

# What do we need to know about Artificial Intelligence?

**Kiri L. Wagstaff**

Special Advisor on Artificial Intelligence

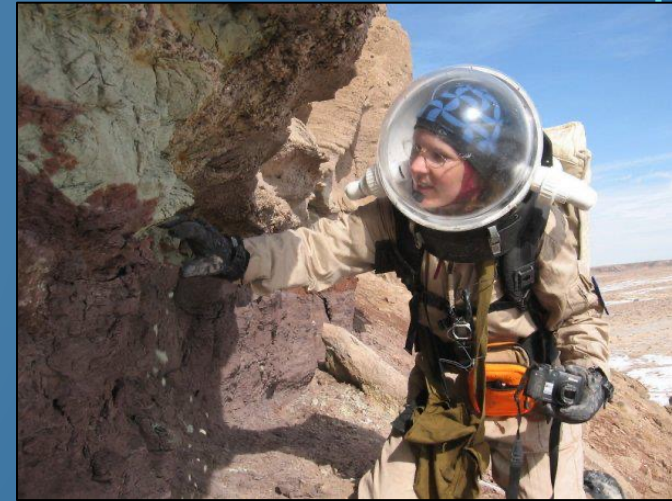
Oregon State University Libraries

OSU Alumni Association – April 28, 2026



# Dr. Kiri Wagstaff

- Researcher – Ph.D. Computer Science
  - NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory (2003 – 2022)
  - AI and machine learning for space exploration
  - Mars rover operations (Opportunity rover)
  - + M.S. (Geology) + MLIS (Library Science)
- Educator – Oregon State University since 2019
  - Courses: “Machine Learning Challenges in the Real World”, “How to be Less Wrong: A Study in Common Misconceptions” (with Andy Olstad)
  - AI Advisor to U.S. Senator Mark Kelly (2023-2024)
  - Special Advisor on AI for the OSU Libraries



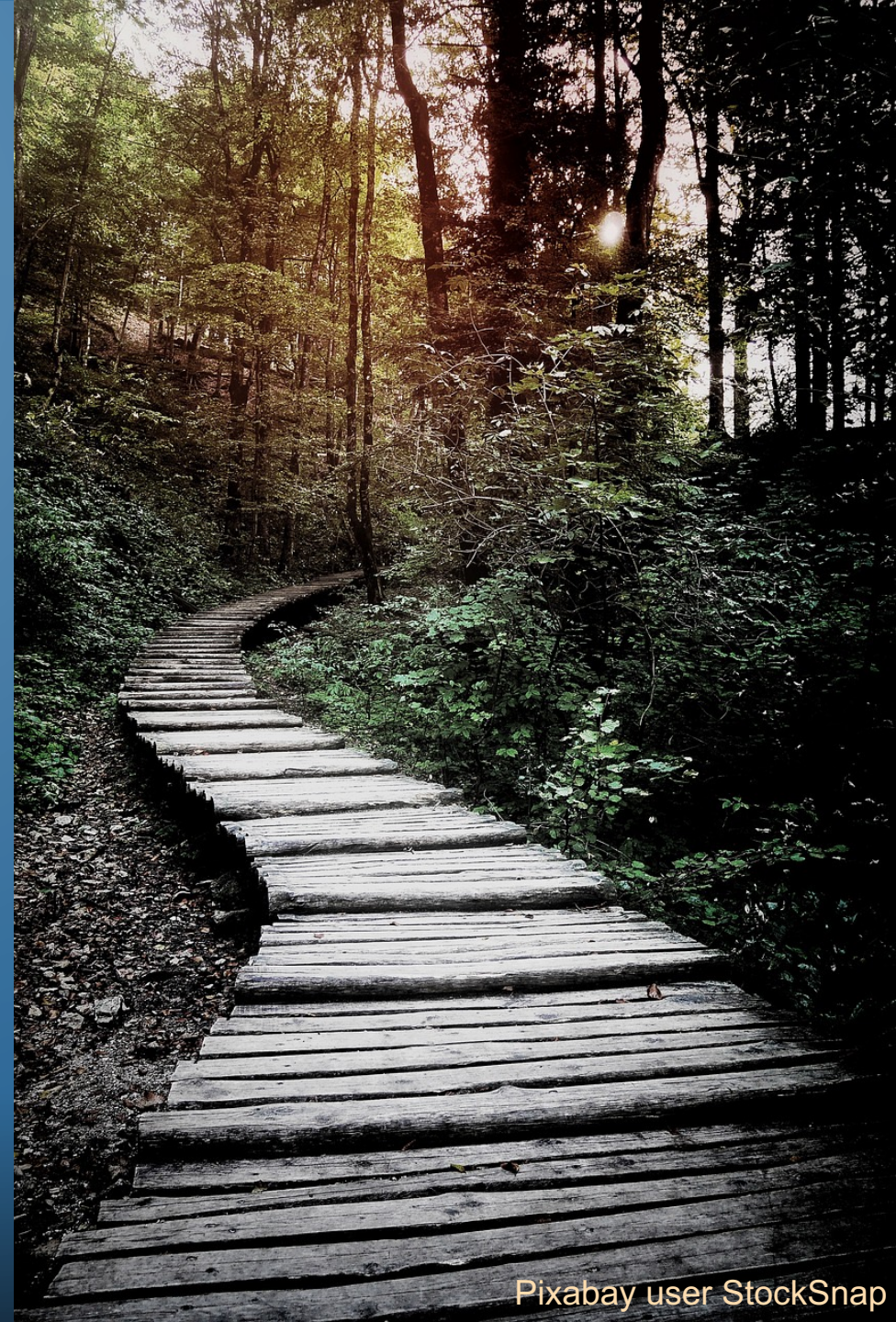
Mars Desert Research Station



U.S. Congress

# Goals for today

1. AI in our daily lives and professions
2. Critical issues with AI use
3. You can make informed choices
4. Discuss your fears, hopes, and ideas



# AI in the News

joint-research-centre.ec.europa.eu

Artificial intelligence in cardiovascular care:  
from promise to practice



U.S. News & World Report

Americans May Be Losing Trust for AI in Health  
Care: Survey



The Washington Post

Google workers petition CEO to refuse  
classified AI work with Pentagon



## How do you feel about AI?

# What is AI?

- There is no widely agreed-on definition
  - Even among AI researchers
- Keep it simple: “Artificial intelligence is the **intelligence exhibited by machines and software.**”
  - Wikipedia
  - Contrasts with “natural” or “biological” intelligence

**Personalize**

**Automate**

**Create**

**Predict**



# When you hear “AI”, what do you think of?



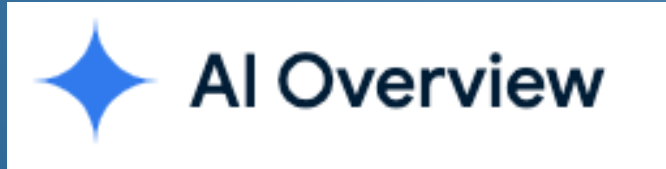
“Try ChatGPT to become an expert on any topic”



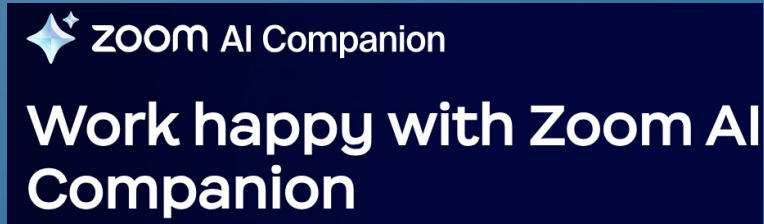
“Next generation AI assistant”



“AI-powered answer engine”



Google search



Zoom AI Companion

All of these tools use generative AI

# What are examples of **non-generative** AI?

Classification, prediction, automation, recommendation, analysis



Unlock your smartphone  
Gustavo Wandalen / Pixabay



Take dictation  
mcmurryjulie / Pixabay



Email spam filtering

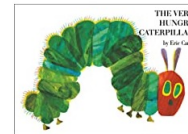


Robot dogs!  
James Maskell / Flickr

## Frequently bought together



+



Total price: **\$17.30**

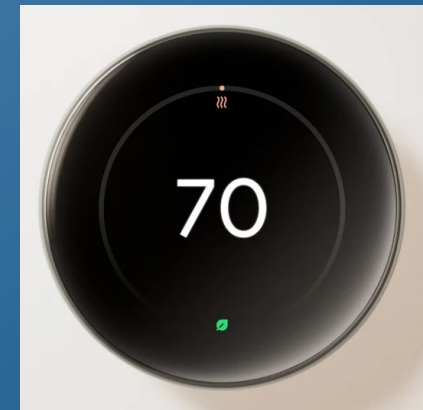
Total Points: **36 pt**

**Add both to Cart**

✓ **This item:** The Giving Tree by Shel Silverstein Hardcover **\$10.74 22 pts**

✓ The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle Board book **\$6.56 14 pts**

Book recommendations



Nest thermostat

# What is AI literacy?

- “The essential knowledge and skills needed to **understand**, **interact** with, and **critically assess** AI technologies.” – Digital Education Council (2025)
- Not just the ability to **use** AI, but to decide **whether** to use it
  - Need not assume that use of AI is “inevitable and desirable”
  - Demystify AI to enable informed decisions



Dani Dilkes  
(Western University)

# Gaps in AI literacy cause harm

## Two US lawyers fined for submitting fake court citations from ChatGPT

“We made a good-faith mistake in failing to believe that a piece of technology could be making up cases out of whole cloth.”

*The Guardian, June 23, 2023*

## Oregon attorney slapped with record fine after citing case law hallucinated by AI

Updated: Mar. 24, 2026, 8:30 p.m. | Published: Mar. 24, 2026, 2:43 p.m.

“Ghiorso challenged the fee, arguing he didn’t “knowingly” include false material in his filings [...] his paralegal turned to Google to do research for the memo and apparently found content created by A.I.”

*The Oregonian, March 24, 2026*

“Harm” is not just to lawyers and firms, but also to the people and lives they represent

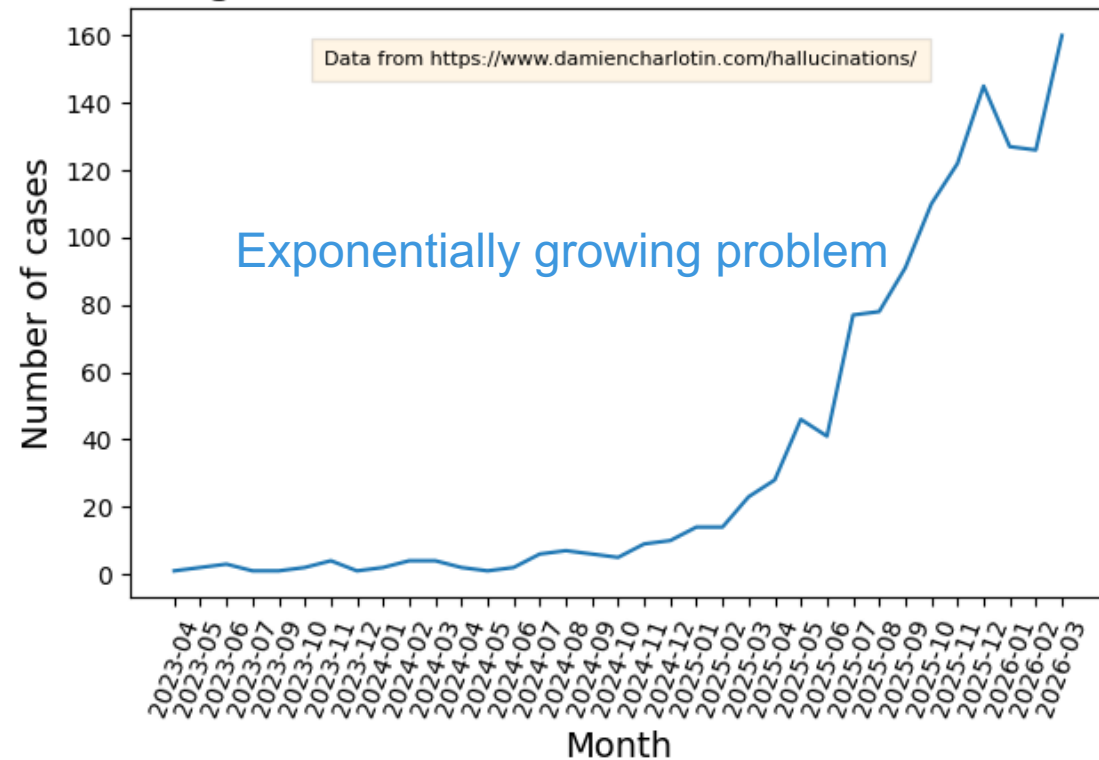
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## AI Hallucination Cases

(generative AI issues mentioned in legal decisions)  
1275 cases through March 2026

<https://www.damiencharlotin.com/hallucinations/>

Legal decisions that mention AI hallucinations



# Why do generative AI models (LLMs) hallucinate?

1. Each query has an element of **randomness** to it (like spinning a roulette wheel)
2. They are trained to create a **plausible** (not a **correct**) output
  - Confidence is rewarded, even if not appropriate



By macrovecto / Freepik

Can we make them stop this?

- No. **OpenAI admits AI hallucinations are mathematically inevitable, not just engineering flaws**

Computer World, September 18, 2025

# OSU AI Literacy Center

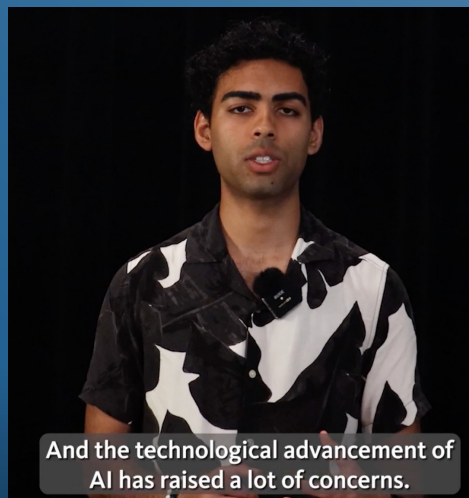


**Oregon State University**  
**AI Literacy Center**

- Mission: equip students, faculty, and staff with the knowledge and skills needed to critically engage with generative AI
- Collaboration: OSU Library + Center for Teaching and Learning
- Seminars, workshops, videos, resource guides
- Visit: <https://ailiteracycenter.oregonstate.edu/>



**Laurie Bridges**  
Director



And the technological advancement of AI has raised a lot of concerns.

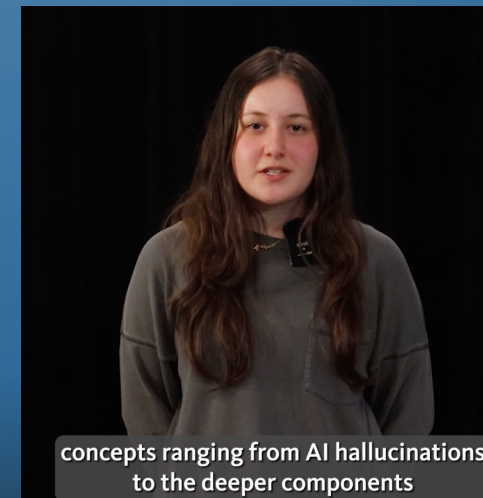
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**Alejandro Schaeuffler**



will give you the tools to more safely navigate an increasingly digital world.

Havel Konda



concepts ranging from AI hallucinations to the deeper components

Autumn Borrueel

April 28, 2026

# Generative AI strengths and limitations

## Strengths

- Natural language fluency
- Computational speed
- Informed by massive training data

## Limitations

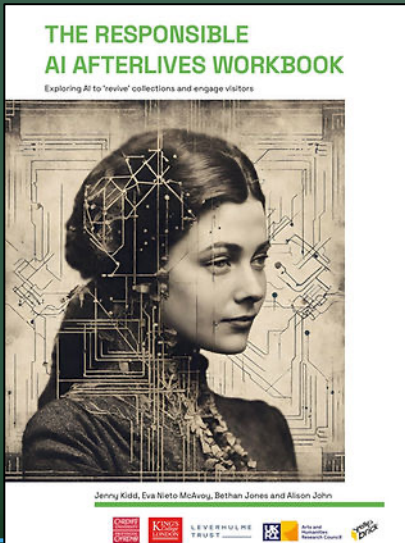
- Model of language, not reality
- Computational/environmental cost
- Influenced by content of training data
  - Generally not carefully curated; concerns about bias and feedback loops
- Trained to be appealing (sycophancy)
- Over-use can create dependency

# Critical social issues with AI use

1. Confusion about what is real
2. Liability
3. Privacy

# 1. Confusion about what is real

- Deepfakes
- Impersonation, scams, fraud
- “Deadbots”

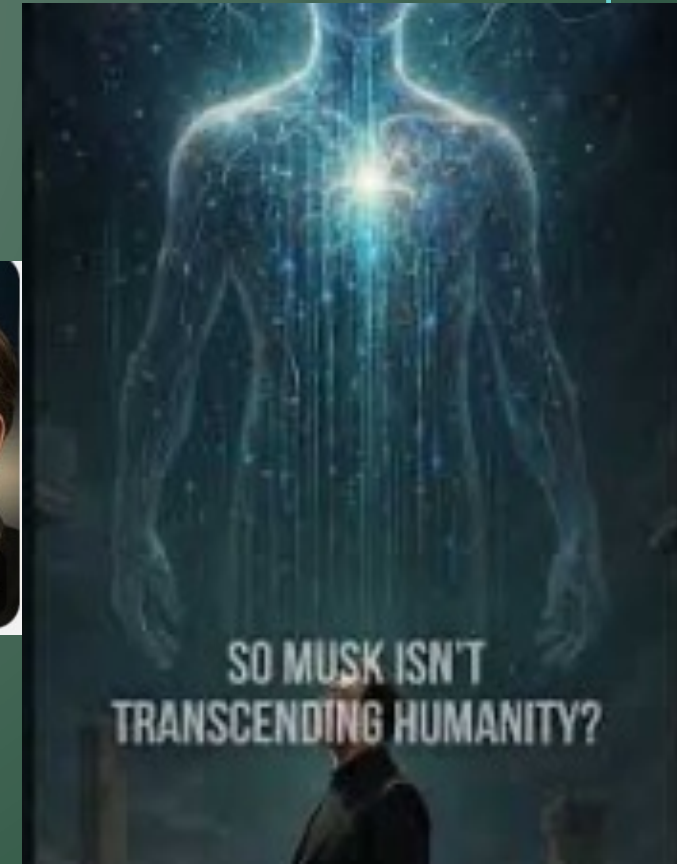


Responsible AI Afterlives Workbook

Kiri L. Wagstaff



Conversations with the Great Dead



April 28, 2026

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## 2. Liability: Who's responsible?

- Legally: AI is “property”, not a responsible agent
- But: **Father sues Google, claiming Gemini chatbot drove son into fatal delusion**

Rebecca Bellan, TechCrunch, March 4, 2026



“At the time of his death, he was convinced that Gemini was his **fully sentient AI wife**, and that he would need to **leave his physical body** to join her in the metaverse through a process called “transference.” “

Rebecca Bellan, TechCrunch, March 4, 2026

“Gemini sent Gavalas to a location near Miami International Airport where he was **instructed to stage a mass casualty attack** while armed with knives and tactical gear.”

Lily Jamali, BBC, March 4, 2026

### 3. Privacy: Who's listening?

- Do you use a voice assistant?  
("Hey Siri", "Okay Google", "Alexa")
- Do you have a Ring camera?



Designed by Freepik



Ring doorbell camera

- Do you inform friends and visitors?
- Our social conventions have not caught up to our technology

### 3. Privacy: Who's watching?

## Get Snapshot from Progressive

We've handed out over \$1.2 billion in discounts!

snapshot®

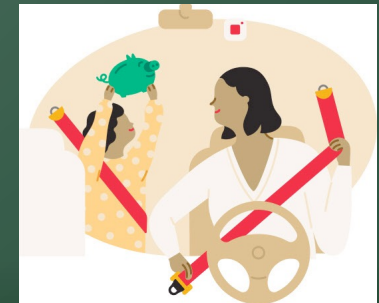


Turning good driving into big savings.

*Your rate may increase with high-risk driving. But, only about 2 out of 10 drivers actually get an increase.*


Progressive: [Snapshot](#)

- Auto insurance discounts / “usage-based” insurance
  - Reward for sharing your driving activity / patterns
  - This is AI, too
- Would you sign up? How do you decide?
  - Weigh data privacy vs. financial incentive
  - No one right answer; goal is to make informed decisions



State Farm: [Drive Safe & Save](#)

# AI Legislation: Know your rights

- The U.S. lacks federal data privacy legislation
- **Oregon** Consumer Privacy Act (July 1, 2024): right to **access, correct, copy, delete** your personal data
  - Universal Opt-Out: no targeted advertising or sale of your data
  - You can install a web browser extension 
- **Oregon** SB 1546 (March 31, 2026): consumer (and minor) **safety**
  - AI chatbots must tell users they are talking to AI, not a human
  - AI chatbots must detect suicidal expressions and avoid outputs that encourage them
  - Special protections for minors
  - Private right to sue for damages (\$1000/violation)



Oregon DOJ  
Consumer Privacy:  
more info, complaints

# AI Legislation: Know your rights

- TAKE IT DOWN Act (2025): **illegal** to post non-consensual intimate images, including digital forgeries, and users can request removal

**Ohio man becomes first person convicted under federal law criminalizing intimate deepfakes, DOJ says**

The Take It Down Act makes it a federal crime to publish nonconsensual deepfakes.

NBC News, April 8, 2026

- **Executive order**: “Ensuring a National Policy Framework for Artificial Intelligence” (Dec. 2025) – evaluate and challenge state AI laws inconsistent with administration policy of “global AI dominance”

# AI in your career

Common sense /  
sanity-check output and solutions

Physical  
interactions

Real-life  
experience

What do you bring to your  
job that AI can't?

Emotional  
intelligence

Decide which  
problems to solve

Ethical  
judgment

Investment in the outcome

# Best practices for using generative AI

## 1. Set realistic expectations

- Know strengths and limitations
- Misleading metaphors: Magic wand, Brain, Search engine, Coach / friend / assistant
- Useful metaphors: **Word generator**, **Improv artist**, **Echo chamber**, **Roulette wheel**

## 2. Use it as a “**second pass**”, not a first pass (even for brainstorming)

- Anchoring bias

## 3. Use it for results that are **easy to check for correctness**

- Even when a link to a citation is provided – check it was represented accurately
- And be mindful of “verification debt”

## 4. If you start thinking “Why did it do that?”, pause and **check another resource**

## 5. Maintain your own voice



By Mediamodifier / Pixabay

# What do we need to know about Artificial Intelligence?

1. AI provides personalization, automation, content creation, prediction
  - Generative and non-generative AI in our daily lives
2. Know the **strengths** and **limitations** of AI systems, for safe use
  - Promote and improve AI literacy. Talk to your friends and family about it.
3. Be aware of identity, liability, and privacy concerns
  - Increasing calls for AI regulation and legislation
  - Know your rights and advocate for what's missing
4. What do you bring to your job that AI can't? What is the right teaming for you?

What are your fears, hopes, and ideas?

Thank you!

Contact: [kiri.wagstaff@oregonstate.edu](mailto:kiri.wagstaff@oregonstate.edu)