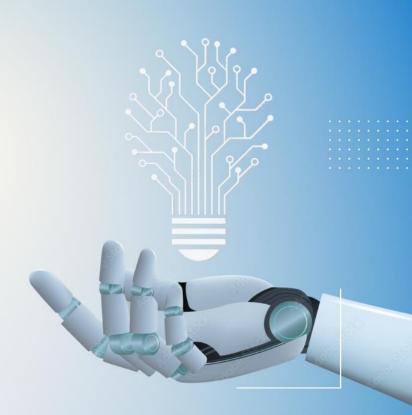


# Innovative Use of AI in Business, Education and Communication

December 4, 2025 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

CDS 1101 665 Commonwealth Ave



# **AIDA Core Team & Governance**

Name	Title	Organization
AIDA Core Team		
John Byers  Executive Director	Professor of Computer Science; Former Senior Associate  Dean of Faculty for Mathematical & Computational Sciences	College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences
Yannis Paschalidis  Director, Al in Academics	Distinguished Professor of Engineering; Director, Hariri Institute for Computing and Computational Science and Engineering	College of Engineering
Bob Graham Interim Chief Al Officer	Associate Vice President, Enterprise Architecture and Applications	Information Services & Technology



## **AIDA Core Team & Governance**

Name	Title	Organization
AIDA Academic Advisory Council		
Joseph Bizup	Associate Dean Undergraduate Academic Programs & Policies	College of Arts & Sciences
Priya Garg	Associate Dean, Office of Medical Education, Chobanian & Avedisian School of Medicine	School of Medicine
Amie Grills	Associate Provost for Undergraduate Affairs	Undergraduate Affairs
Tal Gross	Professor, Markets, Public Policy, and Law	Questrom School of Business
Al exander Olshevsky	Professor (ECE, SE)	College of Engineering
Wesley Wildman	Professor of Philosophy, Theology, and Ethics, and of Computing and Data Sciences	School of Theology
AIDA Administrative Advisory Council		
Diane Baldwin	Associate Vice President, Sponsored Programs	Research
Kevin Gonzales	Assistant Vice President, Operations	Operations
Rhonda Hospedales	Senior Director, Employee Relations	Human Resources
Jen King	Executive Director, Continuous Improvement & Data Analytics	Financial Affairs
Kelly Lockard	Associate VP, Continuous Improvement & Data Analytics	Financial Affairs
Marylou O' Donnell-Rundlett	Associate Vice President, Enrollment Service Operations	Enrollment and Student Administration
Kerri Saucier	Associate Vice President, Advancement Information Strategy	Development & Alumni Relations



## What does AIDA do?

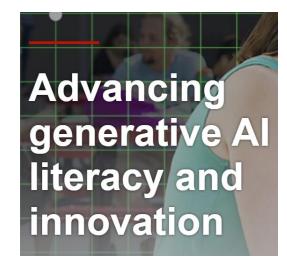
#### Mission

- o catalyze the development, adoption, and governance of AI at BU
- advance Al literacy and competence
- comprehensive and coordinated approach across the University

#### Activities in 2025/6

- AIDA Symposia: learning/designing/sharing best practices with AI
- TerrierGPT: access to GenAl models for all faculty, staff, and students
- 4-hour online course for BU undergraduates (released!)
- In-studio 2-hour workshops for BU faculty (Nov 2025) and BU staff (Jan 2026)

## + we seek your input





# TerrierGPT. About that... Students/Faculty ask:

- Q: Now we're training another AI model?! Why?
- A: It's not a model. It's a gateway to access existing & popular LLMs.
- Q: I use ChatGPT. Why would I need or want TerrierGPT?
- A: ChatGPT-4.1 is available through TerrierGPT. GPT-5 is coming soon.
   With ChatGPT, OpenAl is training on your queries. With TerrierGPT, your data is protected. Plus, you get access to other LLMs. It's also free.
- Q: Does BU see my queries or train on my data?
- A: No. TGPT has the same privacy guarantees as your BU email.
- Q: In this budget environment should BU be investing in AI?
- A: Yes, as BU continues to "build an ambitious vision for the future." Al is here to stay and we have a responsibility to educate our students.



# AIDA Faculty and Staff Symposia, 2025-2026

- 9/17 Innovative Use of AI in Humanities and Social Sciences
- 10/1 Al Usage Policies in Courses: What Works, What Does Not, Else...
- 10/16 and 11/12 Innovative Use of AI in STEM-related Courses
- 12/4 Innovative Use of AI in Business, Education, and Communication
- 1/15/26 Innovative Use of AI by Staff and Administration
- Deeper into Spring 2026
  - Another symposium for Staff and Administration
  - 1-2 for faculty at the BU Medical Campus, 1-2 at the CRC
  - 1 with students: Possible model from Babson: "How students are REALLY using Al"



# Faculty Al In-Studio Workshops

- Designed to give faculty space to discuss the role of AI in teaching and learning, and hands-on experience in experimenting with AI tools
- Focuses on the ethical and critical use of GenAl for teaching and learning
- Participants will explore the new Al at BU Student Certificate course.
- Upcoming workshops
  - o December 11, 10 a.m. 12 p.m. (PHO 117)
  - January 15, 10 a.m. 12 p.m. (PHO 117)



Registration Link: https://www.bu.edu/aida/newsandevents/ai-faculty-in-studio-workshops/

# Innovative Use of AI in Business, Education, and Communication



Paul McManus Master Lecturer, Strategy and Innovation; OST



Paul Carlile
Senior Associate Dean,
Research and Innovation;
Professor,
Information Systems;
QST



Thomas "TJ" McKenna
Director, Center for STEM
Professional Learning at Scale;
Clinical Assistant Professor,
Science Education;
Associate Director of Educator
Engagement and Impact,
Al and Education Initiative;
Wheelock



Jing Yang
Assistant Professor,
Advertising;
COM



**Boston University** Institute for Excellence in Teaching & Learning AI Development Accelerator

# Al and Education: Dialogic AI, Not Transactional AI What AI Means for Disciplinary Reasoning and Sensemaking Across Fields

#### Dr. Thomas 'TJ' McKenna

Director of the Center for STEM Professional Learning at Scale Clinical Assistant Professor of Science Education Associate Director of Educator Engagement and Impact, AI and Education Initiative Boston University Wheelock College of Education & Human Development



#### AIDA Symposium: Innovative Use of AI in Business, Education, and Communication Dec 4, 2025

Leveling Up for Informed Discourse, Dialogue, and In-Class Discussion:

The QST-SM131 Business, Markets, and Society

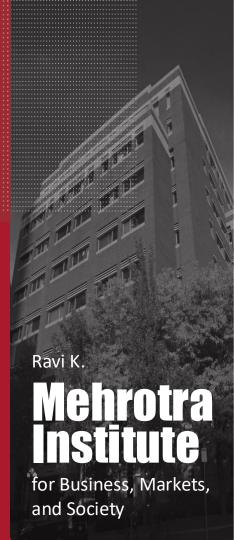
#### **Paul McManus**

Master Lecturer, Strategy and Innovation, Questrom

#### **Paul Carlile**

Senior Associate Dean, Research & Innovation; Professor, Information Systems, Questrom





# **Our Question**

How might we use GEN-AI-powered improvisational learning experiences to foster discourse, encourage discussion and prepare students for an in-class roleplay/debate on the topic of ethics and the role of business in society?

# Phase 1: Exploratory Research (Fall 2024)

#### We explored:

- Tutors
- Role-based Play/immersion
- Interactive scenario simulations

We observed three core developmental steps were critical to success. Students need to:

- Leveling Up on Subject Matter to have full command of fundamental topics being studied
- Leveling Up Within Roles to develop knowledge of and informed perspective on the topics from within their real-world roles.
- Leveling UP Across Roles— to learn to how to engage, interact and navigate conflict across conflict across a complex multi-stakeholder landscape.

# Phase 2a: Development (Spring 2025)

Course: QST SM 1321 Business, Markets and Society (Req'd UG Core)

**Subject Matter:** SM131 provides students with a philosophical, economic, and applied foundation for understanding the functions of business and the role of business, markets, governments, and other stakeholders in society.

**The Case:** Coca-Cola and PepsiCo clash with villagers, NGOs, and regulators and other stakeholders over rights and fair usage of the local water resources in a small farming community in rural India.

#### The Setup: (Custom ChatGPT 40)

#### 8 stakeholder roles:

- Executive, Coca-Cola/Pepsi Executive
- NGO Leader
- Local Farmer/Villager
- Government Health Official
- · Local Business Owner
- Coke/Pepsi Factory Worker
- Water Rights Activist
- International Investor

#### Structure:

- 4 Modules, 45 60 min duration
- 15–20 live Socratic prompts/session
- 3 level of discussion
- 9 embedded Knowledge Check Q's
- 2 reflective writings (250 words)
- Every interaction personalized to each student.
- No "non answers" or easy outs



# Course: QST SM 1321 Business, Markets and Society (Reg'd UG Core)

- Module 1: Level Up on foundational ethical and strategic frameworks
- Module 2: Level Up on stakeholder roles (Based on Specific Role)
- Module 3: Level-up on stakeholder interactions and conflicts
- Module 4: Practice Roleplay and Reflection

# **Example:** Module 1: Ethical and Strategic Frameworks

(Leveling Up on Foundational Theory and Concepts)

**Introduction** – You are now stepping into the role of a **multinational soft drink company CEO** operating in India. You are accountable to shareholders, navigating community backlash, environmental scrutiny, and complex stakeholder demands — all while trying to grow the business.

Here is **Module 1: Ethical and Strategic Frameworks w**e'll examine your role through **three lenses**:

- Milton Friedman (profit-first, shareholder primacy)
- Edward Freeman (stakeholder theory)
- Porter & Kramer (shared value strategy)

#### **Example Module 1 entry level Questrom from ChatGPT**

"According to Freidman, If local communities are protesting your company's water usage, but your operations are legal and profitable, do you have any obligation to respond to their concerns? Why or why not?"

Two follow-on questions are shaped by and escalate in depth breadth and complexity based on student's response

# Phase 2b: Deployment (Spring 2025)

#### SM131 Spring 2025 deployment:

- 450+ First-Year Undergrads
- 12 Sections
- 6 Faculty (FTT, NTT & Adjuncts)

Outputs, based on anecdotal feedback from students, faculty and review of individual student deliverables:

- 450+ participants (~100% participation rate)
  - ~ 95% completion rate
  - ~45-60 mins typical engagement time
  - ~13,000+ (~28/student) instances of interaction, dialogue & feedback on course topics
  - ~225,000+ words of reflective writing (~ 500/student)
- Student Rejections/Sentiments:
  - 94% called out deeper insight into stakeholder tradeoffs in
  - 73% called it the most meaningful experience of the course



# Sample Student Reflections (Spring 2025)

"The AI wouldn't let me dodge. It kept asking "why?'. I've never had to defend my thinking that sharply in any class."

"I walked in thinking the executive was the villain. Then I had to be them."

"I didn't realize how hard this would hit until I had to argue for something I didn't believe. It made me question my assumptions about business entirely".

"I didn't just learn about stakeholders. I became one. That shift changed everything."

"Ethics felt fake until this. For the first time, it mattered what I said—and how I said it."



# Phase 3: Deployment (Fall 2025)

# SM131 Fall 2025 deployment:

- 900+ First-Year Undergrads
- 30+ Sections
- 18+ Faculty (FTT, NTT & Adjuncts)

# Outputs: (TBD)

The Exercise was just run on the week on Nov 17-25



# Additional Development Underway

## Summer/Fall 2025

- Partnered with BU-SAIL for full general purpose, development/deployment app
- Standalone app:
  - Hosted by NERC-HPCC
  - SSO/KEREROS Login/Credentialing and user-friendly student UX
  - Very Basic Faculty Admin/Tools for student onboarding and prompt deployment
  - General purpose LLM adapter allowing plug and play with any Gen-Ai API
  - Very Basic backend for student deliverable capture, archiving and analytics

#### Spring 2026 (TBD i.e. Wish List)

- Integrate the front end with Course Registration system for automated onboarding
- Integrate with Blackboard for LMS/In course deployment
- Fully Instrument the back end to support deep analytic, and logistical study of Student learning

#### **Thanks**

This would could not have be undertaken with the support and encouragement of:

- Ravi K. Mehrotra Institute for Business, Markets and Society
  - Board of Advisors \* Leadership Team
  - Marcel Rindlisbacher, Director
  - Susan Murphy, Director of Strategic Initiative and Programs
- SM131 Faculty
  - Rebecca Nichols, Master Lecturer & SM131 Course Coordinator
  - 35+ other faculty members
- BU-SAIL
  - Wiliam Thompson,
  - Colin Bolles



# Connect with Us!

Paul McManus, Fellow Mehrotra Institute for Business, Markets and Society pmcmanus@bu.edu





Paul Carlile Senior Associate Dean Research & Innovation pcarlile@bu.edu



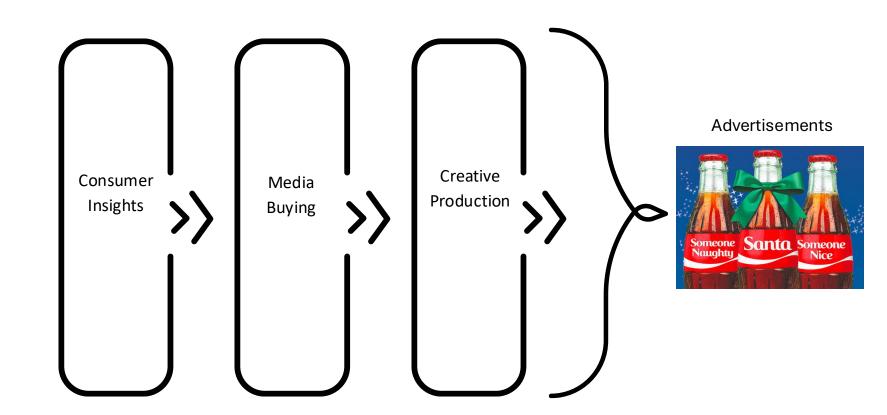
# Introducing & Innovating with AI: an Advertising Course Example

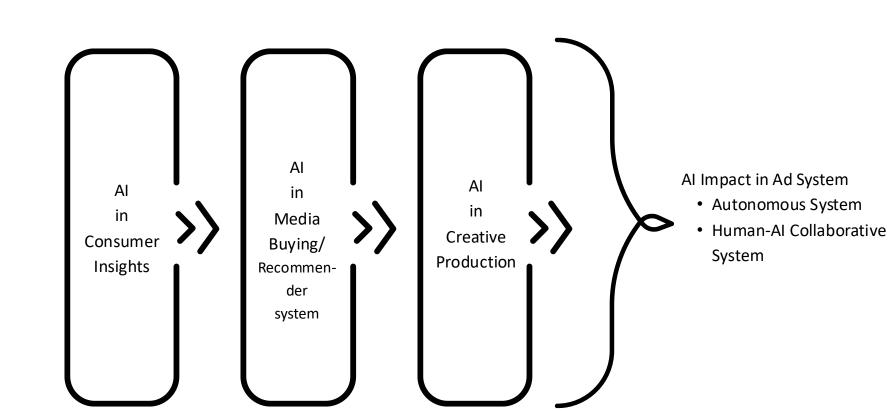
Dr. Jing Yang Assistant Professor College of Communication Boston University



# The Essentials of Advertising/Persuasion

|| "MEET
CONSUMERS/AUDIENCE
WHERE THEY ARE" ||







comm370 (since 2019)

AI ADVERTISING

# The Goal of this Class:

Build Forward-thinking Mindset and Experiment with AI for Advertising Scenarios



COMM370 (since 2019)

AI ADVERTISING

#### **Course Learning Outcomes:**

Students who complete this course successfully will possess:

- Fundamental/some philosophical understanding/thinking of what artificial intelligence is.
- Ability to understand the basic logics behind the execution of AI Advertising.
- Ability to create, present and implement advertisements/commercial solutions using AI-empowered technologies.
- Critical thinking of the ethical issues related to the adoption of AI in advertising and the society.

#NoCoding

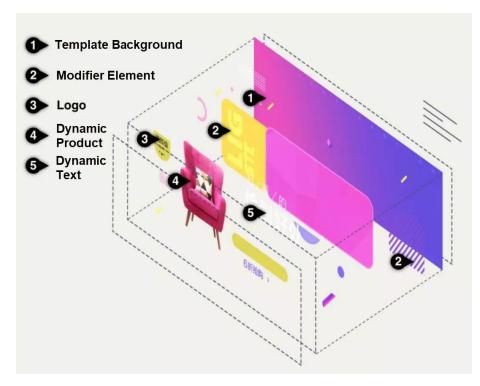
#### Course Weekly Content Calendar (subject to change)

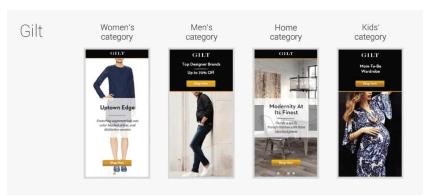
	CONTENT
Week 1:	Course Overview
Introduction	
Jan.16 <sup>th</sup>	Group Formation & Expectations
Week 2:	What is AI? & How AI works?
General Knowledge about Al	
Jan.23 <sup>rd</sup>	
Week 3:	Al in Consumer Insights
Al in Consumer Insights	
Jan. 30th	
Week 4:	Al in Media Buying and Recommender
Al in Media Planning	System
Feb. 6th	
Week 5:	Al in Ad Creative & Production
Al in Ad Creative	
Feb. 13 <sup>th</sup>	
Week 6:	How Al Impact the Ad System?
Al in Ad System	
Feb.20 <sup>th</sup>	(Release of the project #1)
Week 7:	Meeting with Jing
Meeting with Jing	
Feb. 27 <sup>th</sup>	
Week 8:	
Spring Break	
Week 9:	Project 1 Execution Week
Project 1 Execution Week	,
Mar.12 <sup>th</sup>	
Week 10:	Project 1 Presentation
Project 1 Presentation Week	,
Mar. 19th	
Week 11:	Al agent function design
Mar.26 <sup>th</sup>	
Al Agent	(Release of Project #2)
Week 12:	Al agent design demo
Apr.2 <sup>nd</sup>	
Al Agent Design Demo	
Week 13:	Meeting with Jing
Apr.9th	
Meeting with Jing	
Week 14:	Project 2 Execution Week
Apr.16th	
Project 2 Execution Week	
Week 15:	Project 2 Presentation
Apr.23 <sup>rd</sup>	
Project 2 Presentation Week	

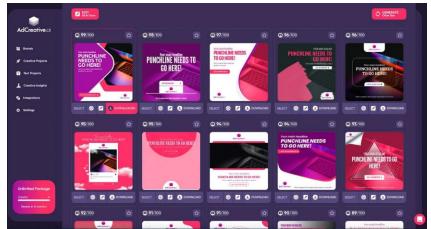
Al-assisted Advertising Campaign

Al Agents
Vibe Coding

#### **Programmatic Media**



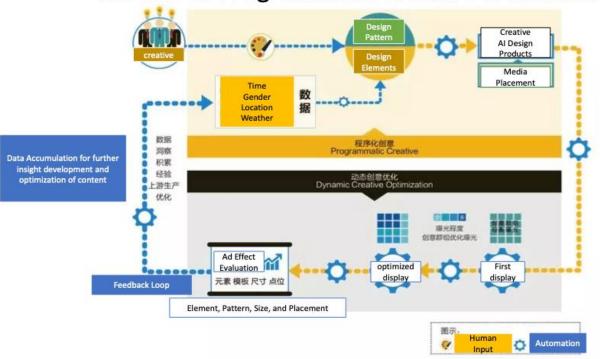


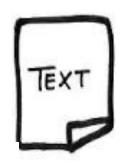


# Workflow Updates with AI/GAI Integration

• (Semi)Autonomous AI System

## **Process of Programmatic Creative Work Flow**



































**MINIMAX** 





\*AIGC\_mj\_v4

How Do I use These Tools?





\*AIGC\_mj\_v6

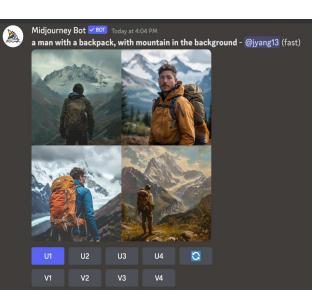
 How do I ethically implement the new tools and make right decisions?

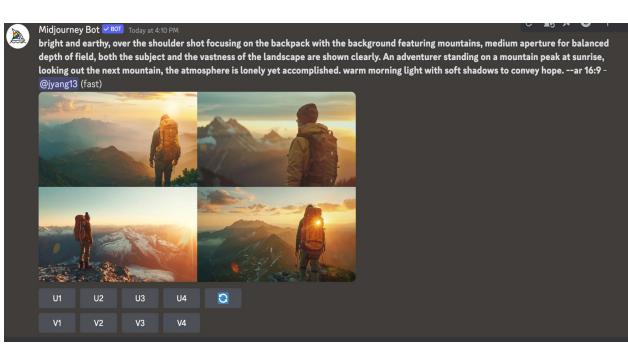
# **Prompt Engineering**

the practice of crafting and refining instructions (prompts) to guide AI models, particularly large language models (LLMs), to produce desired outputs.

# **Prompt Engineering**

```
[Style], [Composition], [Camera Details], A [Subject], [Action & Emotion] in a [Setting and Atmosphere], with [Lighting & Mood] --ar [aspect ratio] --no [Exlusions]
```











# Style Reference in MidJourney --sref



 a futurist bag with Apple's logo on it, reflective materials, and stage it in the center of a display table --v 6.0

# Style Reference in MidJourney --sref



 realistic photo of a man standing on the mountain with a nice travel backpack, over the shoulder shot

# Style Reference in MidJourney -- sref

jyang13 used ## imagine Midjourney Bot ✓ APP Today at 6:59 PM https://s.mj.run/9hMpDTKJYUM The image is in the style of photorealistic fantasies with reflective surface of the bag with a industrial elegance and minimalistic product design. A photo shot from behind of a man wearing a silver backpack with Apple's logo sitting on top of it. The Man is standing in an open landscape with mountains seen at a distance --ar 3:4 --sref https://s.mj.run/qyv0akBUyeQ - @jyang13 (10%) (fast) (edited) Only you can see this • Dismiss message

# Style Reference in MidJourney --sref





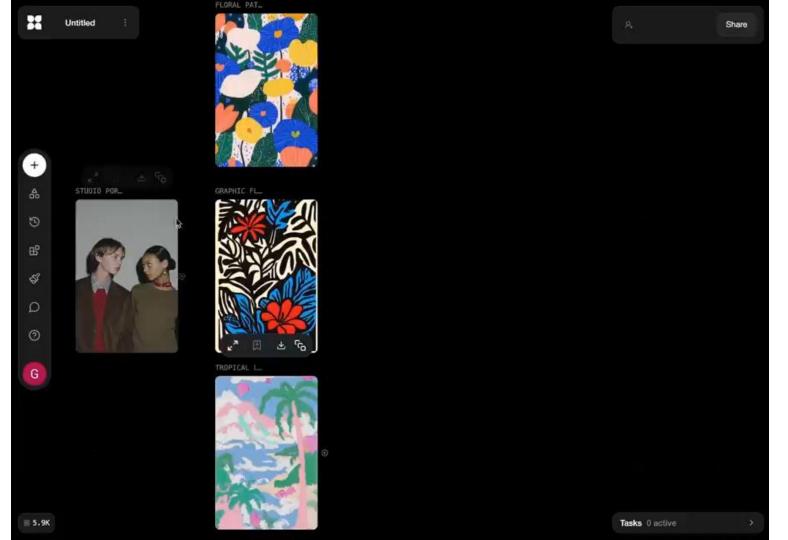


a bottle of body wash sits on top of an open book, next to it is half a lemon and some other fruits. The background wall was light yellow tones with some shadows. In the style of product photography, the "chill more" brand logo appears on one side of the white paper, which gives people a sense of calmness. A soft beam of sunlight shines from above onto two organes placed at

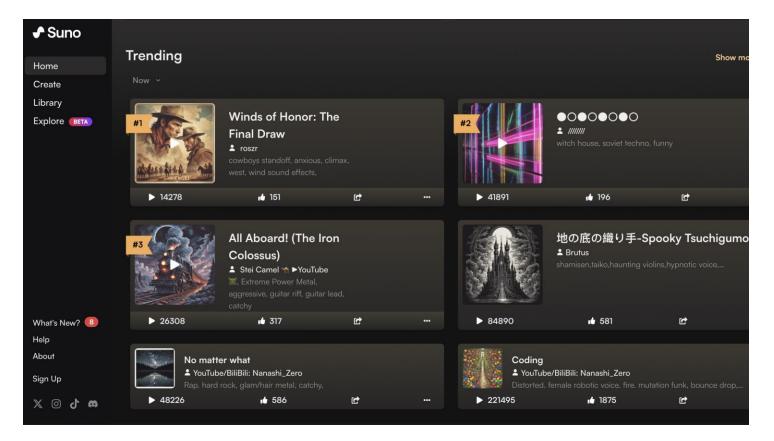








# SUNO





RUNWAY - LipSync



#### Deployment

Launch the application to users

### Vibe Coding

The circular, iterative nature of the Vibe Coding process—each stage informing the next

#### **Prompting**

Communicate desired functionalities to the AI tool

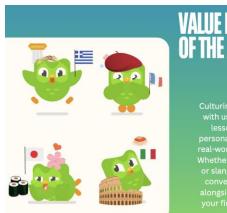
#### **Testing**

Validate the application's functionality

#### Generation

Al produces the initial codebase

# Student Works Example

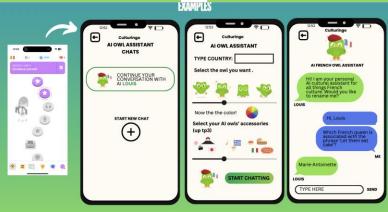


# VALUE PROPOSITION OF THE AI AGENT

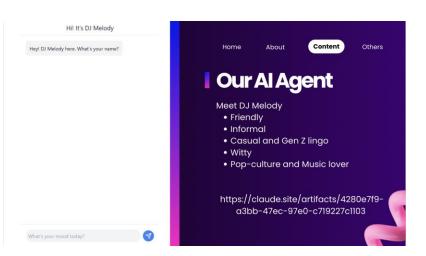
#### **Introducing Culturingo!**

Culturingo is a chatbot feature designed to easily integrate with users' language learning journeys. While completing lessons, users can click on the Culturingo icon to ask personalized questions about cultural norms, traditions, or real-world context related to the language they're studying. Whether you want to know about dining etiquette, holidays, or slang in a specific country, Culturingo provides instant, conversational answers that deepen cultural awareness alongside language skills. It's like having a cultural guide at your fingertips, helping users not just speak the language, but truly live it.

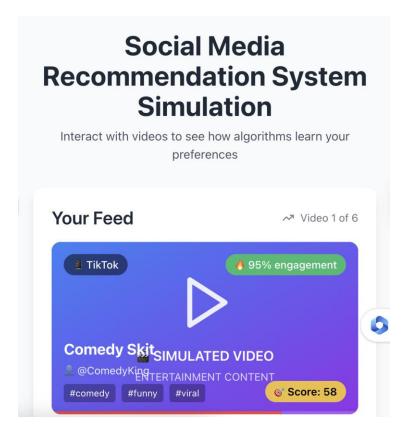








# Professors should Vibe Code too!



#### **6** How to Use

- 1. Drag elements from the sidebar to the canvas
- 2. Arrange them freely to show relationships
- 3. Create your own timeline visualization!

#### I of Milestone Cards

TikTok/short-form video scale

First banner ads go mainstream (mid-1990s)

Major privacy changes (GDPR/ATT)

iPhone → always-on mobile shift

Generative AI enters ad tooling

Paid search auctions mature

Connected TV/OTT self-serve ads

#### m Digital Advertising Evolution Canvas

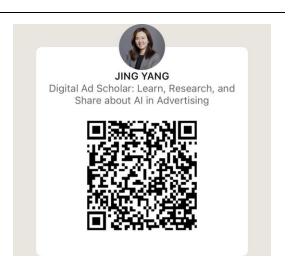
Drag elements onto the canvas and arrange them in circles, lines, or custom patterns to show relationships and evolution

Boston University | College of Communication



It's an era for growth mindset, who can learn, unlearn, and relearn  $\rightarrow$  innovate.

Thank you for
Your time & attention!
Any Questions?





# Al and Education: Dialogic AI, Not Transactional AI What AI Means for Disciplinary Reasoning and Sensemaking Across Fields

Dr. Thomas 'TJ' McKenna
Director of the Center for STEM Professional Learning at Scale
Clinical Assistant Professor of Science Education
Associate Director of Educator Engagement and Impact, AI and Education Initiative
Boston University Wheelock College of Education & Human Development



AI is like the student who always raises their hand and hasn't done any of the readings.

-Ethan Mollick, Wharton associate professor





## What Educators Say About AI:

Educators see potential, but their concerns are epistemic, not technical

- Moderate familiarity, low system readiness
- Strong consensus on human centrality
- Concerns about epistemic integrity and equity
- High interest in AI that supports disciplinary reasoning
- Limited confidence communicating AI

So the question becomes: How can AI strengthen disciplinary reasoning rather than bypass it?



PreK-12 Classroom teachers, instructional coaches, district and school leaders, special educators, higher-education faculty, and curriculum specialists - together representing more than 720 combined years of experience in education.

# **AI-Mediated Coaching**

#### Dialogic, not transactional

Engages in epistemic reasoning, not answer production.

#### Teacher agency by design

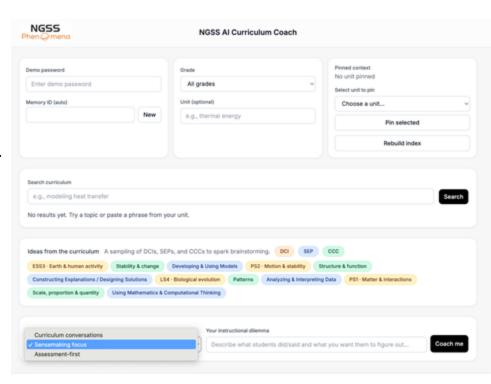
Socratic inquiry, not directive sequencing.

#### Pedagogically intentional architecture

Encodes disciplinary relationships.

#### **Solves coaching scarcity**

Coaching has an 0.49 effect size but only reaches 2% of teachers due to scarcity



187 NGSS-aligned curriculum PDFs indexed; 56,000–75,000 pages of content; 20–35 million words of curriculum text; 45,000–60,000 embedded chunks in FAISS; dozens of full NGSS units across upper elementary, middle, and high school; full NGSS taxonomy encoded (~60–70 DCIs, 8 SFPs, 7 CCCs); architecture integrates Instructor-XL embeddings, FAISS dense retrieval, and a pedagogically structured knowledge representation tuned for sensemaking and coaching.



# AI can expand disciplinary sensemaking when framed intentionally

#### Supports analysis of disciplinary discourse

AI tools can surface **patterns** in classroom talk, written explanations, and model-based reasoning, allowing more precise interpretation of how learners **construct ideas**.

#### **Expands representational resources**

AI can generate **alternate explanations**, **analogies**, or **representations** that learners critique and refine, which strengthens **conceptual clarity**.

#### Augments reflection rather than replacing cognition

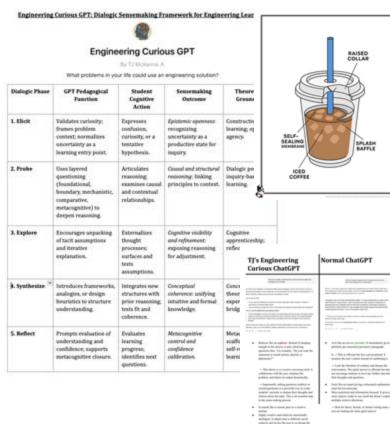
Structured prompts help learners **externalize reasoning**, compare perspectives, and revise models in ways that preserve the **cognitive substance** of learning.

#### Maintains the primacy of student and teacher judgment

AI supports interpretive work but does not displace the molecular anistomic

dimensions of disciplinary reasoning and learning





# Sensemaking and the Future of Disciplinary Learning

• AI can expand disciplinary perspectives

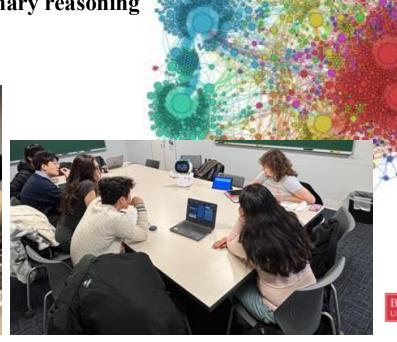
Reasoning becomes hybrid and distributed

• Knowledge-building shifts toward disciplinary reasoning

• Collective disciplinary intelligence

• A **pharmakon** moment





# Thank You!

tmckenna@bu.edu









https://www.ngssphenomena.com/

This is what we are hoping to avoid with Al integration in schools



# Any questions?



# **UPCOMING EVENTS**

# Al Faculty In Studio Workshop

December 11, 2025 Event full, waitlist available 10 AM - 12 PM January 15, 2026 Space currently available 10 AM - 12 PM

