



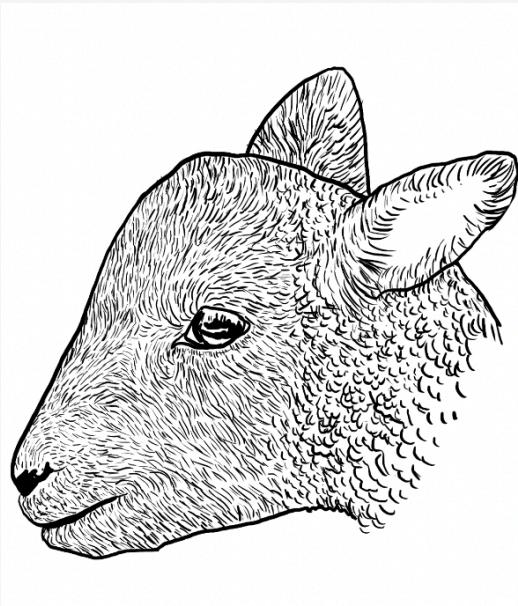
SEPTEMBER 2024

The Livescu Initiative on Neuro, Narrative and AI (NNAI)

Thinking at the intersection of the humanities, neuroscience and engineering.



Welcome to the Livescu Neuro, Narrative and AI Newsletter



The [UCLA Livescu Initiative on Neuro, Narrative, and AI \(NNAI\)](#) aims to bring a philosophically-driven lens to fundamental questions involving AI, Humanities, Engineering and NeuroScience with the objective to stimulate conversations and to think about thinking.

It's been two years since the prominent wake of AI and it is already shaping our society, bringing fears, uncertainties and big hopes, all inaugurated by the appearance of ChatGPT in 2022.

So we might want to ask: how's it going?

Opinions on that questioning are hardening: many are still pushing the idea that AI will change everything, while others are convinced that it is nothing more than a huge boondoggle. In between there are a wide range of concerns and issues being raised [a great collection called "An AI Society" has appeared recently](#). Environmental concerns are high on many people's list: [it is energy and water intensive to run the large data centers needed to train and use AI models](#). Legal concerns are proliferating. Lack of accountability and secrecy are also a concern: OpenAI is anything but open these days, [moving from a non-profit corporation to for-profit](#) --- we don't know the details of what their models are trained on, how they are constructed or tuned, or who exactly is using these models for what.

The Livescu NNAI Initiative is tracking all of these issues and more. It will report on the activities of the Neuro, Narrative and AI program funded by the Livescu Initiative, and direct readers to UCLA events, as well as projects, talks, art exhibits, events or other happenings related to our work. It will also contain occasional reflections on current issues at the intersection of AI, Neuroscience, and the humanities and social sciences, issues at the intellectual core of the Initiative's mission.

One in particular has been obsessing us here is the "***model autophagy disorder***".

Model Autophagy Disorder



Model Autophagy Disorder!

A philosophically interesting concern has also emerged in around AI in the last year or so. "Model Autophagy Disorder" (MAD) also called "model collapse" is a phenomenon that several different research groups have now experimentally demonstrated (see the papers by [Alemohammad et. al.](#), [Shumailov et. al.](#), and a recent [NYtimes article](#)). The basic insight is that when AI models generate things—text, images, sound—and then those generated products are used to train a subsequent model, the new model actually gets worse at generating images and texts. Over a few generations it can fail completely, producing only a string of gibberish or a single same image over and over again.

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Microsoft's Hypocrisy on AI

Can artificial intelligence really enrich fossil-fuel companies and fight climate change at the same time?

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Google's new tool lets large language models fact-check their responses

It could assist the company in its efforts to embed AI in more and more of its products.

[Read More](#)

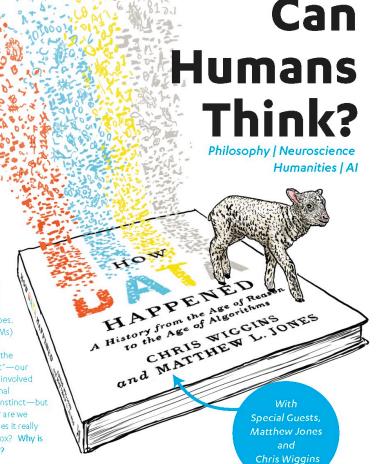


Durably reducing conspiracy beliefs through dialogues with AI

Amid growing threats to democracy, Costello *et al.* investigated whether dialogs with a generative artificial intelligence (AI) interface could convince people to abandon their conspiratorial beliefs.

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Past NN4I Livescu Events



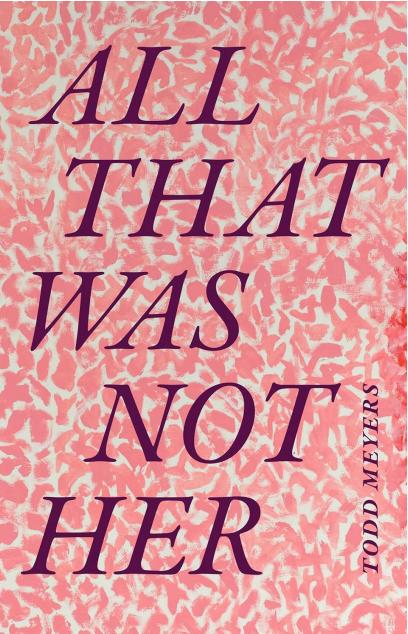
Can Humans Think?
Philosophy / Neuroscience
Humanities / AI

Thinking is no longer confined to humans—if it ever was. More and more, thinking is done with machines: review of data and sensing, physical manipulations of brains and nervous systems and microbes. Large Language Models (LLMs) might not think, but they will certainly do more than in the future. The “brain in our gut”—our microbiome—is apparently involved in cognition, but how? Animal cognition is more than just instinct—but is it less than human? Or is it just a feeling of knowing? What does it really mean to think outside the box? Why is there a lamb on this poster?

The inaugural meeting of the UCLA-wide Livescu initiative on Neuro, Narrative, and AI. Open to all researchers (faculty, postdocs, graduate students) curious about artificial intelligence, neuroscience, new and old approaches to thought in the humanities and arts—or all the intriguing intersections between them.

With Special Guests, Matthew Jones and Chris Wiggins

UCLA INSTITUTE FOR SOCIETY & GENETICS UCLA LIVESCU



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Can Humans Think?

Our inaugural event was held in November 2023, with special guests Chris Wiggins and Matthew Jones, authors of *How Data Happened*.

[Read More](#)

Writing, Automated Writing and Writing as Analysis

Last January 26th Todd Meyers joined our NNAI Faculty Seminar to talk about the craft of writing in anthropology and fiction in the age of ChatGPT.

[Read More](#)

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Upcoming Events Recommended by NNAI



"All Watched Over by Machines of Loving Grace"

RedCat AI series that addresses the impact of artificial intelligence by proposing alternative directions for its future and how it changes the relationship between the human and non-human.

[Button](#)

Keith Holyoak Lecture

"Intelligence, Creativity, and Consciousness in Humans and (Perhaps) Machines"

Friday, October 11,
2:00 to 4:30 p.m. PT
Schoenberg Hall

[Button](#)

UCLA Science Fiction Against the Margins

Science Fiction Against the Margins showcases filmmakers who occupy the "margins" of mainstream cinema in order to challenge and subvert the science fiction genre.

[Button](#)



More in our Website and Social Media

Follow us on [YouTube](#) and [Instagram](#) for updates, more articles, and exclusive sneak peeks. As our program grows, we will provide ways to get involved with our programs, and learn from the scholars and researchers that NNAI is supporting.

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