

Title: Humanities & Creativity in the Age of AI

Professor Simon Mahony,
Emeritus Professor of Digital Humanities
University College London

Artificial Intelligence is transforming the way we think about creativity, art, and the humanities. This talk explores questions raised by these changes. What do we mean by creativity when machines can generate text, images, and music? Can AI create, or is it limited to imitation and recombination? How do these developments challenge our assumptions about originality, authorship, and human imagination?

Drawing on perspectives from philosophy, classical literature, and digital humanities, the talk examines historical debates, from Plato's scepticism about writing to contemporary concerns over generative AI, as well as their relevance today. My talk discusses the interplay between art, mathematics, and technology, the ethical and pedagogical implications of AI in education, and the opportunities and risks for cultural production.

Rather than offering definitive answers, this talk invites critical reflection and dialogue. It aims to question preconceptions, highlight emerging challenges, and explore how we might navigate a future where human creativity and machine intelligence increasingly converge.

Professor Simon Mahony
Emeritus Professor of Digital Humanities

University College London.
Visiting Professor, Peking University
s.mahony@ucl.ac.uk
<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/~uczcsbm>