LiDA Colloquium Series

SPRING 2026 PROGRAM

Welcome to the Spring 2026 LiDA series. Once again, we continue to focus our series on discussing implications of generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) for education - given the rapid changes in this field and its potential to transform education across the board. Each Zoom session will include a few panelists offering short "conversation starters", followed by small group conversations in break-out rooms. Recordings of all "conversation starters" and reporting back from the small group conversations will be posted on the LiDA website.

Join us for any or all of the following virtual events:

Monday, February 9, 3:30-4:30 pm EST: *Exploring Our Metaphors for AI*
Metaphors, or analogies, play a big role whenever we try to understand a complex concept or phenomenon - whether we realize it or not. They help us make sense of new concepts, but they also have limitations that can lead to misconceptions - especially if we remain unaware of those limitations. AI has been compared with a tool, an assistant, a thinking partner - just to mention a few. In this session, after a few conversation starters share and analyze metaphors they have found helpful, we will break out into small groups to share and examine what our own metaphors of AI are, aided also by an AI tool, with the goal of better understanding their explanatory power as well as potential dangers. Register here.

Monday, March 2, 3:30-4:30 pm EST: *AI Implications for Human Relationships and Development*
The growing use of AI by students (and people!) of all ages, combined with the increased use of virtual communications through social media and online education, has raised questions about the implications this may have for human relationships and human development. This LiDA Colloquium will be devoted to examining these issues, informed by considerations shared by K-12 educators as well as emerging research in human development and counseling. Register here.

Wednesday, April 8, 3:30-4:30 pm EST: *Dealing with AI Trust Issues*

AI is raising trust-related concerns in many areas. For instance, AI developers may worry that competitors are not fully following safety and ethical standards and, as a result, feel pressured to lower their own standards just to stay competitive. In education, some teachers and students are experiencing mutual distrust and suspicion about the use of AI in academic work. In research, scholars increasingly wonder whether the references they encounter in publications actually exist. More broadly, some people report turning to AI rather than to other humans when dealing with personal issues, because they are unsure whether their privacy would be respected by human companions. In this way, AI is creating trust challenges not only between humans and AI, but also among humans themselves. This session explores these emerging trust issues and what they mean in practice. Register here.

For more information and registration for each event, visit our LiDA website at:
https://www.rochester.edu/warner/lida/programs/lida-colloquium-series/