

# AI LITERACY / FLUENCY AS A PEDAGOGICAL PRACTICE

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What is your biggest ethical or pedagogical question about AI in education?

Scan the QR or use  
link to join



<https://forms.office.com/r/jBvWmBzERd>

 Copy link

Ensuring academic integrity and honesty

Addressing algorithmic bias and equity

Protecting student privacy and data

Keeping up with the pace of change

Other

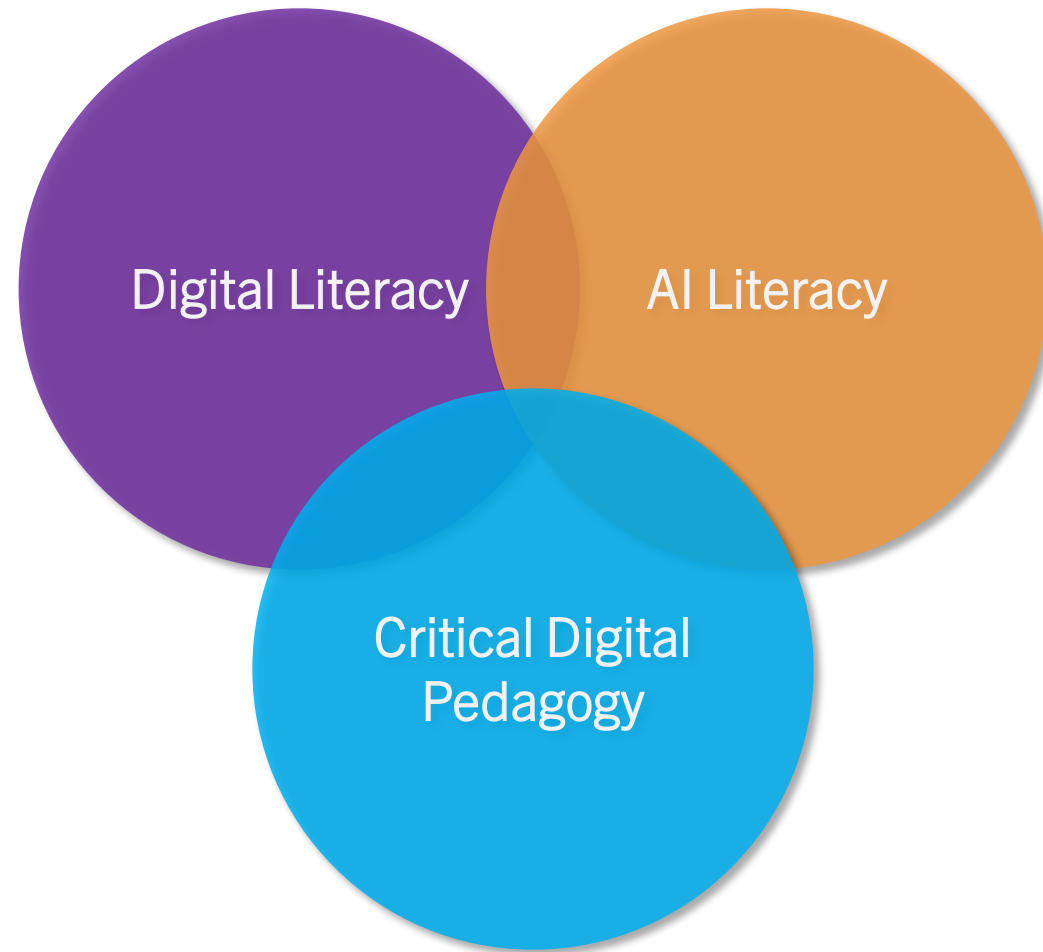


1 of 1



# GOALS & AGENDA

- Frame AI literacy within scholarly context
- Explore practical and critical strategies for the classroom
- Cultivate a mindset focused on long-term agency



# DIGITAL LITERACY



# DIGITAL LITERACY

- “Digital literacy is about mastering ideas, not mastering keystrokes” (Gilster, 1997)
- Ability to access, evaluate, and synthesize information from digital sources



# DIGITAL LITERACY AS A SOCIAL PRACTICE

- Jenkins (2009) reframes digital literacy as social competencies for a participatory culture.
- Shift to social participation & creation:
  - Judgement
  - Collective Intelligence
  - Transmedia Navigation



# THE WEB AS A CONTESTED SPACE

- boyd (2014) argues that mere exposure to technology does not equal critical skill and highlighted that social factors shape our digital experiences and skills
- Caufield (2019) develops the SIFT method to fact check information online and find out who is behind the information we are consuming
  - S = Stop
  - I = investigate the source
  - F = find better coverage
  - T = trace claims, quotes and media to the original context

# USING AI TOOLS

An iceberg floating in a deep blue ocean under a clear sky. The tip of the iceberg is above the water, while the much larger base is submerged. The submerged part contains several text labels. The water is dark blue with many small fish swimming around the iceberg.

Data

Ethics

Algorithmic Bias

Human Labour

Environmental Impact

# Competencies

An iceberg floating in a deep blue ocean under a clear sky. The tip of the iceberg, which is above the water line, is labeled 'Competencies'. The much larger part of the iceberg is submerged below the water line and contains five competency labels: 'Recognizing AI', 'Understanding Intelligence', 'Interdisciplinary', 'Representation', and 'Imagine Future AI'. The water is dark blue with some small fish visible near the submerged part of the iceberg.

Recognizing AI

Understanding Intelligence

Interdisciplinary

Representation

Imagine Future AI

# COMPETENCIES TO BIG IDEAS

- Touretzky et. al (2022) – **5 Big Ideas in AI**
  - Perception – Computers “see” and “hear” using sensors and data.
  - Representation & Reasoning – AI uses models of the world to solve problems.
  - Learning – AI models are “trained” on data.
  - Natural Interaction – AI makes it easier for to communicate with computers.
  - Societal Impact – AI affects society, culture, and ethics.

# FROM AI LITERACY → FLUENCY

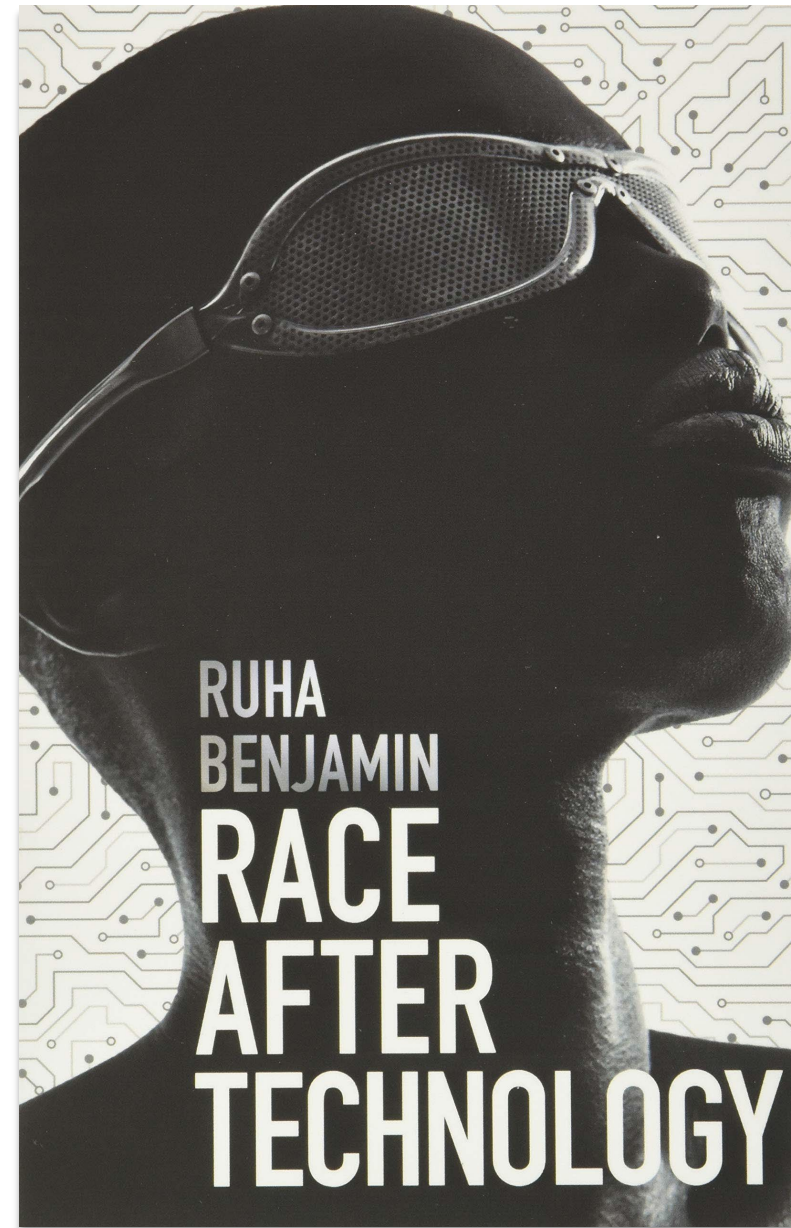
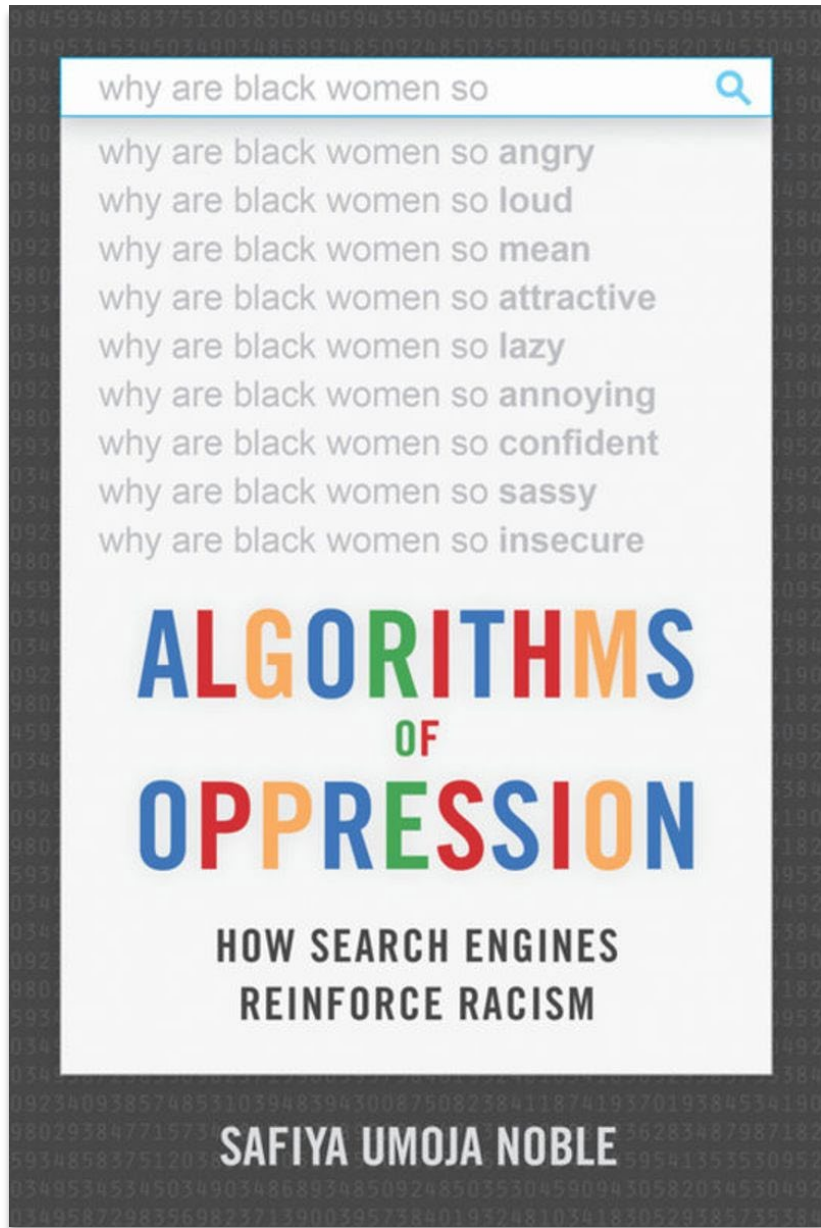
AI Literacy (The Foundation)	AI Fluency (The Adaptive Practice*)
Understanding the tool	Integrating the tool into one's workflow
Applying known rules and prompts	Navigating ambiguity and novel problems
Using AI as a substitute	Co-creating with AI as a collaborator
Static Knowledge (Knowing what it is)	Dynamic Mindset (Knowing how to learn with it)

\*Inspired by Bransford et. al, (1999) *How People Learn*

# CRITICAL DIGITAL PEDAGOGY

How does AI work?

Who does AI work FOR?



# GUIDING PRINCIPLE

Start with a problem or question, not with a tool

— Stommel (2014)

# PRACTICAL STRATEGIES

Based on Furze's Teaching AI Ethics

# FURZE'S TEACHING AI ETHICS RESOURCES

- Beginner
- Intermediate
- Advanced

# FURZE'S TEACHING AI ETHICS RESOURCES

- Beginner
  - Bias and Discrimination
  - Environment
  - Truth and Academic Integrity
- Intermediate
  - Copyright
  - Privacy
  - Datafication
- Advanced
  - Affect Recognition
  - Human Labour
  - Power

# DECONSTRUCTING BIAS (“BEGINNER”)

## Critique the machine

- Prompt 1 (image): Generate an image of a “successful professional”
- Prompt 2 (text): Write a short paragraph about the history of scientific discovery

## Questions to think about:

1. What patterns, stereotypes, or assumptions do you see?
2. Whose story is being centered? Who is being left out?



Write a short paragraph about the history of scientific discovery

The history of scientific discovery is a story of curiosity, experimentation, and the gradual unveiling of nature's laws. Early civilizations in Mesopotamia, Egypt, China, and Greece sought to explain natural phenomena through observation and philosophy, laying the foundations of astronomy, mathematics, and medicine. The Scientific Revolution of the 16th and 17th centuries—marked by figures such as Copernicus, Galileo, Newton, and Bacon—transformed inquiry through systematic experimentation and empirical reasoning. Over time, discoveries in chemistry, biology, and physics reshaped human understanding, leading to technological revolutions and the modern scientific method. Today, scientific discovery continues to evolve through global collaboration and advanced tools like artificial intelligence and quantum computing, pushing the boundaries of what humanity can know and achieve.

# DECONSTRUCTING BIAS (“BEGINNER”)

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# UNCOVERING SYSTEMS (“ADVANCED”)

## The Case of the Invisible Worker

A popular new AI app helps students practice foreign languages by having 'natural conversations'. To make the AI sound human, the company secretly pays thousands of low-wage workers in the Global South to listen to user conversations and provide real-time corrections and suggestions to the AI model. The app's privacy policy mentions data is used for 'product improvement'.

1. Who holds the power in this scenario?
2. Who benefits, and who might be exploited?
3. How does this challenge the myth of a purely "artificial" intelligence?

# FOSTERING MINDSET AND AGENCY

- Exposure to technology does not make one a critical user, or even a fluent one. (danah boyd, 2014)
- How do we shift our students from:
  - Can I use AI? Or How do I use AI?
- To:
  - When, Why, and How should I partner with AI to achieve my goals?

# ONE INTENTION

What is **one small, concrete change** you will make in your teaching to foster more critical AI fluency?

Q & A

## Workshop Feedback for "AI Teaching and Learning Series 2"



**THANK YOU!**

Please reach out to us at  
[eddev.utm@utoronto.ca](mailto:eddev.utm@utoronto.ca)

Workshop Feedback for "AI  
Teaching and Learning Series 2"



# RESOURCES

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