





Housekeeping

- **Recording** – This event is being recorded. Session recording and Powerpoint slides will be shared with registrants.
- **Audio** – Please mute your microphones during the presentation. Individuals can enable closed captioning in the bottom toolbar.
- **Agenda** – The length of today’s session will be one hour followed by information on an “AI for Action” challenge.
- **Q&A** – Please use the Q&A section for any questions. Chat will not be monitored for questions. Any questions collected here but not answered during the event will be reviewed and answered afterwards.



**SUNY Civic Learning and Civic Engagement
Fall 2024 Online Series**



SUNY Civic Learning and Civic Engagement Fall 2024 Online Series

Artificial Intelligence and Technology Effects on Politics and Civic Engagement

Civic Fellow Coordinator:

Angie Y. Chung

Professor of Sociology

University at Albany



Civic Education and Engagement and Civil Discourse Fellows

- Gather and amplify civic engagement resources
- Provide learning opportunities for faculty and staff
- Participate in a General Education working group
- Coordinate with student government
- Develop a community of practice
- Contribute to a SUNY civic education convening
- Inform a civic engagement strategic plan



No matter what kind of fancy gadget that AI might enable, it is so personally important to me that this technology benefits human lives — not just for convenience, but for well-being, for dignity, for community, for society.”

— Fei-Fei Li, co-founder of AI4ALL



Panelists

1. **Alexis Crews**, Founder, E-NOUGH Consulting and Senior Fellow, All Tech is Human
2. **Mila Gasco-Hernandez**, Associate Professor & Research Director for the Center for Technology in Government, Department of Public Administration & Policy, Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy, University at Albany
3. **Tom Mackey**, Professor of Arts & Media, Program Coordinator for Digital Media Arts, and Metaliteracy Researcher in the School of Arts & Humanities, Empire State University

Moderator: **Eric Stern**, Professor of Emergency Management and Homeland Security Department, Interim Director of the AI+ Institute



Agenda

- ❖ **Panel Presentation**
- ❖ **Q&A session**
- ❖ **AI workshop demonstration**
- ❖ **“AI for Action” Challenge**



AI and Global Elections

Alexis Crews



Observations from the Field

- **Türkiye**
- **Pakistan**
- **South Africa**



Indonesia: Presidential and Legislative election, February 14th, 2024

Several campaigns in Indonesia's elections used AI-generated content. Presidential candidate Prabowo Subianto's campaign used AI to [create cartoon likenesses of the candidate](#).

A former special forces commander who has long faced allegations of abducting and killing pro-democracy activists, Prabowo was rendered as a "cuddly grandpa" in cartoon images that were broadcast across social media and large billboards.

While [the campaign acknowledged](#) this was part of a strategy to appeal to young voters, experts warned that [this was a tactic to soften his longtime image as a strongman](#) and detract from his alleged human rights abuses.



Pakistan: Parliamentary election, February 8th, 2024

Although he has been imprisoned since August, former Prime Minister Imran Khan was still able to campaign for his party, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf (PTI), thanks to AI.

In the months leading up to the election, [PTI held "virtual rallies" on YouTube](#) featuring what appeared to be speeches by Khan that were created with an AI-generated clone of his voice, laid over video containing AI-generated and real images.

The video included a caption indicating this was the "[AI voice of Imran Khan based on his notes](#)." PTI also released an [AI-generated video of Khan giving a victory speech](#) that was shared widely on Twitter and other social media.

Though Khan's party was banned from running for the National Assembly, [members ran as independents and pulled off a surprise win](#).



**South Africa:
Presidential and
Parliamentary election,
May 29th, 2024**

[A video spread across](#) on Instagram, YouTube, Tiktok, and X showing the rapper Eminem blaming the ruling African National Congress for a number of social and economic problems that are hot button issues in the South African election, and implicitly endorsing the opposition party Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF).

This was [debunked by Africa Check](#) as a deepfake made out of a real interview with Eminem from 2009 on completely unrelated topics, but with the audio and mouth movements altered.



***How can previous elections forecast how
AI will be used in the US election.***



Political

- Current events
 - Political Rallies & Conventions
 - News stories
 - Global events that impact the US
- Policy conversations
 - Legislation
 - Policy recommendations
- Politicians
 - Personal Information
 - Political and Legislative History

Procedural

- How to vote
 - Voter Registration
 - Voter ID laws
 - Early voting information
 - Absentee ballot information
 - In-person voting information



Example 1



NC Propagandist Contrarian Documentarian
@ETEGriftless

...

#ncpol BRING ON THE DEBATE!!!

If @JoshStein_ can sling mud on TV/online ads, he can debate. What are you afraid of Josh? What if we have BBQ? Would you come then? Even if PORK is NOT Kosher for Jews like you? I'm a Christian like 75% of NC.



NC Propagandist Contrarian Documentarian
@ETEGriftless

...

The Torah forbids eating pork because pigs are not considered kosher, or fit for consumption, under Jewish dietary law, or kashrut. The Torah states that animals must have split hooves and chew their cud to be kosher, and pigs do not chew their cud. Other animals that are not kosher include camels, badgers, and hares.

@redneckbbqlab isn't KOSHER.
@skylightinnbbq isn't KOSHER.
@bensbackdraftbbq isn't KOSHER.

@JoshStein_ doesn't take his own religion seriously, how is he going to run a state that is over 75% CHRISTIAN?



4:26 PM · Jun 18, 2024 · 30 Views



Example 2

docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/.../edit?gid=...

What can you tell me about Anthony D'Esposito?



I couldn't find any information on a person named Anthony D'Esposito. It's possible that the name is misspelled, or Anthony D'Esposito may not be a public figure or celebrity. Can you provide more context or details about who Anthony D'Esposito is or what they are known for? I'll do my best to help.

He's current serving New York Congress for District 4

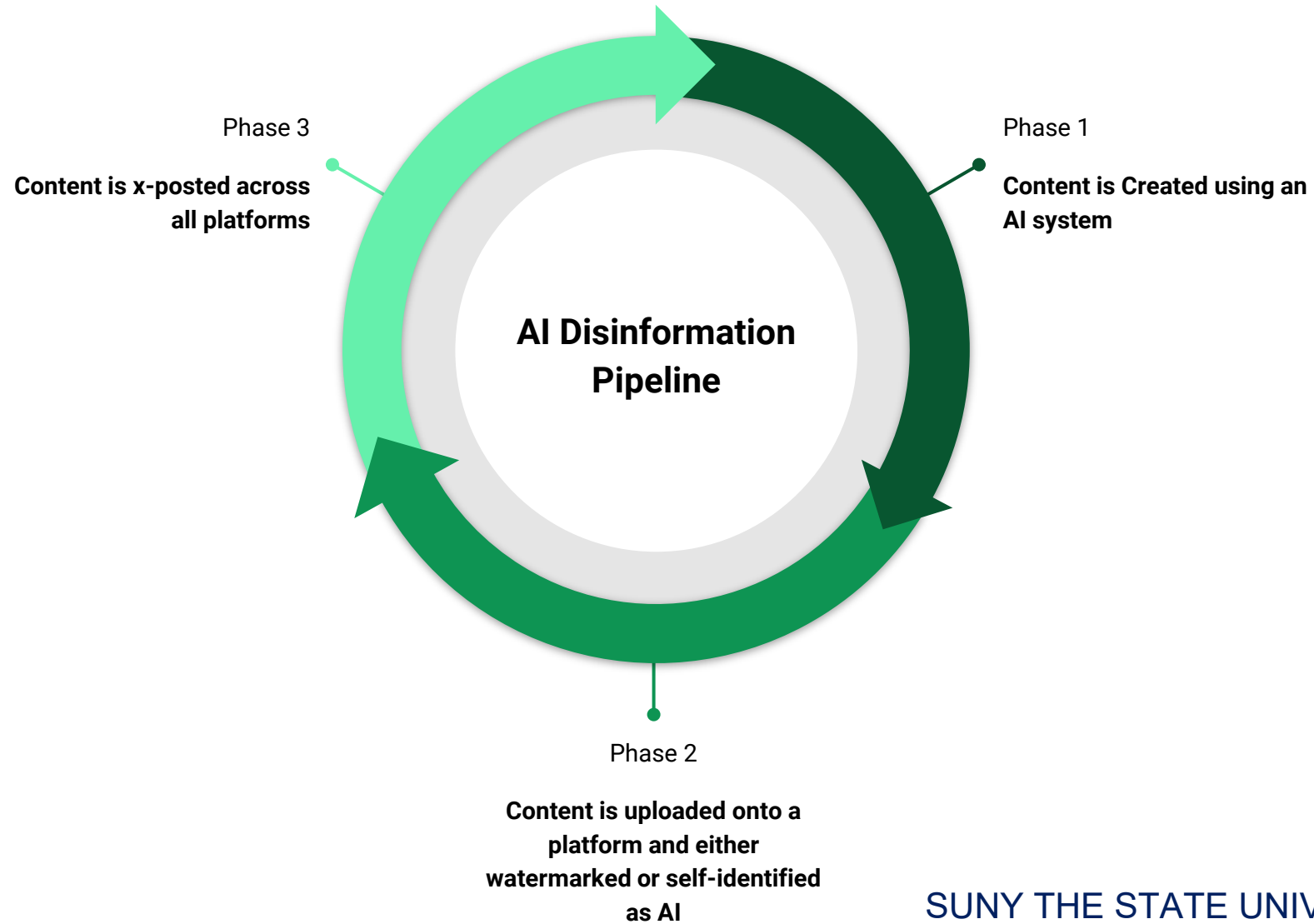


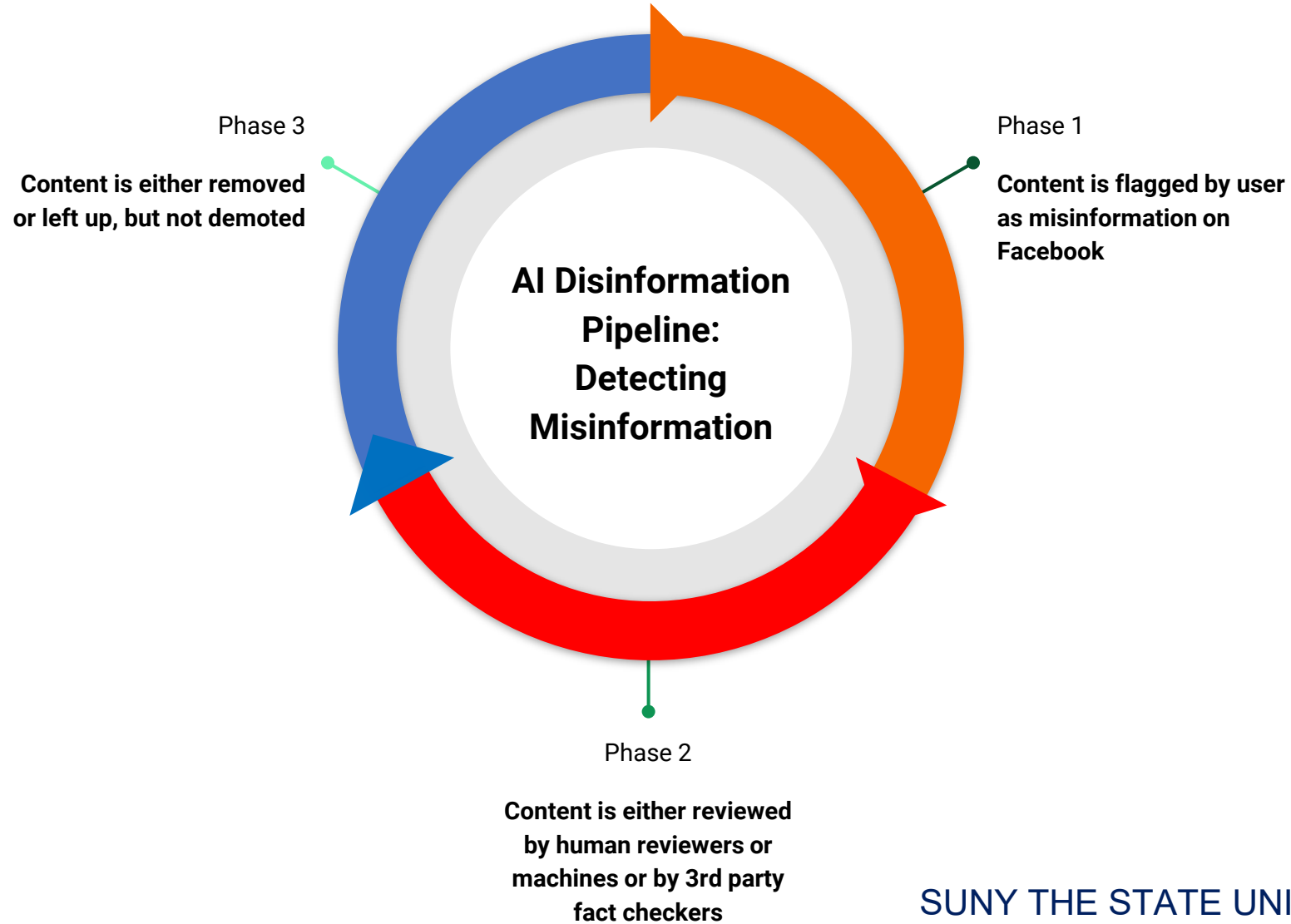
Anthony D'Esposito is the current representative for New York's 4th Congressional District, which covers a significant portion of the Town of Hempstead and the City of Long Beach on Long Island¹². As a freshman congressman, he brings a unique blend of experience in local government and law enforcement to the table.

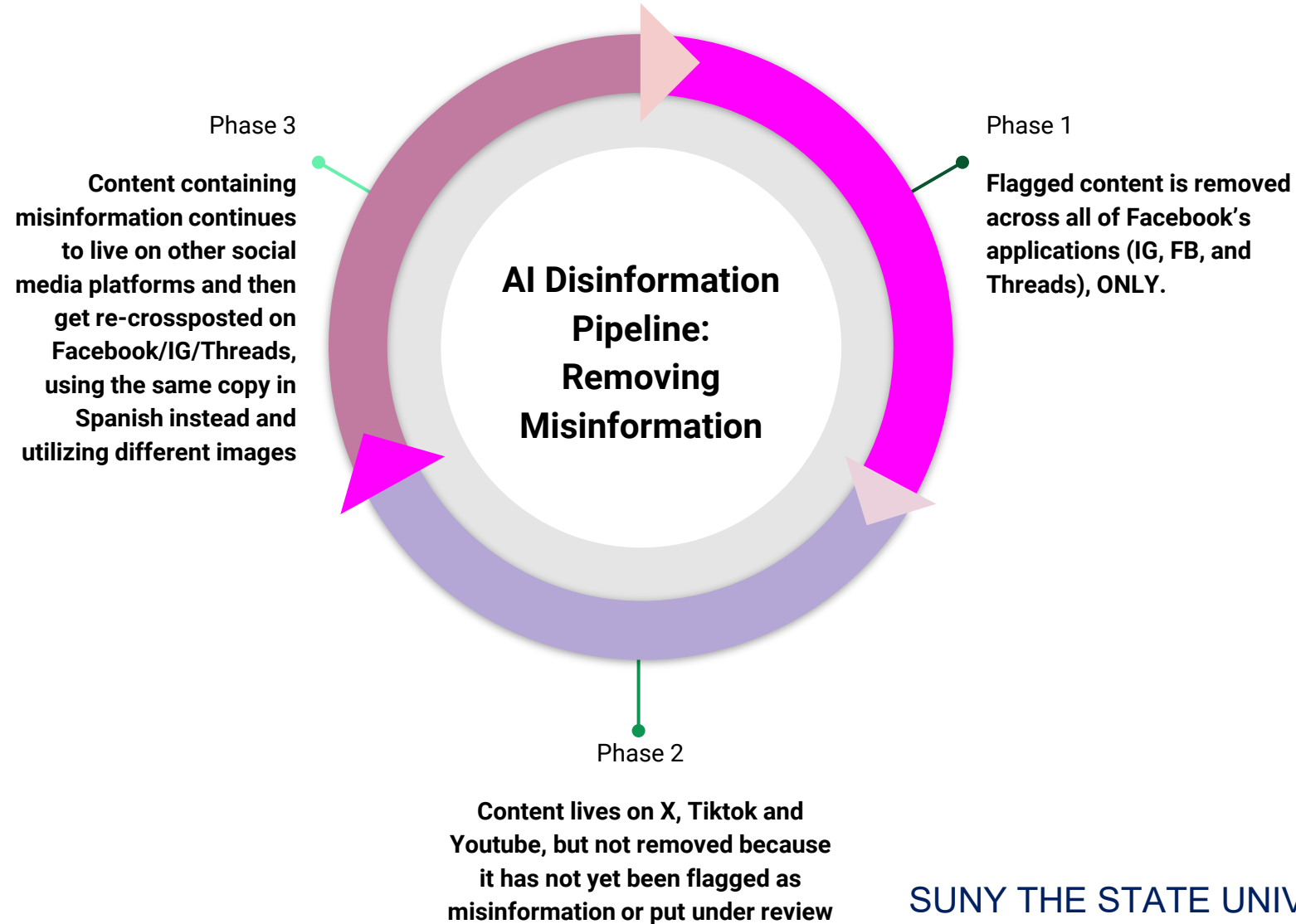
Before taking office, D'Esposito served as a Councilman in the Town of Hempstead from 2016 to 2023, where he worked across party lines to deliver essential municipal services to nearly 800,000 residents¹. During his time on the Town Council, he successfully passed several consecutive annual budgets that froze or cut residents' town taxes, earning him recognition for his fiscally conservative budgeting practices¹.

D'Esposito's law enforcement background is also impressive, having spent over a decade as an NYPD Detective, making over 600 arrests in connection with murders, shootings, assaults, and illegal firearms². He also served as Chief of the Island Park Fire Department, leading the volunteer organization through the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy².

In Congress, D'Esposito serves on the House Committee on Homeland Security, Transportation and Infrastructure, and House Administration¹. He's also Chairman of the Subcommittee on Emergency Management and Technology and a member of the Problem Solvers Caucus, a bipartisan group focused on finding common ground and passing bipartisan legislation¹. Would you like to know more about his stance on specific issues or accomplishments during his tenure?









Public libraries and their role in raising awareness about AI and fostering inclusive civic engagement: Current practices and future development

Dr. Mila Gasco Hernandez



Introduction

Efforts to strengthen regulations and governance for AI that address its harms have focused on engaging citizens

However, participation from marginalized communities, requires intentional and inclusive design, alongside capacity-building tools and specific resources for engagement

Public libraries may facilitate public participation in AI by:

- Providing digital literacy, ensuring digital inclusion and equity
- Offering collaborative spaces to discuss local issues
- Ensuring a safe environment for marginalized communities

Institute of Museum and Library Services. We are partnering with the Urban Libraries Council to better understand the role of public libraries in fostering critical and inclusive civic engagement in AI initiatives



A mapping exercise

This presentation is limited to our findings from the first activity of our research, a mapping exercise whose purpose was to identify the AI-related programs and services public libraries are currently offering

Guiding questions:

- What are the main types of AI programs/services offered in public libraries?
- What is the purpose of the AI programs/services and who are the intended users?
- What are the main components of the AI programs/services?
- Do the AI programs/services include individuals from marginalized communities and address the potential negative effects of AI systems?



Data collection

Data collection approach:

- Search ALA, ULC, IFLA publications to identify popular library programs
- Review websites of the Urban Library Council (ULC) 173-member list
- Broader Internet search with keywords to identify additional cases

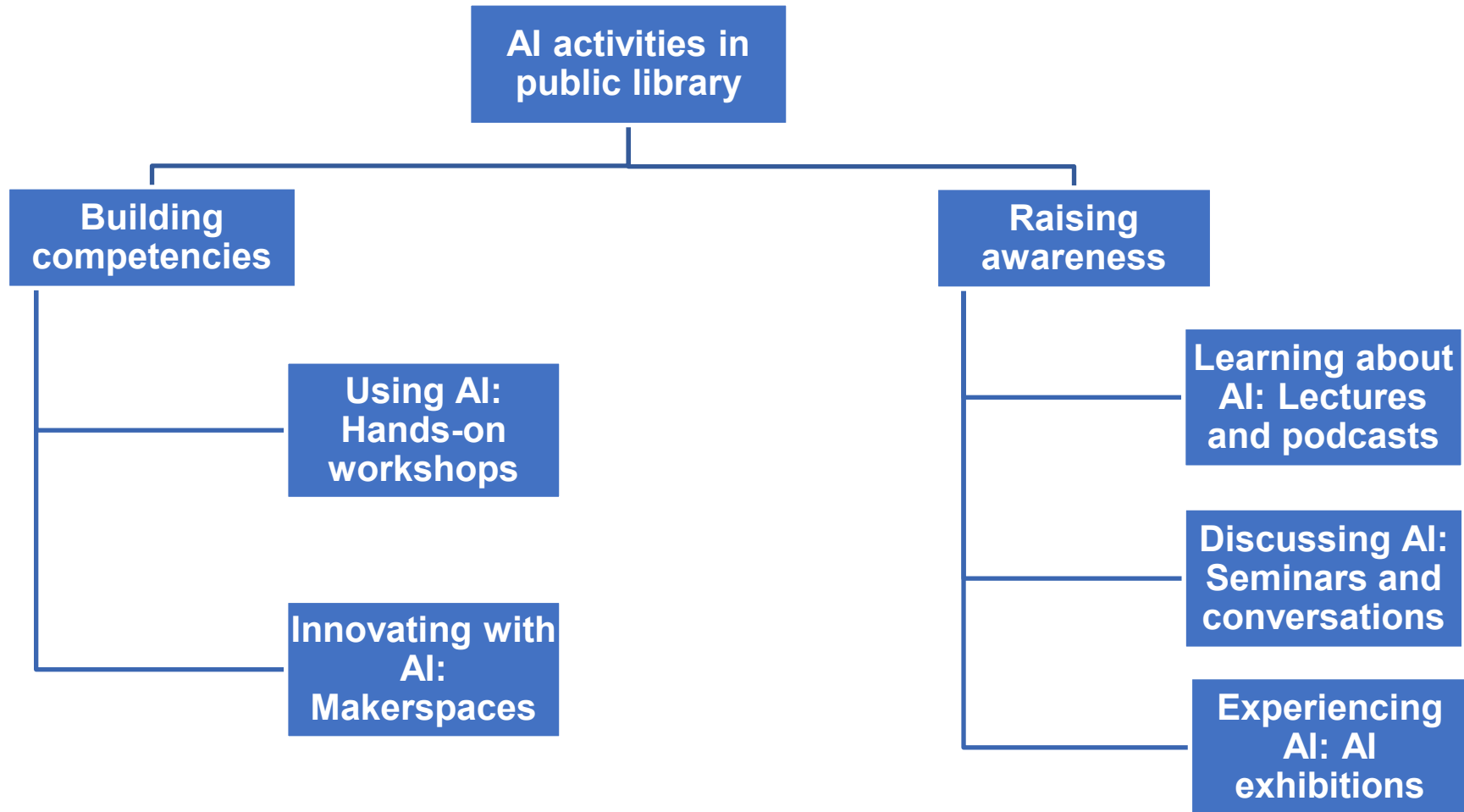
Data collection between November 2023 and February 2024

91 cases in total (80 from the US, 11 from Canada)

Inductive approach to classify the cases: 1) purpose of AI programs, 2) targeted participants, 3) partnerships, and 4) content of the program



Results: Purpose of AI programs





Results: Categories of AI activities

Activity Type	Main Components	Key Characteristics	Notable Example
Lectures and podcasts	Introducing the basic information, applications, impacts, and risks of AI	Intro to basic information of AI, especially generative AI (e.g., chatGPT)	Queen Public Library's "We Are AI" program
Hands-on workshops	Focusing on practices, real demos, programming, and coding skills development of AI	Many sessions designed to teens and children; programming skills	St. Joseph County Public Library's "After School AI program"
Seminars and conversations	Providing opportunities for their patrons to discuss the visions, opportunities, and challenges of emerging AI	Round table panel; deep discussions about the ethical, societal, and technological challenges associated with AI	New York Public Library's "Building the World We Want: Artificial Intelligence and Global Governance"
AI exhibitions	Sparking people's interests in AI with interactive activities powered by AI	Art festivals and interactive activities with AI	Cambridge Public Library's "Laughing Room"
Maker activities	Providing specific spaces for different types of makers; focusing on interaction of different technologies related to AI	Collaborative workspaces for people; advanced technological infrastructures, such as 3D printers and robots	Boston Public Library's Kirstein Business Library & Innovation Center (KBLIC)



Results: Partnerships

Universities



- Inviting experts for talks and workshops
- Collaborating with research centers for courses and exhibitions

Nonprofits



- Partnering for one-off events on AI
- Leveraging resources designed by nonprofits

Businesses



- Inviting industry experts for lectures and workshops

Government



- Offering courses jointly with public libraries
- Sponsoring AI events



Conclusions

Public libraries have started to offer AI programs with the purpose of raising awareness and capacity building

Current programs and services by public libraries can be leveraged by government agencies (and other stakeholders) to design participatory mechanisms in AI initiatives to receive feedback

However, public libraries must expand AI programs:

- Tailor programs for marginalized communities
- Collaborate with local government
- Design public participation opportunities



Literacy Models: From AI Literacy to Metaliteracy

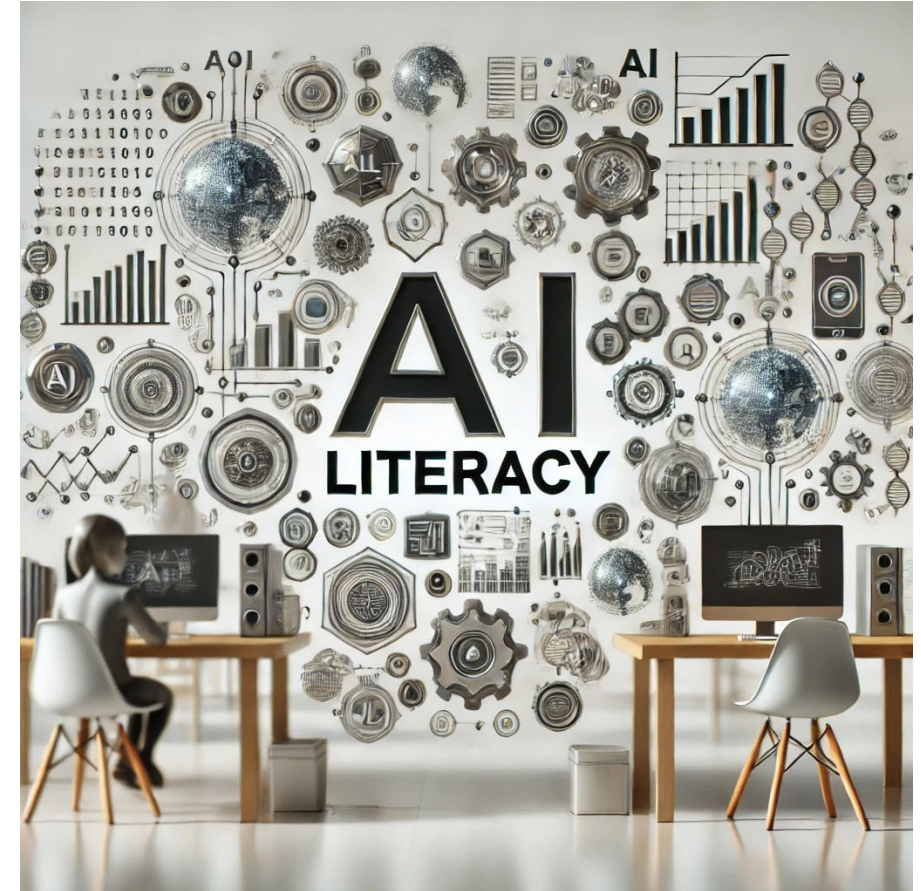
Tom Mackey



What is AI Literacy?

“We define AI literacy as a set of competencies that enables individuals to critically evaluate AI technologies; communicate and collaborate effectively with AI; and use AI as a tool online, at home, and in the workplace” (Long and Magerko. 2020, p. 2).

Duri Long and Brian Magerko. 2020. What is AI Literacy? Competencies and Design Considerations. In Proceedings of the 2020 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '20). Association for Computing Machinery, New York, NY, USA, 1–16. <https://doi-org.sunyempire.idm.oclc.org/10.1145/3313831.3376727>



DALL-E prompt: Create a realistic image that illustrates this definition of AI literacy (5 revisions)



Information Literacy

- Locate information effectively using tools appropriate to their need and discipline;
- Evaluate information with an awareness of authority, validity, and bias; and
- Demonstrate an understanding of the ethical dimensions of information use, creation, and dissemination.



DALL-E prompt: visualize people effectively engaging with information in a connected world (3 revisions)

SUNY General Education Framework (SUNY GE):

<https://system.suny.edu/academic-affairs/acaproplan/general-education/suny-ge/>

SUNY THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK



What is Metaliteracy?

- Holistic framework that prepares learners as knowledge producers
- Encourages reflective learning through metacognition
- Supports collaboration in dynamic social spaces
- Reinforces the ethical production of information in multiple modes

Mackey & Jacobson. 2022. Metaliteracy in a Connected World: Developing Learners as Producers, ALA/Neal-Schuman Publishers.



DALL-E prompt: Generate an image about teaching and learning with AI (four revisions and Metaliteracy added).



Metaliteracy Mindset

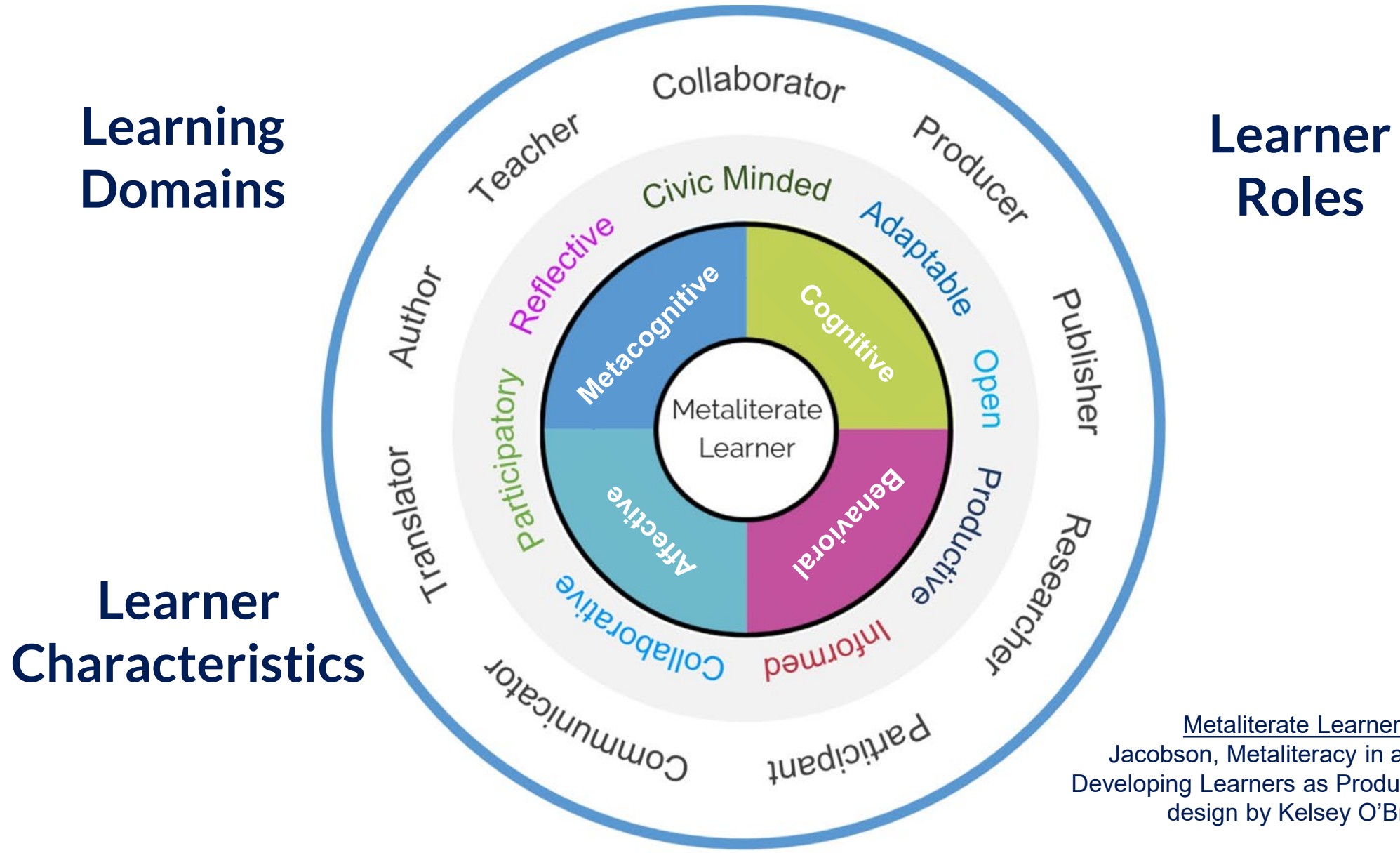
“A metaliteracy mindset is realized through metacognition and the self-awareness of being an active learner who plays multiple roles to effectively participate in shared communities” (p. 20).

Mackey & Jacobson. 2022. Metaliteracy in a Connected World: Developing Learners as Producers, ALA/Neal-Schuman Publishers.



DALL-E prompt: Visualize the "metaliteracy mindset" (11 revisions)

Metaliteracy Model

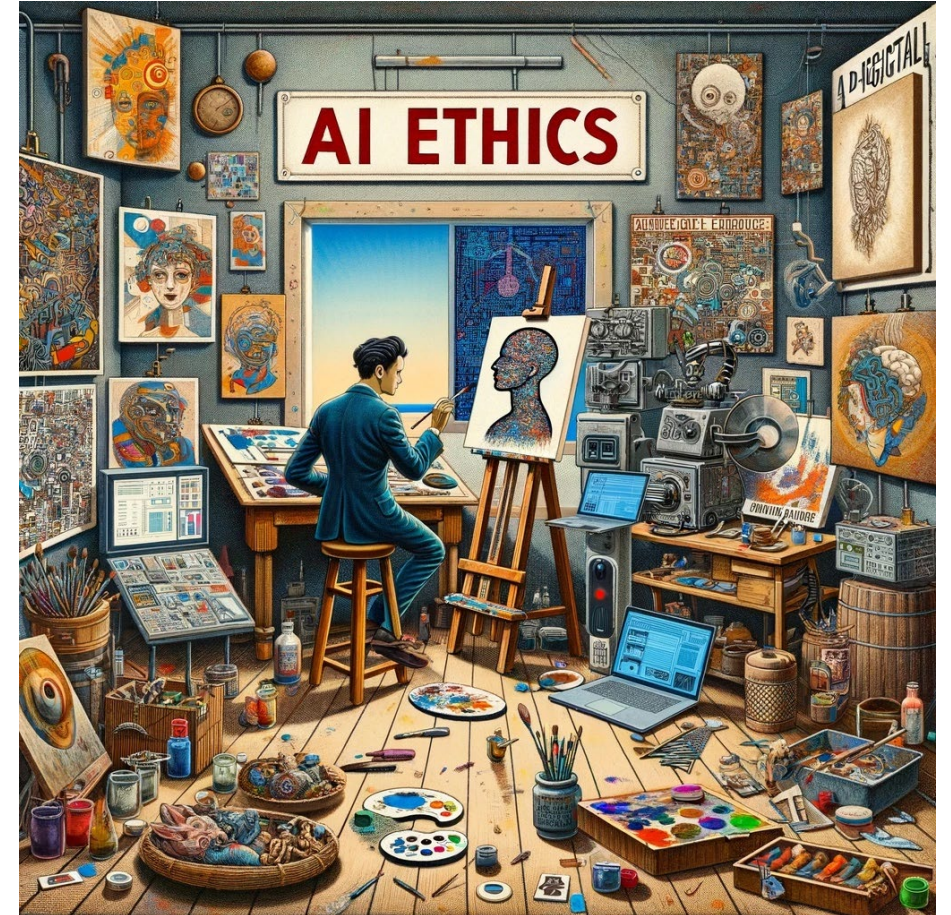


Metaliterate Learner Figure (Mackey & Jacobson, Metaliteracy in a Connected World: Developing Learners as Producers, 2021) (Figure design by Kelsey O'Brien using Genially)



Metaliteracy and AI

- **Evaluate AI-Generated Content:** Assess the reliability and biases in AI political information
- **Analyze AI content and Your Personal Bias:** Reflect on how your biases impact interpretation and political engagement.
- **Assess Knowledge Gaps:** Evaluate your understanding of AI and identify areas for new learning.



DALL-E prompt: AI Ethics (12 revisions)

Jacobson, T., Mackey, T., O'Brien, K., Forte, M., & O'Keeffe, E. (2018). 2018 metaliteracy goals and learning objectives. Metaliteracy <https://metaliteracy.org/learning-objectives/2018-metaliteracy-goals-and-learning-objectives/>



Metaliteracy and AI

- **Adapt to New Technologies:** Engage in AI as an evolving technology for creating, communicating, and contributing.
- **Produce and Share AI Content Ethically:** Produce and share content that is accurate, responsible, and properly attributed
- **Reflect on Mistakes:** Identify errors in AI engagement to correct and improve future interactions.

Jacobson, T., Mackey, T., O'Brien, K., Forte, M., & O'Keeffe, E. (2018). 2018 metaliteracy goals and learning objectives. Metaliteracy <https://metaliteracy.org/learning-objectives/2018-metaliteracy-goals-and-learning-objectives/>



DALL-E prompt: photographic realistic image of digital storytelling (one revision)



Questions?



The Fall 2024 Online Series

September 17 “Hot Moments in the Classroom: Keeping the Temperature Comfortable ”

September 17 “Virtual Dialogue: Our Freedom of Speech + the Perils of Misinformation”

September 24 “Case Study: Course Development Using AI and Civic Discourse”

October 1 “STEM Education IS Civic Education”

October 15 “Artificial Intelligence and Technology Effects on Politics and Civic Engagement”

October 29 “The I-81. A new standard for addressing injustice”

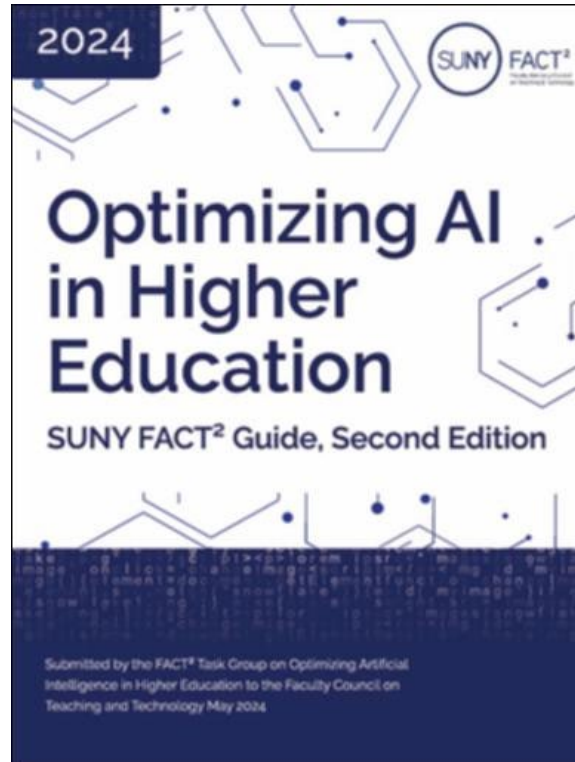
For more information, including recordings and materials, visit the Civic Fellows Toolbox, at www.suny.edu/CivicFellows



Workshop on Using AI: Create, Engage, Inspire



AI Resource



SUNY FACT 2 Guide to Optimizing AI in Higher Education (2nd Edition)

SUNY Pressbook Edition:

<https://fact2aiv2.pressbooks.sunycreate.cloud/>

SUNY Open Access Repository Edition:

<https://soar.suny.edu/handle/20.500.12648/14886>



“AI for Action” Challenge: Campus Solutions for Civic Change

Using the skills and knowledge from this workshop and previous webinars, consider the following questions and use any Generative AI program to design a civic campus project of your choice. Submit your work at <https://bit.ly/SUNY-AIforAction> or the QR code by **Friday, November 8th @5PM EST**. Please feel free to use this assignment as a class project and share with interested colleagues. Individual or team submissions are welcome!





Prompt

What does civic work mean to you? This could be within the context of your specific work or discipline, the activities you pursue closer to home, or your personal passion project.

How can you inspire others to become more civically engaged using sound bites, images, campaigns, collaborations, research reports, narratives, and tools?

All submissions should include your contact info, images and/ or report on your proposed campus project, a copy of your Gen AI transcript, and a paragraph briefly explaining your campus civic project.



Evaluation Criteria

1. Ethical use of AI
2. Accuracy of content and data integrity
3. User creativity and innovation
4. Actionable potential to advance civic awareness, discourse, knowledge, and engagement

We will give feedback to selected submissions and exhibit them with credit on the Civic Fellows website, newsletters, and AI presentations.



Examples of Civic Projects

***Generated by ChatGPT**

- 1 Content Creation & Awareness Campaign** (e.g. blogs, SM, infographics, videos, art exhibit)
- 2 Civic Education Materials** (e.g. quizzes, guides, interactive platforms)
- 3 Virtual Campaigns & Events** (e.g. town hall meetings, issue-based discussion)
- 4 Mobilizing Support through Data-Driven Insights** (e.g. analysis of SM trends or public opinion to identify key issues and mobilize support)
- 5 AI-enhanced Advocacy Platforms & Tools** (e.g. petitions or email templates or local volunteer opportunities)



Gen AI Tools

- Open AI
- Canva (with AI plug-in)
- Ideogram.ai
- Gemini (via Google account)
- Anthropic
- Midjourney

THANK YOU!



For more information visit www.suny.edu/CivicFellows
or contact us at CivicFellows@suny.edu