-natural systems, and how these shape socio-natural resilience and sustainability. I approach these questions from a critical interdisciplinary perspective and at multiple temporal and spatial scales.

Dr Loch Brown
Associate Professor of Teaching
Department of Geography, UBC



big cotton | big tobacco | big oil
big tech

repeating patterns of dis-information, promising a
better future  Instead we get 

Lisa P. Nathan | Associate Professor | School of Information
Information Ethics, Information Policy, Values & Design
Decades of fighting Tech-Hype Dragons

Prof. Heidi Tworek

Canada Research Chair

Director, Centre for the

Study of Democratic

Institutions

<https://democracy.ubc.ca>

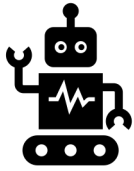


Synthetic content is pervasive,
but not necessarily persuasive.

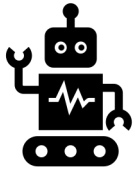
Risks

- Empowering deception
- Polluting the information environment
- Enhancing harassment

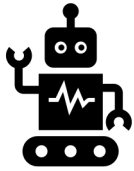
Open Panel Questions



With AI models controlled by a few powerful corporations and little formal regulation, how should universities govern their own use of these tools? How can we ensure that corporate priorities don't override the values and mission of UBC?

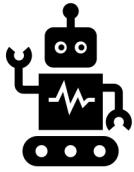


How might generative AI affect our ability to distinguish truth from falsity, and how can we preserve rigorous standards of evidence within the academy and broader information economy?



Who stands to benefit from AI adoption in the academy and who might be marginalized? What concrete steps can we take now to ensure AI supports more just and inclusive academic futures?

Audience Questions



As we open the floor to questions, picture the university in 2035 as an ethical, equitable, and sustainable academy. What role, if any, do you see AI playing in that vision? What questions do you have for our panelists about how we might get there?



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