COURSE DETAIL

ANTHROPOLOGY OF AI: PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE
Country Germany
Host Institution Humboldt University Berlin
Program(s) Humboldt University Berlin
UCEAP Course Level Upper Division
UCEAP Subject Area(s) Anthropology
UCEAP Course Number 115
UCEAP Course Suffix
UCEAP Official Title ANTHROPOLOGY OF AI: PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE
UCEAP Transcript Title ANTHRO OF AI
UCEAP Quarter Units 4.50
UCEAP Semester Units 3.00

Course Description

The increasing uptake of generative AI technologies for a range of purposes from emotional care and companionship to work flow optimization serves as a rich field of inquiry for anthropologists studying human-technology relations. While all technologies are imbued by popular narratives and imaginaries, the use of AI tools in particular is informed by myths of hype and anti-hype that underline the need for ethnographic approaches exploring how these technologies are actualized in practice. This course explores the potential of anthropological theory and methods for elucidating the social, cultural, and political implications of generative AI. With tech companies touting the greater efficiency and profitability promised by these technologies at the expense of other considerations, qualitative research providing a more nuanced picture of human-AI entanglement in everyday life is crucial. So too, the far-reaching impacts of AI technologies provide an opportunity to revisit some of the key perspectives and questions animating cultural anthropology as well as the ways these might intersect productively with other disciplinary approaches. Key topics in the course include the political economy of AI and its impact on the future of work, race and gender logics and biases of AI, and the integration of AI into social media, virtual worlds, and the metaverse.

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number
51721

Host Institution Course Title
ANTHROPOLOGY OF AI: PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE

Host Institution Course Details
https://agnes.hu-berlin.de/lupo/rds?state=verpublish&status=init&vmfile=no&publ...

Host Institution Campus

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department
Institut für Europäische Ethnologie

Course Last Reviewed
2024-2025

Print