

DIGITAL FUTURES INSTITUTE

Building the future of learning

What's Going on at DFI

Pop and Play Season 3!



Get ready for another season of Pop and Play! Pop and Play is a podcast about play and pop culture with hosts Haeny Yoon and Nathan Holbert. This season explores "intergenerational play" and features a new set of great guests and topics (including kids!). Nathan and Haeny go to a skate shop, watch Babysitters Club, and possibly get Rick-rolled? You won't want to miss it!

Subscribe on [Apple Podcasts](#), [Spotify](#), [Google Podcasts](#), or wherever you listen and catch up on Season's one and two. Season 3 releases February 28!

DFI Speaker Series - February 22nd, 2:00 pm -
3:00 pm

**AUTOMATONS,
BOTS, CYBORGS:
AN ABCEDARIUM
OF MACHINES AND
THEIR GESTURES**



With the slow and then fast arrival of "AI," it becomes increasingly clear that we do not have a sufficient pedagogic vocabulary for considering the relationship between us, our technologies, and learning. In this talk, we will experiment with developing new languages for this relationship by exploring the gestural alphabet of our modern technical life and its potential permutations. (What does an AI do, after all? How do we browse when we are browsing? What exactly is coding?...)

Chris Moffett, Ph.D., is a scholar working across philosophy, education, art, and technology. His current research centers on embodied practices in education, play, and diagramming. He is a Research Scholar at the Digital Futures Institute.

This session will take place in DFI Mixed Media Space (RH509)

DFI Speaker Series: This series invites scholars, researchers, and other experts to present their work at the intersections of education, emerging technologies, and new digital realities. This series of talks will continue throughout the Spring semester with new guest speakers each month.

Tech Playground - Artificial Intelligence Wednesday, March 1st, 11 am - 1 pm

As part of our DFI Tech Playground series, during this session you can come by and try out some tools that use artificial intelligence. We will have various stations set up where you can test out some new tech and consider the implications of artificial intelligence in education.

Space is limited so make sure to sign up now!

This session will take place in DFI Mixed Media Space (RH509)

[Register for Tech Playground](#)

Tech Playground Series: The DFI Tech Playground Series encourages curiosity, experimentation, and exploration through hands-on play with technology.

Upcoming Tech Playgrounds

[Robots and Drones:](#) April 5, 11am - 1pm

DFI In the News

New York City blocks use of the ChatGPT bot in its schools

Lalitha Vasudevan, the vice dean for digital innovation at Teachers College, Columbia University, took a different tone. She said using the bot should be embraced as a new learning opportunity.

"If the things that we used to put so much effort into in teaching can be automated, then maybe we should rethink what the actual goals and experiences are that we should work toward in the classroom," she said.

Vasudevan noted that innovations such as graphing calculators were initially shunned by some who felt they would turn meticulously working through formulas into simply plugging in numbers. Now, learning to use those calculators is simply part of a student's education.

[Full Article](#)

School districts blocking ChatGPT amid fears of cheating, educators weigh in on AI

Charles Lang, senior executive director of the Digital Futures Institute and professor at Teachers College at Columbia University, said the technology could be used to create assessments or develop skills that are specific to that software, while it could also aid those who struggle with basic skills or writing or reading.

“Just being able to personalize interactions in a way that is infinitely patient and can go on forever and talk about the same topic is actually a wildly amazing tool to have in the education system,” Lang said.

The main question concerning educators, Lang said, is how to incorporate this technology into teaching and learning such that students are in a good position once they leave the school.

[Full Article](#)

At Ticketmaster Hearing, Taylor Swift Lyrics Were the Headliner

“More and more, they’re leaning into these moments of viral potential,” said Ioana Literat, an associate professor of communications at Teachers College, Columbia University.

John Fetterman’s successful Senate campaign in Pennsylvania signaled to many politicians that embracing humor online can win votes, Professor Literat said. But the strategy does not always work, she added.

“It can also be perceived as a kind of desperate, inauthentic attempt to create these kind of connections and to connect to youth culture,” Professor Literat said. She saw the senators’ use of Taylor Swift lyrics as a play for young voters that landed awkwardly, pointing to commenters on TikTok who remarked that aides must have written the senators’ statements for them.

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