

Critical Technology Studies and Artificial Intelligence Initiatives at the USD College of Arts and Sciences

USD's Humanities Center is dedicated to the exploration of the human condition and the limitless ways in which human beings understand and interact with our world.



Founded in 2016 and the recipient of an endowment from Carol Vassiliadis and grants from both the W. M. Keck Foundation and the Kress Foundation, USD's Humanities Center is dedicated to the exploration of the human condition and the limitless ways in which human beings understand and interact with our world. Its activities revolve around five distinct "elements": Public Humanities; Digital Humanities and Critical Technology Studies; Interdisciplinary Curriculum Development; Collaborative Research; and Gallery Exhibitions.

The Humanities Center has always worked beyond the boundaries of traditional humanities subjects to work as an incubator – a meeting point between the fields of humanities and the natural sciences – in which to reflect upon the truly foundational issues in technology. As part of its ongoing programming in the field of Critical Technology Studies, USD's Humanities Center has envisioned a broad-based and multi-disciplinary exploration of the human and social dimensions of

artificial intelligence (AI). Recognizing the intellectual and moral challenges posed by AI, the Humanities Center brings to prominence a vast range of interlocking issues across a range of disciplines, from philosophy, politics and literature to sociology, neuropsychology and computer science. We explore such foundational and vital questions as: the origins and the development of the idea of machine intelligence; the nature of thinking itself; the possibility of there being thinking machines; representations of AI in film and literature; theological and ethical questions raised by of AI; the impact on social and economic life of the possible emergence of sentient robots; and the implications of AI for our understanding of what it means to be a person.

Utilizing the expertise of faculty across the whole range of academic disciplines on our campus (and beyond), beginning in Fall 2020, the Humanities Center will organize a cluster of working groups, public events, exhibitions, screenings, and classes for undergraduates, all of which will aim at the deeper understanding of the human and social impact of current and future developments in artificial or machine intelligence.



To learn more about the USD Humanities Center, go to www.sandiego.edu/cas/humanities-center.