The 2024 Virginia Humanities Conference

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Brightpoint COMMUNITY COLLEGE

THEME: The Impact of Artificial Intelligence in the Humanities
DATE: Thursday March 21 & Friday March 22, 2024
The conference will be held entirely online.

Technology has always been a catalyst for modes of self-expression and communication. Artificial intelligence presents a new set of challenges. Technology is no longer just a tool used to create, but it has become its own means of creation. As AI learns to generate content, humans struggle to find ways to harness it in our courses and businesses. Artificial intelligence simultaneously enhances and challenges arenas of human inspiration and creativity, such as literature, art, and music – hallmarks of the Humanities. As AI becomes more capable of generating such content, how will humans respond? Will AI improve our lives or is it a tool that must be regulated?

Artificial intelligence has had an ever-increasing impact on the Humanities. The influx of technology stimulates dynamic conversations and provokes the exploration of new practices within the unfolding possibilities of the Humanities. Those within the Humanities are faced with the reality of how, not if, we will respond to this new technology. The various fields that fall within the Humanities are related by their ability to coalesce and express the human experience. Can that expression be replicated through AI? ChatGPT and other emerging technologies have left humans struggling to differentiate between human work and that of AI. Schools and businesses, recognizing a cultural shift happening around us, must now debate new policies and procedures.

The Virginia Humanities Conference invites you to join our discussion about the role of artificial intelligence in the Humanities. Undergraduate students, graduate students, and professionals are welcome to attend and present. The conference intends to offer sessions on conceptual discussions of artificial intelligence as well as practical guides and "best practices" when engaging artificial intelligence.

Our keynote speaker is **Dr. Jennifer Rhee**. Dr. Rhee is the Lab Director of the AI Futures Lab within the Humanities Research Center at Virginia Commonwealth University where she also serves as an associate professor in the Department of English and the Media, Art, and Text Ph.D. Program. She's written about robotics and artificial intelligence in technology, visual and performance art, literature, and film in her book *The Robotic Imaginary: The Human and the Price of Dehumanized Labor* (University of Minnesota Press, 2018). She's been awarded an American Council of Learned Societies fellowship to support her book project on digital counting and big data technologies. Her scholarship and teaching are in the areas of critical AI studies, feminist science and technology studies, ecocritical media studies, literature and science, and speculative fiction studies.

The conference welcomes submissions for presentations that engage the following topics:
- How has the Humanities responded to emerging technologies involving artificial intelligence?
- How will the Humanities need to adapt to the various developments in artificial intelligence?
- Do artificial intelligence generative tools pose a threat to the Humanities? Has technology encroached too far into areas long claimed by the Humanities?
- How has artificial intelligence been utilized within the Humanities? What are strategies and ideas to accomplish are on the horizon?
- In what ways are STEM and Humanities fields each challenged by artificial intelligence?
- How has machine learning and AI tools been harnessed? What are the next steps for its application?
- How do technological tools offer new avenues and interpretations of human art and literature?
- How does technology impact the future of course development, design, and/or delivery?
- Topics for roundtable discussions of ongoing trends regarding artificial intelligence in the Humanities.
- Best practices when engaging artificial intelligence in your field. How have you successfully navigated the use of artificial intelligence?
- Other topics related to the rise and impact of artificial intelligence in Humanities-related fields.

Send your proposal to Kevin Vaccarella (kvaccarella@brightpoint.edu) by **February 1, 2024**. Awards are given for the best paper in three categories: professional, graduate student, and undergraduate student.

There is a sliding scale of registration fees. The VHC relies entirely on registrations and institutional memberships to continue, so we appreciate your support!
- Institution fee: $200 (covers the attendance of one delegate per institution)
- Faculty and Professional fee: $25
- Undergraduate student fee: $15

For more information about the Virginia Humanities Conference and registration, please go to the VHC home page at https://vahumanitiesconference.org.