



DFI's March 2026 events, resources, and learning opportunities include:

- DFI Masterclass: Engagement in Hybrid & In-Person Classes
 - Dr. Yasmin Kafai lecture: Empowering Youth as AI Designers
 - NEW: First live episode of *Ctrl + Alt + Teach*
 - DFI Speaker Series: Designing Digital Futures that Love Us
 - Introducing DFI's *Video Journal of Education*
 - Making Wednesdays at DFI Design Studio
 - Open Study Groups: AI & Ed, Diagrams, Experimental Live Writing
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DFI Masterclass: Quick Wins for Engagement in Hybrid & In-Person Classes



Explore simple teaching moves and tech-supported activities that make class time more interactive: polls, brief collaborative tasks, think-pair-share with tech, and inclusive participation strategies.

Date: March 10, 2026 (Tuesday)

Time: 11:00 - 11:30 AM ET

Location: Online (Zoom)

REGISTER

Youth as AI Designers: Lecture by Dr. Yasmin B. Kafai



The Teachers College Office of Teacher Education (OTE) invites everyone to attend Dr. Yasmin B. Kafai's talk titled [Empowering Youth as Designers of AI Applications and Audits](#).

Today's discussions about AI mostly focus on helping youth to become competent users of AI systems which mediate their daily experiences — from social connections and music consumption to gaming interactions and learning.

Dr. Yasmin Kafai will be offering a different proposal: one that sees youth not just as users but also as designers of AI systems that support their creative capabilities, while also fostering their critical engagement.

This showcase will include examples of how youth can create babyGPTs, their own small generative language models, and also critically examine generative AI to promote a better understanding of AI

technologies.

Dr. Kafai believes that we must empower youth to navigate, critique, and shape these technological futures that define their worlds.

Date: March 10, 2026 (Tuesday)

Time: 2:00 - 3:00 PM

Location: Grace Dodge Hall 177/179 (in-person only)

REGISTER

If AI Can Write, What Are We Teaching?



A new conversation series.

Presented by:



Teachers Supporting Teachers

Technology has always taken a front seat in shaping the American education system. From chalkboards to calculators, to computers, and now AI. This conversation series explores where we are not, where we have been, and where we're headed.

Join us live for our first episode of *Ctrl + Alt + Teach*, where we will have Lalitha Vasudevan, Professor of Technology and Education and Vice Dean for Digital Innovation, offer insights as we explore how writing instruction in the K-12 landscape has evolved in recent years and what prompted these changes. We will also discuss the challenges that educators are facing now with AI entering the picture, and what tools they need to address these challenges.

Date: March 11, 2026 (Wednesday)

Time: 4:00 - 5:00 PM ET

Location: Online (Zoom)

REGISTER

DFI Speaker Series: Designing Digital Futures that Love Us



TC community members are welcome to attend [New Public Systems: Designing Digital Futures that Love Us](#) with Emily Reardon.

In this interactive workshop, Emily will lead attendees to answer the following: How do we build the digital futures we want, while the ground is still shaking? As commercial AI rapidly reshapes education and public systems meant to counterbalance market power erode, we find ourselves working inside uncertainty—between collapse and possibility.

Drawing on the work of liberatory educators like Paulo Freire, bell hooks, and Cornel West, and using radical love as a design framework, the group will map the values, structures, and conditions of public-minded digital systems and futures worth building.

Emily Reardon works at the intersection of emerging technologies, learning, and social justice. An Emmy Award-winning, patents-holding designer, she works on AI for social good and learning innovation, with a particular interest in civic engagement amid civil-rights urgency and global upheaval. Her inquiry builds on a long tenure as Director and Producer at Sesame Workshop, the nonprofit behind Sesame Street, where she designed and researched the future of play and learning for children and families worldwide. She is currently a Fellow at the Digital Futures Institute at Teachers College, a Visiting Scholar at Columbia University, and an MFA candidate at the City University of New York.

And to hear more from Emily, listen to the [Pop and Play episode on “How Children’s Media is Changing”!](#)

Date: March 26, 2026 (Thursday)

Time: 3:30 - 5:30 PM

Location: Grace Dodge Hall 277 (in-person only)

REGISTER

**Call for Submissions to DFI's
Video Journal of Education:
Due March 16th!**



DFI's new [Video Journal of Education \(VJE\)](#) is now accepting submissions for its first issue!

VJE's mission is to create a new venue for video publishing in education research and scholarship, to reach broad audiences with accessible and well-constructed conceptual, critical and creative work, and to explore and shape the use of video for academic publishing in education and related fields through practice. This journal explores multimodal practices through the specific medium of video, and welcomes arts-based work, practitioners, social scientists, and a broad range of approaches to furthering education-related inquiries.

[Learn more about how to submit your work to VJE.](#) Submissions are due March 16, 2026. Please help us spread the word and share with anyone who might be interested!

Join us for an online Q&A to find out more!

Date: March 12, 2026 (Thursday)

Time: 3:00 - 4:00 PM ET

Online: [Click here to register.](#)

DFI Design Studio: Making Wednesdays



In academic settings, we are often asked to follow a singular path toward expertise. But what happens when we prioritize the process over the product? What emerges when we treat tools and materials not just as objects, but as active collaborators in our thinking?

Join us Wednesdays from 1:00 - 2:00 PM in the DFI Design Studio for a dedicated time to move through the studio and play with the equipment through undirected inquiry. Each week, we'll use a different prompt to help us get into the mess and see what happens.

This is an opportunity to see what is possible across different modes to let the materials lead the way before a project even starts. Whether you are a seasoned builder or just curious about the space, show up to experiment with us.

Who: Open to the public

When: Wednesdays, 1:00 - 2:00 PM

Where: In-person at DFI Design Studio - Teachers College, Columbia University (Russell Hall 5th Floor)

Open Study Groups: *For TC Faculty, Staff, and Students*



DFI's Open Practices welcomes everyone to participate in the following three study groups: AI & Education, Diagrams, and Experimental Live Writing.

I. AI & Education

Come join our discussion of all things AI & Education, two recent articles at a time.

Hybrid: Russell Hall 508A (in person) and on Zoom ([sign up for link](#))

Dates: Every other Thursday throughout Spring 2026 – March 12 & 26; April 2, 16, & 30.

How to join: [Sign up for emails](#) of the readings and the Zoom link.

II. Diagrams

We often think of a diagram as a simple informational illustration. Upon closer scrutiny, they open onto any number of pedagogic problems and potentials. Come diagram a project you are working on, or jump into a collaborative one.

Hybrid: Russell Hall 508A (in person) and Zoom ([sign up for link](#))

Dates: Every Wednesday from 6:00 - 7:00 PM ET

How to join: [Sign up for emails](#) to get details, notifications, and the Zoom link.

III. Experimental Live Writing

Our study of gestures this semester revolves around the gestures of writing. Each week we pick a gesture and write on it together. (Previous week's gestures: writing on a whiteboard, typing, submitting, listing, writing aphorisms...) Jump in and explore collaborative writing!

Online: Zoom ([sign up for link](#))

Dates: Every Friday from 5:30 - 6:30 PM ET

How to join: [Sign up for emails](#) to get details, notifications, and the Zoom link.



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