



## What's Going on at DFI

### DFI Speaker Series



#### **Reading and Being Read: Sociotechnical imaginaries of books and robots**

**Nov 1st, 4:00-6:00**

**Smith Learning Theater (Russell Hall 4th Floor)**

This presentation will tell about a study on the socio technical imaginaries and educational cares and rationales for reading books when a robot– Bibi – becomes a node within the traditional Swedish welfare system. Here, public libraries, tech corporations, schools, children, and books meet in an endeavor to encourage and develop children’s reading. Drawing on concepts from science- and technology studies (STS), our study shows how reading (with a robot) is enacted as a care practice, where caring for the children’s reading and literature is displaced by care for the robot, in care practices that uphold the enchantment of the robot. Caring for the robot has unexpected and unintended effects such as failures, disruptions, exclusions and even violence, which chafe with the aim of the Bibi- project. Because, although the robot is designed as a care robot that is imagined to helping children who struggle with reading, this is in fact the task that the robot might be least equipped to do.

[Register here](#) so you don't miss out!

#### **We See Through a Glass Darkly: Art, Technology, and the Unknown**

**Nov 30th, 1:00 - 2:00**

**DFI Mixed-Use Space (Russell Hall 5th Floor)**

In *We See Through a Glass Darkly: Art, Technology, and the Unknown*, artist and educator Allyson Packer explores the relationship between mystery and human progress. Interrogating the myth that technological advancement makes our world more decipherable, she leads an overview of her video and installation projects that address topics from our bewildering embodied relationship to virtual space to speculation about the role of the human brain in a mixed-consciousness culture. Plumbing the generative potential of these emerging unknowns, she proposes the enduring importance of mystery in creative thinking and the value of not fully understanding the world around us.

Save yourself a seat and [register here!](#)

## **Artificial Intelligence's Impact on Your Teaching: Preparation and Adaptation**

Interested in understanding the potential influence of AI on your teaching and student learning, but not sure where to start? This 90-minute, interactive faculty development session is designed just for you. We'll kick things off with a demonstration of generative AI and its potential applications in the classroom. We'll then provide recommendations to help ensure responsible student use of AI in course assignments. The session will wrap up with guidance to re-envision one of your existing assignments with the option of AI integration. Join us to expand your teaching toolkit and equip your students for the evolving digital landscape.

[Join us virtually Nov 28th!](#)

## **Multimodal & Arts-based Inquiry Exhibition**

It is often said, “there is no time for play in kindergarten”, however, there might not be enough time for play in higher education, either. This exhibit, curated by Olga Hubard, Lalitha Vasudevan, Ioana Literat, Jackie Simmons, and Haeny Yoon documents their year-long individual and collective provocations of play, inquiry, and creativity. They do this in order to open up the boundaries of our professional work—expanding what counts as scholarship, destabilizing the borders of teaching and learning; engaging in acts of play to inform and reshape our social imagination.

**Join us Monday, November 27th from 4:00 - 6:00 in the DFI Gallery, 5th floor Russell Hall as we celebrate the opening of this exhibition!**

Registration information forthcoming.

## **Play Symposium and Launch of the Play and Wellbeing website**

Over the last several years, our DFI x Play initiative has worked to expand the public conversation on play as well as mobilize research that generates a broader conversation about play, particularly in areas of scholarship where the value and importance of play for wellbeing is either underappreciated or unrecognized. This convening will bring together multiple projects that have worked towards this end: SSRC-funded Play and Wellbeing website; DFI produced Pop and Play Podcast, AR/VR opportunities in the classroom; multimodal and arts-based research. Beginning with a keynote by Michael Preston (Executive Director of the Joan Ganz Cooney Center at Sesame Workshop) on play and wellbeing, guests will have the opportunity to engage and interact across these projects.

**Please join us from 4-6pm at the Smith Learning Theater on December 1st.**

Registration information forthcoming.

## DFI Workshops



Do you want to learn how to use generative AI tools to write better prompts to get more from generative AI tools?

Join us Nov 28th for this workshop where you will learn tips and tricks for writing effective prompts for generative AI tools, including:

- How to choose the right generative AI tool for your needs
- How to write prompts that are clear, concise, and informative

In this workshop, you will also have the opportunity to practice writing prompts for generative AI tools and receive feedback from other writers.

You do not need any prior experience with AI tools to participate in this sessions. Please make sure to bring your laptop.

Since each lab session will explore one or more AI tools, you will need to create free accounts with various AI tools before the start of the session, facilitators will reach out beforehand with more information.

[Register for the workshop here!](#)

## Tech Playground - AI Tools for Education: Beyond ChatGPT

Join us Nov 16th on the 5th floor of Russell Hall for our next Tech Playground!

Explore an array of advanced AI tools aimed at enhancing teaching and learning. These technologies offer capabilities ranging from automated lesson planning and presentation creation to generating assessments like quizzes and writing prompts. Educators can also benefit from AI-assisted rubric generation and customizable handouts. Students facing academic challenges can explore AI-powered tutoring solutions tailored to individual learning needs. Stop by Digital Futures Institute on the fifth floor of Russell anytime between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. to get hands-on experience with these innovative educational aids.

[Register Here](#)

## Podcasting Better - Share Wider





Join us Nov 15th in the RH305 for our third round of podcasting workshops! This round will have one session from 12:00-1:00.

Once you have a podcast, how do you help your audience find it? The DFI team shares some tips and resources for building connections with audiences, including designing social media posts like audiograms, identifying and maximizing outreach pathways, and more!

[Register for the workshop here!](#)

## Demystifying Artificial Intelligence (AI): An Introduction to AI in Education

Join us virtually Nov 2nd from 11:00 - 12:00 for our next Demystifying AI webinar!

This introductory webinar will provide a basic understanding of AI technology and its potential applications in education. We will explore the fundamental concepts of AI and provide an overview of the various AI tools and applications that can be used in teaching and learning. You will learn about the benefits and challenges of integrating AI into education and will be introduced to ethical considerations associated with the use of AI. By the end of the webinar, participants will have a basic understanding of AI and its potential for education.

If you can't make this one no worries we have another coming up [Dec 8th!](#)

[Register Here](#)

## DFI Highlights

### Episode 22 - *To the Classroom*

DFI Affiliated Researcher Dr. Haeny Yoon and DFI Director Lalitha Vasudevan were recently featured on the *To the Classroom* podcast.

[Check out the full episode here.](#)

### Tech Playground Highlights - Minh Le





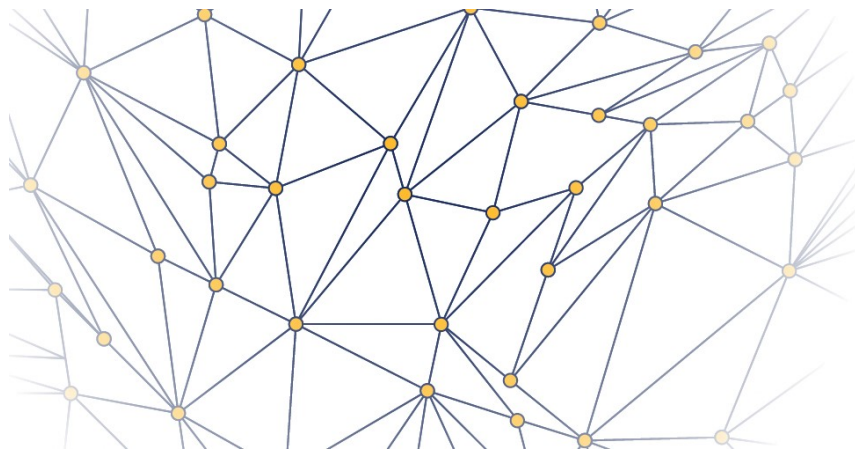
The incorporation of Extended Reality (XR) - encompassing both Virtual Reality (VR) and Augmented Reality (AR) - in the learning context is not just a trend, but a continuing shift towards a dynamic, immersive, and multimodal approach to education. At our second installment of the Tech Playground series specifically designed to foster an exploratory and playful environment for participants to experience firsthand with emerging technology, faculty and students got a unique opportunity to immerse themselves in a wide array of AR and VR applications across various educational domains. Hopping around four VR stations and three AR stations, participants eagerly engaged with applications like Bodyswaps for presentation and public speaking practice, Mondly VR for immersive language learning in real-world settings, and Maloka for mindfulness and meditation. They also explored immersive storytelling with Dear Angelica, interacted with AR science simulations with Merge Explorer, made AR videos with Arvid, and learned drawing with AR technology through Quiver and SketchAR. The showcased applications left many participants in awe as they had never experienced anything like those before and inspired them to think what the future of education would be like.

## Reimagining Diversity, Equity, and Justice in Early Childhood

DFI Affiliated Researcher Dr. Haeny Yoon just co-published a new book!

Situated against a backdrop of multiple global pandemics—COVID-19, racial injustice and violence, inequitable resource distribution, political insurrections and unrest—this timely and critical volume argues for a divestment in white privilege and an investment in anti-racist pedagogies and practice across early childhood contexts of research, policy, and teaching and learning.

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