



Society of Fellows logo created by ChatGPT for the 2026 seminar on AI

# **Human Authorship in the Age of AI**

## **2026 Weekend Seminar • Society of Fellows**

Co-led by Veronika Dolar (ECO), Matthew Kapell (ENG), and Jillian McDonald (ART)

This seminar encourages reflection on the evolving nature of authorship in research and creative work while reimagining its future. AI is already reshaping how and what we communicate, raising important questions about authorship, originality, authenticity, and the future of scholarly and creative work. We will reflect on the role of AI in writing, coding, and art; whether our communication will converge toward AI-generated styles; how we validate what is true or authentic in research and creative practice; and which skills will become more valuable in an AI-saturated world. Are novel ideas more important than ever?

# Itinerary

## Friday, October 9, 2026

- 5:00 p.m. Faculty Check-In
- 6:00 p.m. Dinner and Discussion

## Saturday, October 10, 2026

- 10:00 a.m. Bus arrives and Student Check-in

### Morning Session:

Introduction and Icebreaker

- **10:15 a.m.–11:10 a.m. Opening the Conversation: AI, Authorship, and Us**  
Meet the seminar co-leaders and fellow participants as we set the stage for the weekend. Through brief introductions, personal reflections, and interactive conversation, we will explore what brings us to the question of human authorship in the age of AI, establish expectations for the weekend, and begin building the collaborative community that will shape our discussions.
- **11:15 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Presentation: (Human) Writing is (Human) Thinking by Matt Aiello-Lammens (ENV)**  
Exploring ideas around how writing is a tool for clarifying your thinking. If we allow for AI to help us write, what does this mean for our thinking?
- **12:00 p.m.–1:00 p.m. Lunch + Rest**

### Afternoon Session:

- **1:05 p.m.–1:50 p.m. Presentation: Authors and Authority in Indian Philosophy by James Reich (PHI)**  
This talk will explore debates from ancient India about what authority is and what makes an author authoritative

- **1:55 p.m.–2:35 p.m. Presentation: Mathematical Thought in the Age of AI by Ross Christofferson (MAT)**  
We will discovery a mathematical proof and then discuss the purposes of mathematics in a world where mathematical knowledge will be discovered by AI.
- **2:40 p.m.–3:00 p.m. Break Outdoor walk or doodling**
- **3:05 p.m.–3:50 p.m. Workshop: Critical analysis of Media discourse? by Marcella Szablewicz (Communications / Media Studies)**  
How do news and popular media shape what we believe AI is and should be? How can we rewrite the script to imagine alternatives to these existing narratives?
- **3:55 p.m.–4:40 p.m. Movement Workshop by Jillian McDonald**  
Let's move and step outside. Movement workshop based on our discussions so far this weekend.
- **4:55 p.m.–5:40 p.m. Presentation: The AI Research Assistant: NSF Proposal Writing Evolved by Shamita Dutta Gupta (MAT) and Analee Miranda (MAT)**  
Using Artificial Intelligence to create proposals is not as easy as you think. Working with AI involves reading, research, verification, editing, revising, and discussions. It's almost like doing research with a clever but bossy student. We will discuss the entire process, and how working with Claude can become quite addictive.
- **5:45 p.m.–6:00 p.m. Break + free time**
- **6:00 p.m.–7:10 p.m. Dinner + Rest**

## **Evening Session: Fireside Chat and Film**

- **7:15 p.m.–8:00 p.m. Smore's and fireside chat**
- **8:15 p.m.–10:30 p.m. Film Screening: Her (Spike Jonze)**  
Sci-fi, 2013, 2 hours and 6 minutes. A lonely man falls in love with an advanced AI operating system, forcing him to rethink intimacy, connection, and what it means to be human.

## **Sunday, October 11, 2026**

- **8:00 a.m.–9:00 a.m. Breakfast + Check-out**

## Morning Session:

- 9:05 a.m.–9:50 a.m. Presentation: Mathematics in the Age of AI: Discovery, Authorship, and Responsible Use by Yana Shvartsberg (MAT)

This presentation explores how AI is reshaping the process of research and mathematical discovery, authorship, and intellectual credit. It will also introduce locally run, open-source language models as a practical way for students to use AI while protecting their original ideas and unpublished research.

- 9:55 a.m.–10:40 a.m. Yoga / Meditation with Veronika Dolar Yoga. Meditation with and without AI.
- 10:45 a.m.–11:30 a.m. Presentation: Scientific Discovery and Understanding: a Cyborg Love Story by Erik Lascaris (PHY)

Worrying and fearing AI and the future robot dystopia? We will flip things around and imagine a utopia of humans and AI working together in harmony. Let's think about how we could reach this utopia

- 11:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Break / free time outdoors/ doodling
- 12:00 p.m.–1:00 p.m. Lunch

## Afternoon Session:

- 1:05 p.m.–1:45 p.m. Presentation: Morality and Pedagogy in an AI-Saturated World by Angela Legg (PSY)

In this workshop we will consider how moral disengagement drives AI usage in the classroom and how we can re-envision education in a world filled with AI.

- 1:50 p.m.–2:30 p.m. Summary + final reflections
- 2:30 p.m. Assemble at Bus at Stony Point Center

Bus departs Stony Point Center

## Co-Leaders Bios

### Veronika Dolar

Veronika Dolar is an Associate Professor of Economics at Pace University. Her research and teaching focus

on labor economics, inequality, economic education, and applied microeconomics. She is the author of the forthcoming textbook *Understanding Economic Inequality: Applying Economic Thinking to Today's Divides*, co-author of the introductory textbooks *ECON Micro* and *ECON Macro* (Cengage), and editor of *Missing Voices in Economics: Addressing the Gender Gap*. Dr. Dolar is deeply committed to undergraduate education, student mentorship, and creating opportunities for interdisciplinary learning and collaboration. Her current interests include how artificial intelligence is reshaping education, research, knowledge creation, and the skills students will need in an increasingly AI-driven world. As co-leader of this year's Weekend Seminar, she looks forward to exploring these questions through conversation and collaboration across disciplines.

**Recommended by Veronika:**

1. [What Even Is an Author? Scholars are divided over how much AI use is acceptable](#)
2. [Bill Gates: A.I. 'Makes Nuclear Weapons Look Like Nothing' | The Ezra Klein Show](#)
3. [The AI Police Are Coming for Everybody](#)

## **Jillian McDonald**

Jillian McDonald is a Professor of Art at Pace and a Canadian artist. Courses include Video, Live Art, Video Animation, and Drawing. She makes films inspired by eco-horror - in which nature itself poses a threat, and speculative fiction - in which settings are not entirely real. She combines cinematic aesthetics with humour, creating unexpected juxtapositions. In the past few years, she has incorporated AI into her toolkit for manipulating moving images, generating video from her own footage as prompts and recombining the resulting images with the original sources. Her pre-deepfake deepfake video, *To Vincent with Love* is featured in the Whitney Museum's exhibition, *Artport: A History of Internet Art*, opening November 2026. Exhibitions and screenings of her work take place regularly across North America and beyond, and she participates in numerous artist residencies, often in northern locations.

**Recommended by Jillian:**

1. [AI, Artists, and the Future of Creative Work - Life, Automated](#)
2. [AI art: The end of creativity or the start of a new movement? - by Claudia Baxter, BBC](#)
3. [How AI Will Make Art Worse -by Tim Brinkhof, Time Magazine](#)
4. [Christiane Paul on Defining AI Art - by Peter Bauman, Le Random](#)

5. [Ada Lovelace Already Answered the Big Questions About A.I.](#)

## Matthew Kapell

Matthew Kapell spent most of his career outside of academia but tried to find a place to teach everywhere his career took him. He began by teaching Human Genetics at the University of Michigan-Dearborn and it now in the English department at Pace, having taught at ten different colleges and universities in four states and on two continents. He has advanced degrees in anthropology, history, and American Studies, and is the author of *Exploring the Next Frontier: Vietnam, NASA, Star Trek and Utopia in 1960s and 70s American Myth and History* (Routledge 2016) and co-editor of *Playing with the Past: Digital Games and the Simulation of History* (Bloomsbury 2013). Currently he edits the Studies in Gaming series for the publisher McFarland and tries to teach at least one new class at Pace a year.

### Recommended by Matthew:

1. [Kurt Vonnegut, short story](#)
2. [Can AI Make Your Work More Human? with Nick Lichtenberg | Fixable](#)