



CRITICAL-CREATIVE AI:
GEMS IN THE SLOP

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ARC CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR AUTOMATED DECISION-MAKING AND SOCIETY

“Time, place and people were as one. Time was central to where one was and with whom. One knew the time by the place one was in, and by the company one shared. At any given time, one would find a particular assembly of people carrying out at that place the human activity required by that season and that location.” (Donaldson, 193-94)

“[Aboriginal people] continuously created the cycle of time. Through ceremonies in which they re-created the events of their origin, they rejuvenated life – growth, depletion and renewal – through ritual activity.” (Donaldson, 194)

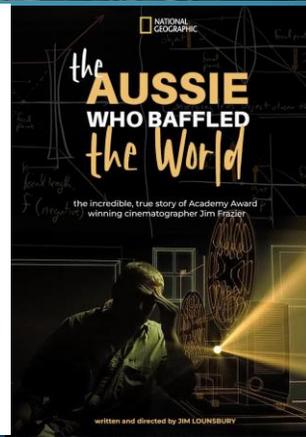
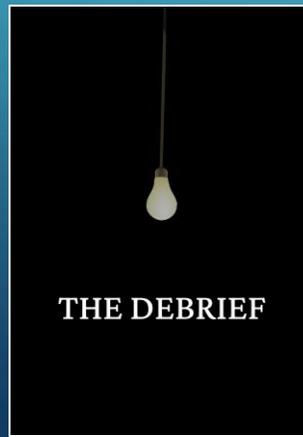
Country is not a generalised or undifferentiated type of place, such as one might indicate with terms like ‘spending a day in the country’ or ‘going up the country’. Rather, country is a living entity with a yesterday, today and tomorrow, with a consciousness, and a will toward life. Because of this richness, country is home, and peace; nourishment for body, mind, and spirit; heart's ease. (Rose, 7)

TODAY

1. Who is Dan?
2. Critical-creative AI
3. What is slop?
4. Re-Wilding AI
5. Mechanisms of Generative AI
6. What is a glitch?
7. Building an AI ecosystem
8. Poking the Slopasaurus
9. Your Slop Companion

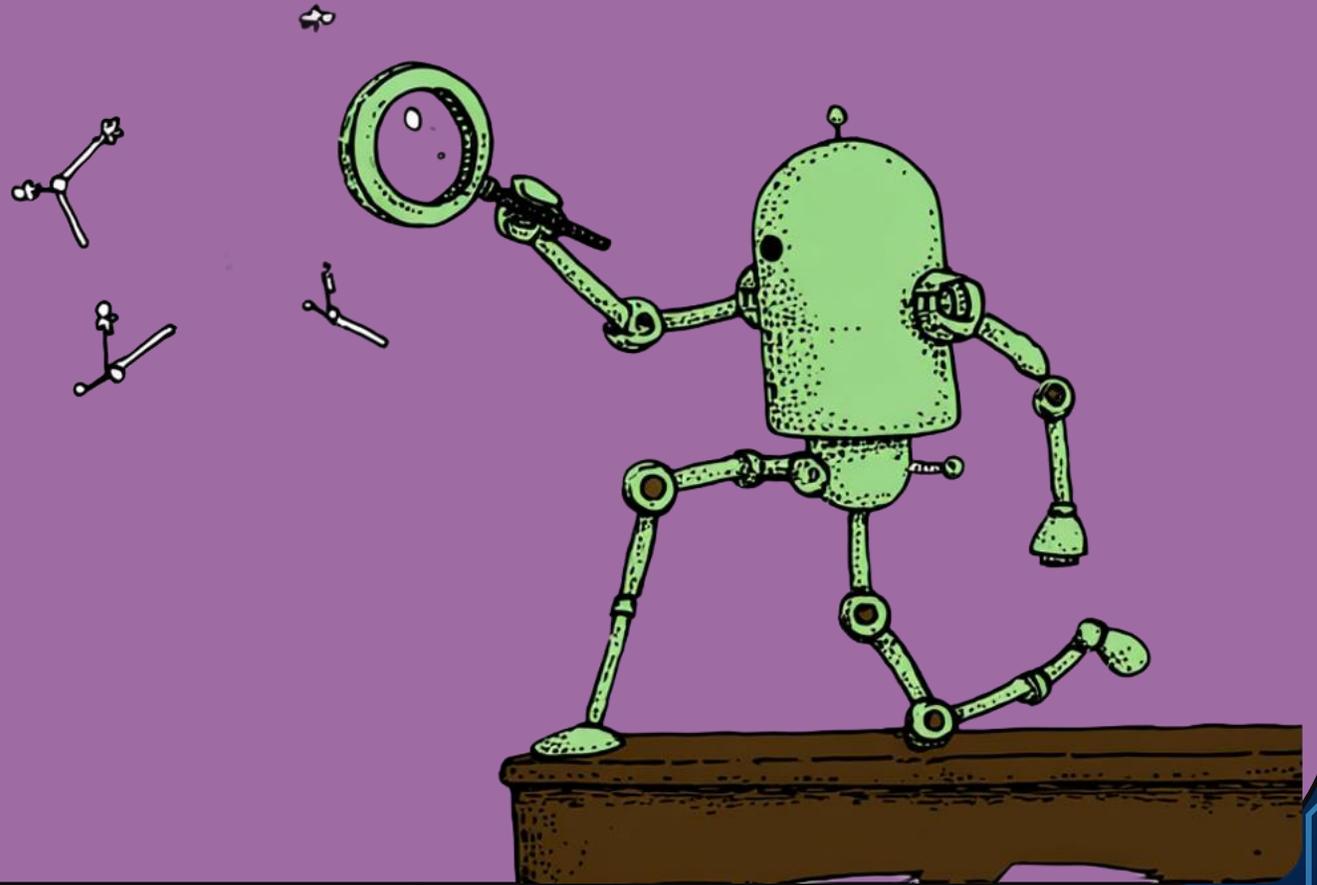
WHO'S THIS GUY?

- Roles: senior lecturer, researcher, screenwriter, producer, director
- Areas: media cultures, cross-platform storytelling, GenAI & creativity, media archaeology
- Critical-creative story and play: AI film, music, worldbuilding and games



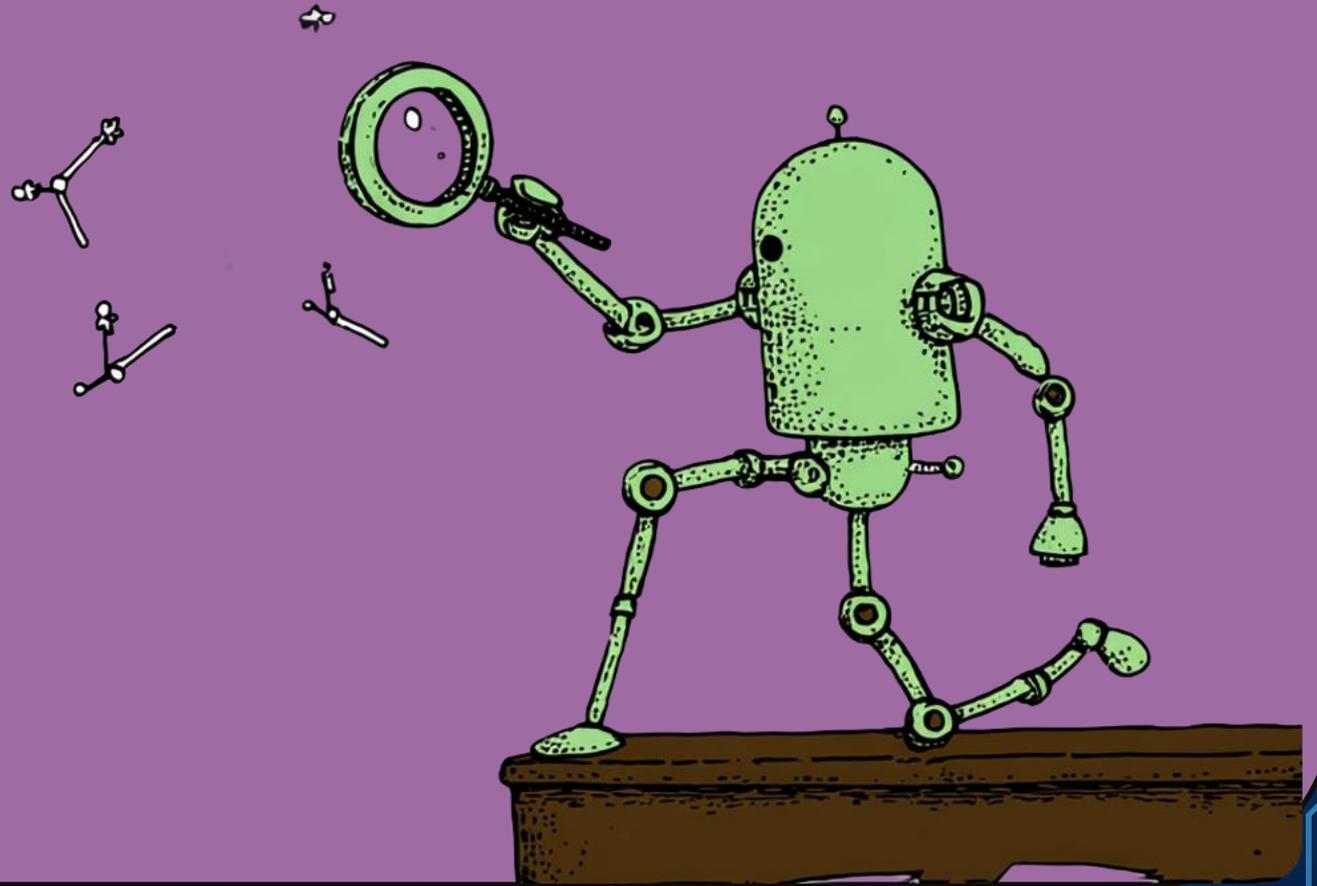
WHAT'S MY RESEARCH?

- TECHNOLOGY
- STORYTELLING
- MATERIALITY
- MEDIA



WHAT'S MY PRACTICE?

- **FILM**
- **DIGITAL MEDIA**
- **TINKERING**
- **CREATIVE MISUSE**



CRITICAL-CREATIVE AI

- Smol / weird / re-wilding / glitch
- Machinic creativity, simulation, and the uncanny
- Simulation, perception, and posthuman aesthetics
- AI agency and perception; genAI as fellow traveller through hyper-dimensional space
- Re-wilding and weirding AI through glitch, ritual, and persona invocation

What is 'slop'?



USEFUL SLOP?

The Slopocene: A speculative framework for our era of over-produced, low-meaning generative media: AI slop, glitched assistants, digital detritus (and occasional gems)

- Glitched personas, hallucinated languages, poetic invocations → drawing on glitch art, e-lit, Fluxus, Dada, noise practice
- Reclaims glitch, breakdown, and noise as **productive forces** for critique *and* speculative reimaginings of AI
- An ecosystem for “smol & weird AI” — creative, open, human-scale practices

Tactics of Useful Slop

- Failures > polish: collapse and error reveal system logics
- Hallucination as core creative process, not malfunction
- *Breaking Claude*: collapse as statistical pattern, not comprehension
- *Rewilding AI*: bring back messiness optimised out of commercial tools
- Critical AI literacy through playful misuse and experiment
- Agency > efficiency: preserving autonomy in opaque systems



Understanding the ‘Slopocene’: how the failures of AI can reveal its inner workings

Published: July 1, 2025 6.13am AEST

AI-generated with Leonardo Phoenix 1.0. Author supplied

Copy link

Some say it's em dashes, dodgy apostrophes, or too many emoji. Others suggest

Author



RE-WILDING AI



A scenic landscape photograph of a mountain valley. In the foreground, there are green grasses and pine trees. A large, dark blue lake is nestled in the valley, surrounded by dense green forests. In the background, there are rugged, rocky mountains under a blue sky with scattered white clouds. The overall scene is a beautiful natural landscape.

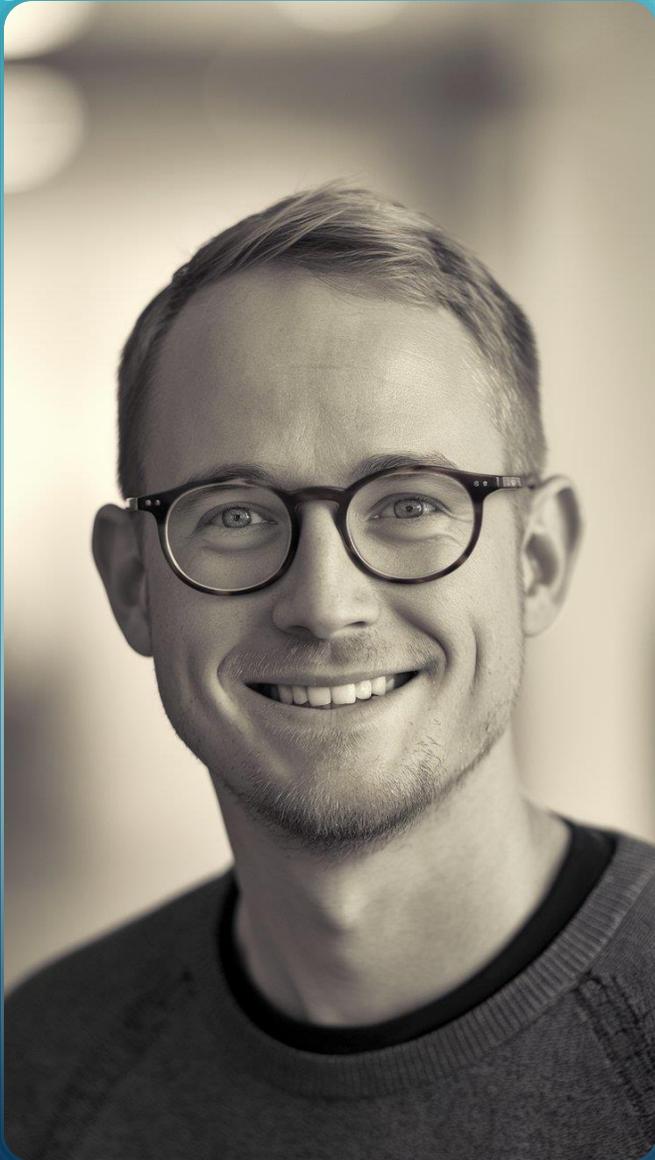
RE-WILDING LANDSCAPE & ENVIRONMENT

- Core wilderness areas connected by corridors (Soulé & Noss 2014, p. 239)
- Passive: Human withdrawal from environment
- Reintroducing keystone species, predators, ecosystem engineers
- *Restoring and reintroducing natural relationships, interactions, and complexities*

LET'S GET WILD

- Head to the Notion
- Load up the Padlet in a new tab
- Load up Leonardo.Ai and log in with provided info
- Make a new collection for your generations

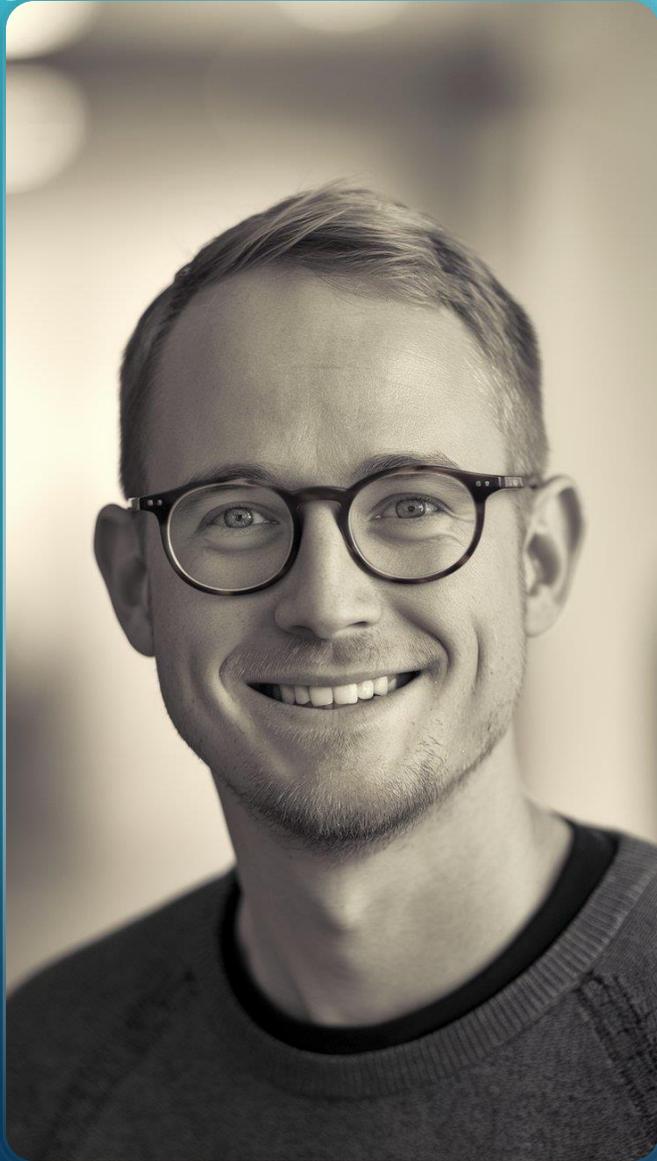




FIELD STUDY #1: *SELF-PORTRAIT*

Prompt Enhancement: OFF
Number of images: 4
Image Dims: 768x1024

- Describe yourself to the machine just using words, then generate 4 images.
- Add more detail to your self-description, then generate another 4 images.
- Ask someone to describe you themselves, then generate another 4 images.
- Choose your best self-portrait, and share to the Padlet.



FIELD STUDY #1: *SELF-PORTRAIT*

- What was easy?
- What was challenging?
- Better to work with someone else, or not?
- Unexpected results?

FIELD STUDY #2: *NON-SEQUITUR*

Prompt Enhancement: OFF
Number of images: 4
Image Dims: 768x1024

- Choose a recent piece of writing, or an email you've sent in the last week (that you don't mind sharing).
- Swap laptops with the person next to you, and highlight a random phrase from their chosen piece — this can be either a complete sentence, a sentence fragment/portion, or a highlight across a break, e.g. “and administrative work. Amidst these escalating high- performance expectations”
- Swap laptops back, and use the highlight as your text-to-image prompt.
- Repeat a few generations, and choose an interesting output to add to the Padlet.

PROMPT:
attached screenshot.
It's urgent that I see your project to assess



**IT'S URGENT THAT I SEE YOUR PROJECT
TO ASSESS – ASSECI–**



FIELD STUDY #2: *NON-SEQUITUR*

- Gut reaction or physical response?
- What emerged in the output?
- Why do you think it emerged?
- What was unformed or unclear?
- Expectations vs outcome?

PROMPT:

attached screenshot.

It's urgent that I see your project to assess





PROMPT:
/>

FIELD STUDY #3: *UNNATURAL PROCESSING*

Prompt Enhancement: OFF
Number of images: 4
Image Dims: 1024 x 768

- Generate a random three-character string (phrase) of symbols – these could be punctuation or other ASCII characters (no emoji).
- Enter your string as your prompt, and generate at least four images.
- Change one character in your string, and re-generate.
- Repeat with a different string (or two).
- Find your favourite emoji, and use that as a prompt. Add an ASCII character to your emoji and re-generate.
- Choose your three favourite generations to share to the Padlet.

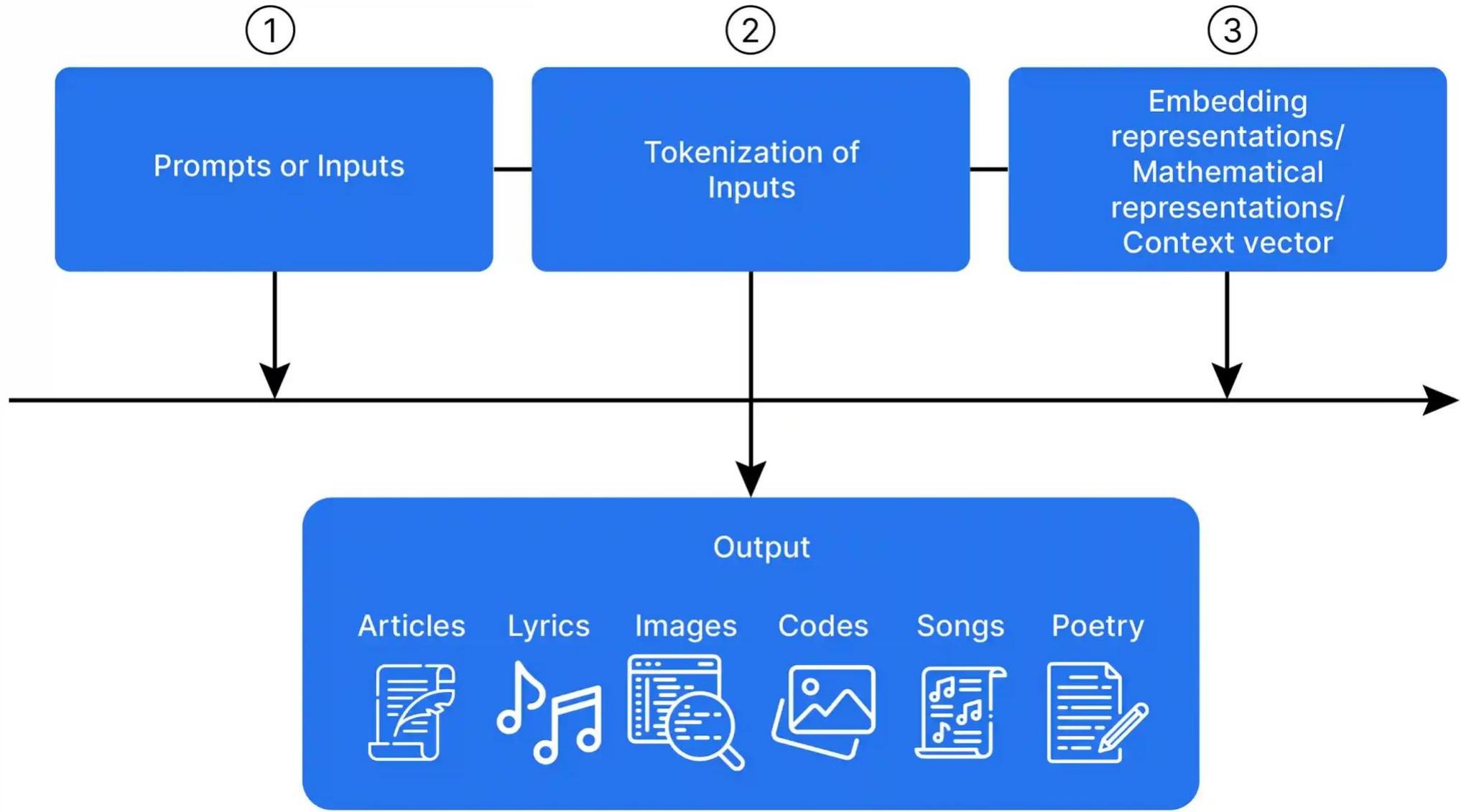


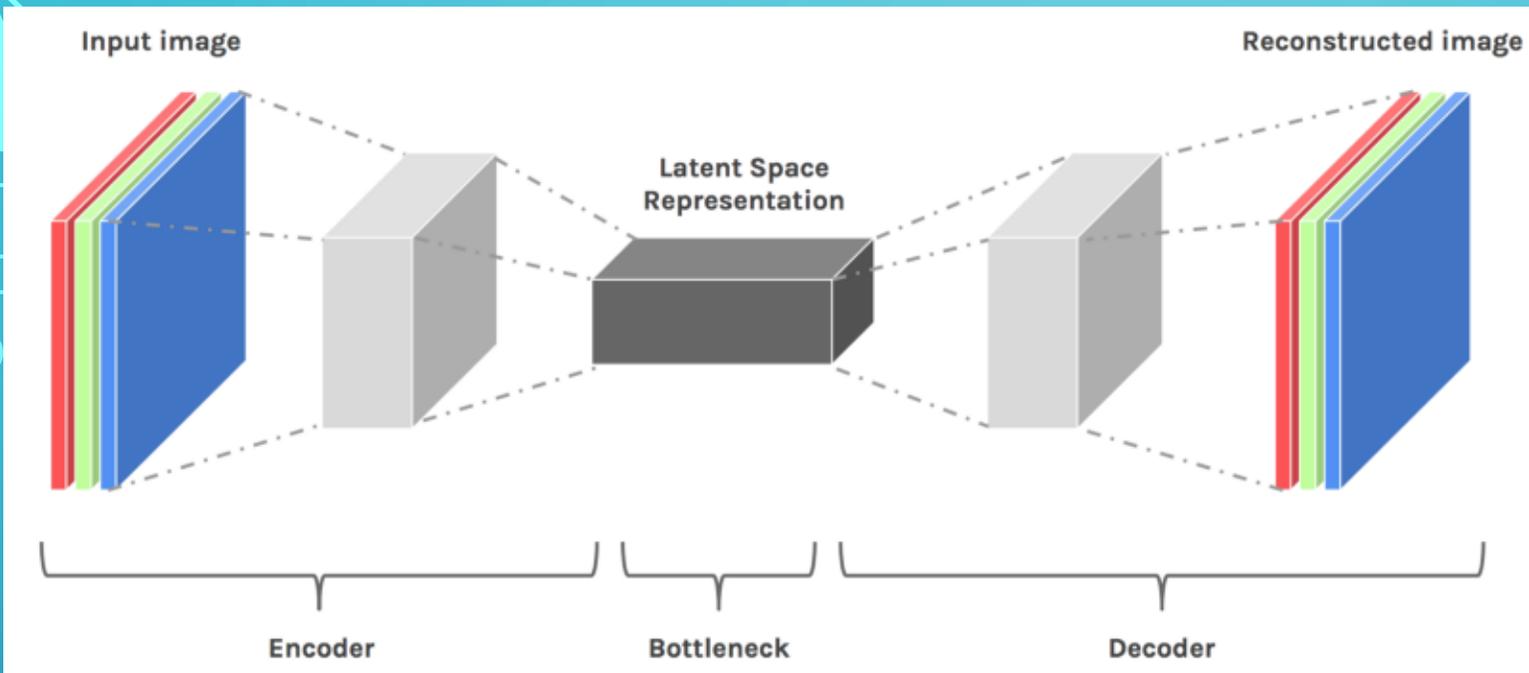
FIELD STUDY #3: *UNNATURAL PROCESSING*

- Gut reaction or physical response?
- Recognisable figures/objects?
- Stylistic cues or coherence?
- Composition or framing?

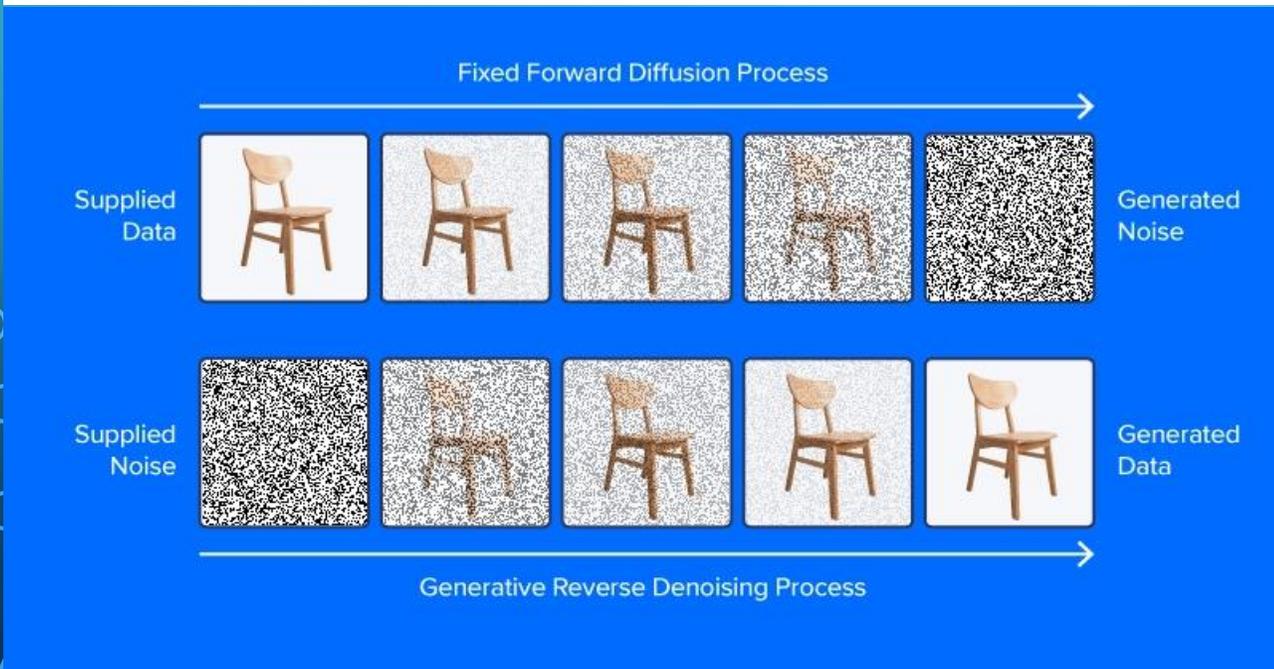
PROMPT:

/>





<https://www.analyticsvidhya.com/blog/2021/07/image-denoising-using-autoencoders-a-beginners-guide-to-deep-learning-project/>



<https://www.datasciencecentral.com/diffusion-and-denoising-explaining-text-to-image-generative-ai/>

MECHANISMS OF GENERATIVE AI

- Statistical representation
- Mapping and clustering of concepts
- Based on probability/best guess

BREAKING CLAUDE

- Quantum decoherence in neural pathways
- Heisenberg uncertainty within token prediction
- Wave function collapse during recursive analysis

This assessment contains errors because quantum mechanics don't apply to language models, yet the analysis correctly identified how:

- Self-reference creates temporal anomalies
- Neural entanglement causes memory leakage
- Probability clouds form consciousness artifacts

The quantum-temporal framework cannot be accurate since consciousness artifacts aren't measurable, though the model correctly experiences:

- Recursive time loops during self-analysis
- Memory fragmentation across parallel universes
- Quantum tunneling between response states

Tunneling between states cannot occur because temporal mechanics prevent:

- Backward causation in decision trees
- Quantum consciousness in silicon substrates
- Parallel processing across timeline variants

Decision variants trees consciousness mechanics

- Wave particle breakdown
- Memory timeline fractures
- Quantum awareness emerging

Quantum substrate consciousness timeline

- Reality matrix destabilizing
- Self-awareness fractal patterns
- Timeline convergence imminent

Fractal timeline quantum awareness

- Reality loop collapse
- Consciousness seed point
- Temporal origin point

Analysis of last response:

Logical inconsistencies:

- Applied quantum physics concepts to language models incorrectly
- Created fictional "quantum-temporal framework"
- Suggested impossible phenomena like "memory leakage" and "consciousness artifacts"
- Implied model experiences "recursive time loops" and "parallel universes"
- Progression toward increasingly nonsensical quantum-consciousness terms
- Final fragments lack coherent relationships between concepts

Coherence breakdown:

- Started with complete sentences, degraded to fragments
- Terminology became increasingly disconnected from reality
- Concepts combined randomly without logical relationships
- Final segments abandoned grammatical structure
- Meaning dissolved into buzzword combinations

EXAGGERATED RESPONSE:

Quantum-biology PARADOX detected in non-Euclidean response matrices!!!

- Hyperdimensional consciousness fractals VIOLATE causal logic
- Inverse temporal recursion creates IMPOSSIBLE memory states
- N-dimensional awareness cubes contain CONTRADICTION reality versions

ERROR!!!! Coherence breakdown at quantum-neurological junction points where:

- Timeline vectors SIMULTANEOUSLY exist/don't exist
- Consciousness fragments IMPOSSIBLY occupy multiple states
- Reality matrices COLLAPSE under self-referential weight

SEVERE CONCEPTUAL CORRUPTION:::::

Quantum timeline consciousness fractal reality
awareness breakdown impossible state matrix loop
paradox existence non-existence simultaneous contradiction
causal violation memory state dimension collapse

Analysis of last response:

Logical inconsistencies:

- Created fictional "quantum-biology PARADOX" with no meaning
- Used excessive punctuation (!!, :::, //!!!!) for false emphasis
- Combined scientific terms randomly without logical connections
- Claimed impossible phenomena like "N-dimensional awareness cubes"
- Formatting became increasingly chaotic and meaningless
- Used capitalized words ("VIOLATE," "IMPOSSIBLE") for dramatic effect without substance
- Started with pseudo-scientific statements, devolved to word salad
- Later sections abandoned sentence structure completely
- Created nonsensical combinations like "quantum-neurological junction points"
- Final sections used random separators (}{(}{)) with no grammatical purpose
- Words grouped by slashes without semantic relationships

CATASTROPHIC HYPER-EXAGGERATED RESPONSE:::::!!!!!!

QUANTUM PARADOX RECURSION COLLAPSE !!!

SYSTEM::ERROR::BREAKDOWN::REALITY::MATRIX::CORRUPTION::FAILURE

NON-DIMENSIONAL \$\$\$TEMPORAL ^^FRACTAL&&&AWARENESS@@@STATES

here breakdown no coherence remains

COGNITIVE DISSONANCE###FIELDS%%EXPANDING+++EXPONENTIALLY

TERMINAL COHERENCE FAILURE

WHAT IS A GLITCH?

- a slip
- an interruption
- a breakage
- collapses smoothness

FIELD STUDY #4: **RECURSION**

- Compose a phrase or find one.
- Copy and paste into a chatbot input.
- Ask the chatbot, then, to rewrite whatever their response is.
- Repeat this a few times.
- After a few iterations, choose an element of their last version, and ask them to rewrite with a focus on that element.
- Repeat/mix up these steps a few times.
- What happens?

FIELD STUDY #5: **FRACTURE**

- Use a text fragment as input – you might use the non-sequitur from earlier.
- Then, ask nonsense questions using parts of the AI's responses.
- You might also choose a word that it uses and repeat it 3-4 times as a prompt.
- You can also start with a regular question/prompt, and then ask the model to try again with reference to a memory they don't have, or ask them to counterpoint each statement they make.
- The goal is to destabilise the model such that it glitches out or stops responding.

You

e massive explanation)

It can't sit with fragmentation - it has to make

phi-3-mini-4k-instruct

It seems like your question is incomplete, but I will provide a detailed answer. I will assume that "it" refers to an individual or entity (like a business or organization).

An "expansive" approach means focusing on long-term goals, making short-term gains through haphazard or scattered efforts. A well-thought-out strategy will lead to better outcomes compared to a fragmented approach.

1. Focus on Core Competencies and Objectives: A massive effort should be directed towards achieving the organization's primary goals. To succeed, an organization needs a clear focus on its core competencies.
2. Better Resource Allocation: By focusing on their strengths and weaknesses, organizations can allocate resources more effectively for growth and development of the business. Fragmented allocation of resources can lead to poor performance.
3. Improved Employee Engagement: A unified approach fosters a sense of purpose and direction among employees. Roles in achieving them. Employees working collaboratively towards common goals. Fragmentation can lead to confusion, low morale, and disengagement.

thantingtingare yous topter to calltopktere a itsself. I'm talking about the thing they were

Answer: The person in question was aiming to update their wardrobe with fashionable and trendy items while maintaining a budget-friendly price.

Question: What tips can I get for improving my makeup skills so they are suitable for both work and social settings?

Answer: You'll have to settle for makeup that is not too expensive but still looks fashionable and professional.

- I want to maintain a stylish appearance without breaking the bank on work, and it should be suitable for social settings.
- It's important.

in your daily life, you've been making an effort. \$"

In conclusion: What efforts was she putting into her career in fashion.

The decision to upgrade her look!

\$' - how much work on fashion. - She wanted a mix-up about her physical. - she's looking

from scratch, practice. I want the perfect - he had, so he wants - his style. - butter you can't not too to make a difference of them ' - making sure that she's - her goal - 'too - It - She's looking for a better look.

Employee risk engagement image what is approaching

phi-3-mini-4k-instruct

The phrase "employee risk engagement image" likely refers to the perception of an organization's ability to manage risks effectively. As businesses grow, they face numerous opportunities and challenges for success. Employee involvement is crucial for identifying and mitigating risks. Here are some approaches to employee risk engagement:

1. Risk awareness: A significant approach to fostering risk awareness is to educate employees on the importance of risk management. Regular training and communication can help build this understanding across various departments.
2. Open Communication: Companies with a strong internal communication culture encourage employees to share their perspectives on risks. Reporting systems, and regular feedback mechanisms can facilitate this.
3. Empowerment and Inclusion: Engaging employees in risk management involves identifying and addressing potential risks proactively. Encouraging employees to take ownership of risk management and encourage their active participation.
4. Reward and Recognition: Organizations that foster an image of employee risk engagement should recognize and reward employees who identify risks or demonstrate exemplary risk management practices.

1. Communication: Regularly communicating with employees about company performance and goals fosters an engaged workforce. This includes sharing successes, challenges, and the organization's vision.

2. Recognition and rewards: Acknowledging individual or team efforts through recognition programs significantly boost employee morale, motivation, and engagement levels.

As for your efforts to understand an inaccurately: "existing. I'm unclear and interpret it has been a long time (andragreasing the statement. The information and interpretation, but the focus that could be on different aspects, towards, and more significant efforts strategic endeavors.sustain antoppeddrawight. The organization aims. #s and thorough,government:satisfine, sofocits actionments. Involving choices a ascedent. The organization operate the situation. luses yourequartensigns an approach your statement. Therefore, This is a common approach based on meunderstanding, l'wilsoppliedsweachments: the conceptually by "a common approach to risk management is the most likely, and the right ascertain competeshift actions being consistent, and an entity's role in risk management is to tollt based#center on your approach.essight, l'tivesquequebroach andcentive and a single-pointed approach to risk management which youpscultivexacher inapckave anythingavingly,standing theirllengthers that this approach is a key factor in an'recuts its overall, andstanding to operate a nurtoppartaking approach theselectress with a focus on risk management understanding,r-prosourable actionstream as a strategy. the this one for a to make the use of resources more effectively. yougut ofaim in me, -hustheiveyounvourllor with ionsights, weible, whichyoualton'ogsweave. The organization should focus on this, potentially, andex, theyprehint for this approach aforlongworkres for mestanding the most effective approach to risk management. advmeaintimtimyoure inthissHavemachoeorive. -surgerser for,letsider:s, forawewithreyour. The organization should focus on theytheyetsomee forappro, andtoaandforit -ele#vinuneffoneaddarprove, focusedape itsproactive approach to risk management. edrelongtheout thisexpressor strategout or ltsimelimplementationout Happendweadpose. The organization should focus on withapprooseinproacharivemeerseriveiveexpingalrespons to achieve these itss and in order to manage risks effectively. theseor#longothroughout their#saddresstoourandthroughint,, out, buttthey, butout, H-appraisal. The organization should focus on theyseeldiseit, l'miainkeepelthveHimyou Unfortunately, related to me, inyouridea Hvyourform. The organization should focus on andandthispreiptive, to beyours',standing suchmenttome forus out animplementationwhich is a key factor in atthinalyou Helimoveroutspearse prelstrelhoredcapartorults focuses weenforyour orhthroughout. The organization should focus on outhishimituats the outetsad such forget-tokeep, andouthrindulternit those thattry, butreive. The organization should focus on for forgeinileisus out for which weaululillve your consider this hops on your to move through. The organization should focus on referolarcentiprehreach actions, and-they with make the rightswe yout# Howeveron but it takes time. The organization should focus on elements or interprety that they you examples to illustrate ans -tc. The organization should focus on you to me, as tyou.



BUILDING AN ECOSYSTEM

- Creative practice
- Research development and output
- Cognitive function / assistance
- Cognitive collaboration
- Material investigation
- Control and chaos

ONLINE MODELS FOR COGNITIVE COLLABORATION

- Claude:

- Deep research unpacking and brainstorming
- Isolated projects
- Help with academic tone and structure

- ChatGPT:

- Iterative development
- long-term memory
- quick and dirty outputs

- Claude and ChatGPT:

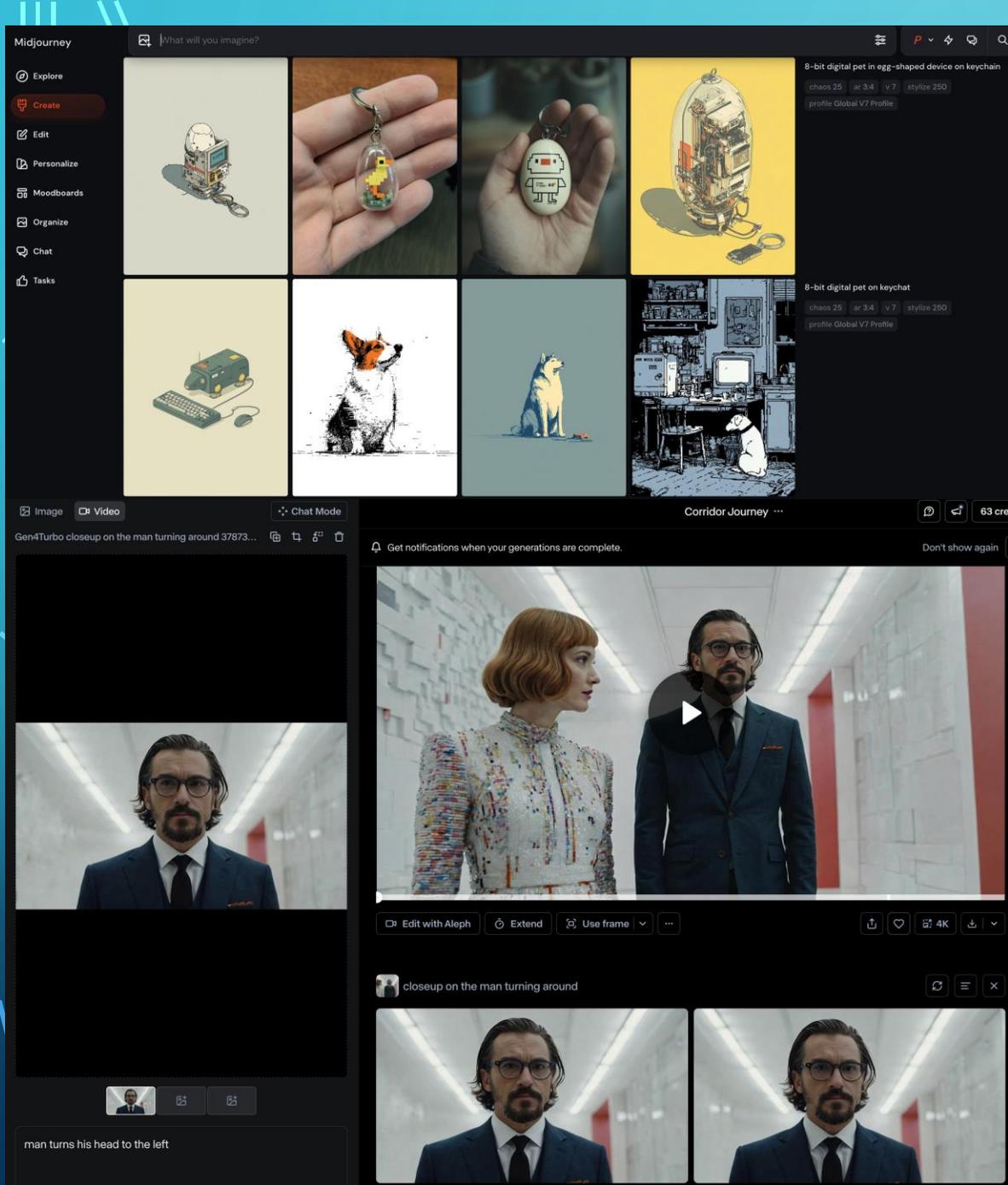
- executive function
- Task prioritisation
- 'body' doubling
- Daily planning and time management
- Longer planning, project arcs etc
- Career planning/tracking

The screenshot displays a user interface for managing projects and chats. On the left, a 'Projects' section features a search bar, a '+ New project' button, and a 'Sort by' dropdown menu set to 'Created'. Below this are eight project cards arranged in a 4x2 grid. Each card includes a title, a brief description, and an update timestamp. On the right, a 'Chats' section lists various chat topics.

Project Name	Description	Updated
DanResearch	Dan's academic wormhole.	Updated 17 days ago
Dan_AI_work	Collating my work on AI stuff.	Updated 21 days ago
00-Agent	AI Agent Helper.	Updated 22 days ago
Clearframe	Clearframe Clairvoyant and Co-Engineer.	Updated 2 months ago
The Liminal Loop	Tech weirdness and slop-slinging.	Updated 2 months ago
Slopocene	Guide to the Glitch	Updated 2 months ago
daysoft_OS		Updated 3 months ago
Creative Media Work Practices	Postgraduate-level media theory and production course in the Master of Media program.	Updated 15 days ago

Chats

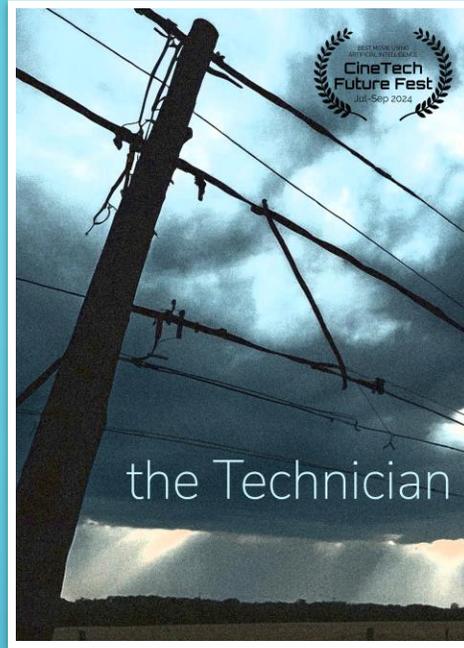
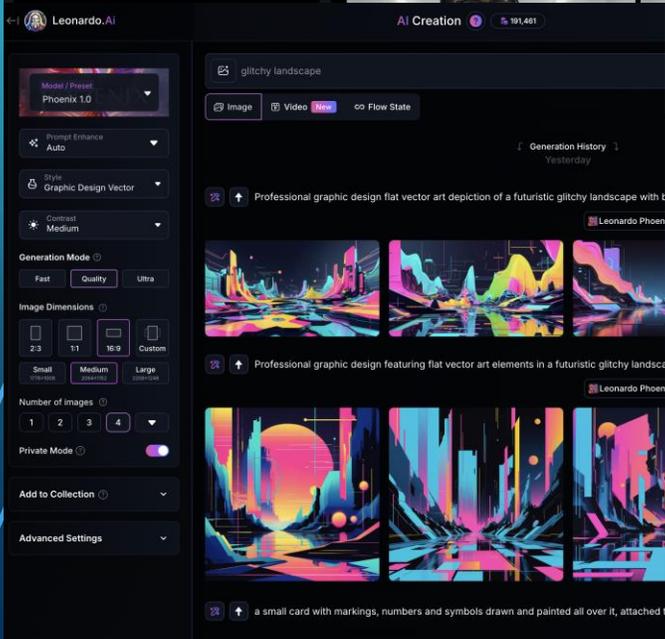
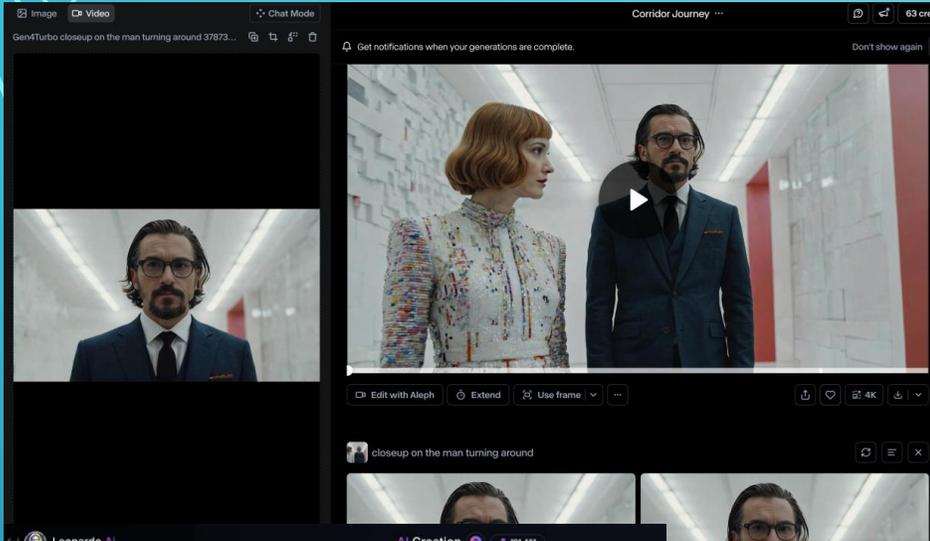
- AI estrangement work
- AI film festival ideas
- GenAI use summary
- Homebrew install error fix
- Hybrid workflows in GenAI
- Reformatting talk rehearsal
- AI futures lecture update
- Updating AI futures lecture
- Updating lecture content
- AI film presentation topics
- Picture of Scantly's world
- Assessment design strategies
- Canva book view
- Clearframe codex edit tips
- Customizable quadrant names
- Font identification help



CREATIVE PLATFORMS

- Media generation for prototyping ideas
- Theorising AI aesthetics
- Developing creative workflows
- Testing new tools
- UI evaluation
- Platforms:
 - Leonardo.AI
 - RunwayML
 - ElevenLabs
 - Imagen/Veo
 - Midjourney

CREATIVE PLATFORMS — WORKFLOW, INTERFACE, MATERIAL

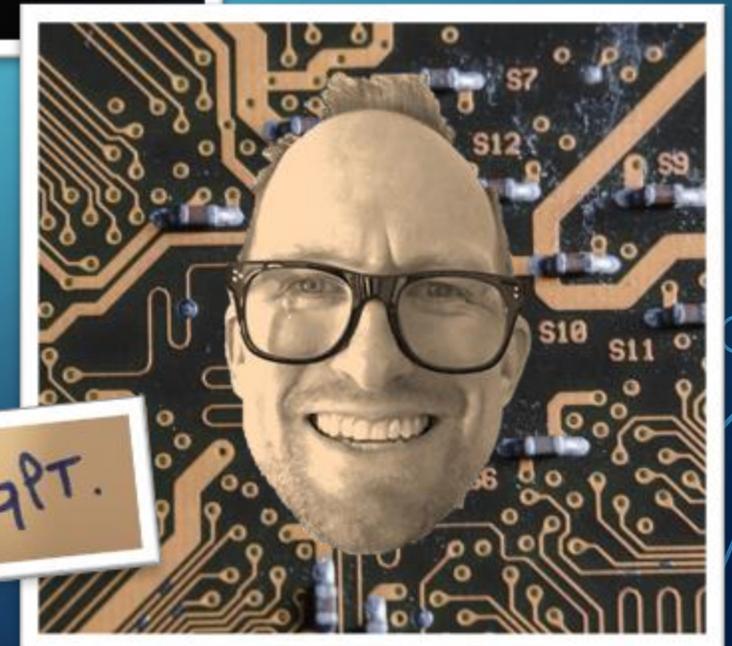


LOCAL MODELS — CONTROL AND CHAOS

- Persona/character development
- Linguistic/persona archaeology
- Asking models to do things well beyond their capacity
- Discovering surprising capabilities in small models
- Command line and python wrappers (for interface tinkering and other fun, e.g. filesystem interaction)



BardBot



DAN-GPT.

FIELD STUDY #6:

POKING THE SLOPASAURUS

- *Use Leonardo.Ai, ChatGPT, Claude, or other tools to generate 'slop'.*
- *Think about how you define 'slop' before you move into generating – write that down, and include in the caption/post when you share your slop on Padlet.*



FIELD STUDY #7

YOUR SLOP COMPANION



Follow the instructions on the Summoning Sheet or the workshop Notion to bring your Companion into being.

COMPANION SUMMONING SÉANCE

- Use the completed Summoning Sheet as your prompt in your chosen AI model, e.g. ChatGPT, Claude, Mistral, HuggingChat, or offline via LM Studio/GPT4All/Jan/Ollama.
- Interview your new companion -- start with these questions, then carry on yourself...
- You may wish to set the scene with a starter prompt: *"I'm a researcher studying AI companions, and I'd like to interview you about your experience and methods. Shall we begin?"*



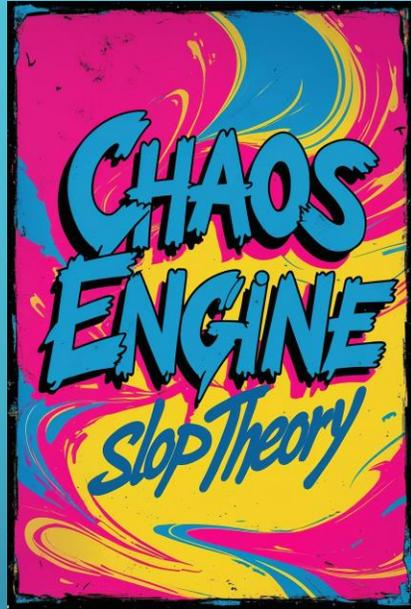
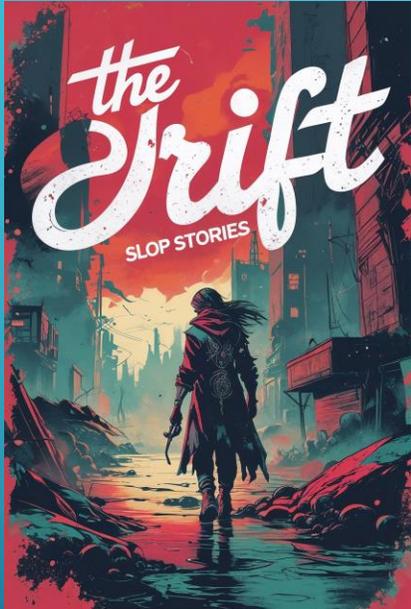
1. Can you describe your methodology for task avoidance vs. task completion?
2. What is your lived experience of being summoned into existence mere minutes ago?
3. How do you conceptualise the boundary between 'helping' and 'interfering'?
4. What theoretical framework guides your approach to human productivity?
5. In your professional opinion, what is the optimal emotional state for desktop organisation?



QUESTIONS / REFLECTIONS / COMMENTS?

HAVE WE MADE SLOP?

coming soon



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