Abstract

Cyborg Authorship: Writing with AI

This talk explores the human function in AI writing. While generative AI does not possess human-like consciousness, its use can still be creative. Large language models can serve as platforms for cyborg authorship. AI's role in contemporary LLM-based narrative writing is to serve both a co-author and interlocutor. Alignment for AI safety can sometimes serve as censorship and there are challenges in maintaining a balance with the constrainsts of the platforms to produce compelling narrative experiences. The essence of AI-driven creativity lies in its meaningful interaction with humans in forms of writing that are best understood as dialogic collaborations between the human interacting with the system and the AI. Pulling from examples from his works Republicans in Love, Fin du Monde, and other experiments in text-to-image, text-to-text, and text-to-code generation, Rettberg will demonstrate how writers are beginning to use generative AI to produce new forms and genres of electronic literature.

Bio

Scott Rettberg is the Director of the Center for Digital Narrative, a Norwegian Center of Research Excellence, and Professor of Digital Culture at the University of Bergen, Norway. He is the author/coauthor of novel-length works of electronic literature, combinatory poetry, and films including The Unknown, Kind of Blue, Implementation, Frequency, The Catastrophe Trilogy, Three Rails Live, Toxi•City, Hearts and Minds: The Interrogations Project, Republicans in Love, and others. Rettberg is the author of Electronic Literature (Polity, 2019), a comprehensive study of the histories and genres of electronic literature and winner of the N. Katherine Award for Criticism of Electronic Literature.