

Some Deliberations on the Role of AI in Research and Education

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Abstract:

AI has the potential to severely disrupt how we conduct research and education. Whether the disruption is positive or negative depends on us. One thing we cannot afford to do is ignore it, as this powerful technology is here to stay. In this talk, I will briefly explore some potentially ground-breaking applications of AI in the domains of research and education, both within academia but also beyond it (e.g. GLAM institutions). I will argue that there is at present quite a bit of hype surrounding AI, particularly the approach known as 'generative AI'. Truly radical transformations of the way we carry out research and impart education will have to wait for more mature versions of the technology, especially those that successfully marry together symbolic and neural processing, but also for the maturation of other technologies that enable the collection of more fine-grained data.