

CARLETON UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY



WINTER 2026 *Colloquium*

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Creativity, AI, and Agentic Scaffolding

The recent prominence of AI technology, and its apparent application across many creative domains, has many worried about the future of human creativity. In this paper I consider and develop a worry regarding the impact of AI on the exercise of creative agency. I argue that the most compelling version of this worry should appeal to what I call agentic scaffolding: AI that can scaffold the exercise of creative agency in flexible, context-sensitive, goal-directed ways. Such scaffolding threatens the development of human creative agency, and the flourishing of aesthetic community, by threatening to usurp the exercise of creative agency, and thus the production of meaningful art, by humans. But agentic scaffolding is not necessarily bad for creative agency: I argue that whether AI undermines or enhances human creativity will depend upon the uses to which it is put, and upon how and where in the creative process such scaffolding changes how and whether we exercise creative agency.

FRIDAY, MARCH 6

1:30 P.M.

RICHCRAFT HALL 2420R