

# General Notes

## Read:

- *Sublime Dreams of Living Machines* (history of automation up until mid-20th century)
- [Latour, "Hume Machine"](#)
- Pettman, *Human Error*
- Ridolfo and Hart-Davidson, *Rhetoric and the Digital Humanities*
- [Rhetorical Machines](#)

## Do:

- **Who can we talk to about readability?**
- **What kind of HITs might scratch at the concept of readability?**
- Bring in guests
  - Alexander Monea
  - Cheryl and Doug (formative, public peer review)
  - Matt Gold (Manifold)
  - Dan Whaley (Hypothesis)
  - Trevor Schultz (play and labor)
  - Media affect on social platforms & non-humans (Tero Karppi)
  - stats person
  - Linguist
  - Psychometrician for second product
  - [Johanna Phelps](#)
- Reconcile comments on texts
  - Michael Richardson
    - scholar dealing with semi-automated labor (drones) and extracting value
      - "Drone Capitalism" (2018)
    - addresses affective dimensions (impacts on the human)

## Possible HITs:

- [Ethics guidelines](#)
- Categorize resources
- Assign labels to topic model categories or clusters
  - Test topic intrusion
- Have turkers code events according to a schema and compare that to unsupervised clusters

- Respond to survey about the types of tasks turkers complete
- Provide descriptions for project's video episodes

## Possible paper sequence/attempts:

- ~~Content analysis of HIT language (quantitative?) (no IRB needed per Amy)~~
  - ~~"Tracing the Human in Amazon Mechanical Turk through Rhetorical Text Mining"~~
  - ~~"Rhetorical Analysis of Amazon Mechanical Turk Human Intelligence Tasks through Text Mining"~~
- ~~Results of MTurk surveys/other HITs in contrast to content analysis (qualitative?) (requires IRB)~~
  - ~~Inclusion of HITs we construct to find the edges~~
- Theory about MTurk and related entities as aspects of a cultural technique (theoretical)
  - Would labor practices information go here primarily?

## misc.

- Latour
- Hume
- Hayles: *Unthought*
- Clark's mergers & coalitions
- William James on *instinct*: human intelligence isn't a function of being less instinctual than other animals but in being more. That is, human intelligence is a function of humans having multiple instincts that often get in each other's way.
- Jenny Odell: *How to Do Nothing: Resisting the Attention Economy*
- *Blindsight*
- Standage's *The Turk*
- Other information about the Turk: <https://www.web3.lu/mechanical-turk-revisited/>
- [Human-Machine Communication](#)
- [IEEE Spectrum: "Untold History of AI: When Charles Babbage Played Chess With the Original Mechanical Turk"](#)
- [Edgar Allen Poe on the mechanical turk](#)
- [This link](#) about bot workers on MTurk seems relevant. In what ways are HITs for humans and non-humans? There's a blending here that makes sense, just as there's no pure human (S. Johnson), the audience of HITs is a cyborg entity.
- "Miles says the real risk of releasing GPT-2 is not how it makes it cheap to churn out fake news stories, instead, he says the danger is that GPT-2 has the potential to cheaply create lots of *fake users* (i.e., bots) that can escape detection by the algorithms and humans that social media platforms use to detect them."
  - <https://boingboing.net/2019/07/24/why-didnt-openai-release-the.html>
- The problem with AI is that it will do exactly what we tell it to do: <https://boingboing.net/2019/10/23/746627.html>

- Do we need to get into computational rhetoric? (Scott Graham?)
- Language as operational vs. representational? (effect vs. essence?)
- “I don’t explain – I explore.” – Marshall McLuhan in *Hot & Cool*
- The Turing Test may be relevant; you can’t tell the difference
- Should we post one or more product to arXiv, SocArXiv, or SSRN?
- Will we need other researchers to name/identify clusters? That might be a way for people to contribute. (That seemingly wouldn’t need IRB involvement; it would just be other researchers looking at really aggregated information.)
- [David Autor’s “Polanyi’s Paradox and the Shape of Employment Growth”](#) addresses things humans can do intuitively without the capacity to articulate the processes that constitute them. These things resist automation, because we can’t break them down into their constituent parts. Interestingly, a bipolar distribution of high- and low-skill tasks reflect this paradox.
  - [Wikipedia](#): “The increasing occupational polarisation in the past few decades –the growth of both high-paid, high-skill abstract jobs and lower-paid, low-skill manual jobs – has been a manifestation of Polanyi’s paradox. According to Autor, there are two types of tasks proven stubbornly challenging for artificial intelligence (AI): abstract tasks that require problem-solving capabilities, intuition, creativity and persuasion on the one hand, and manual tasks demanding situational adaptability, visual recognition, language understanding, and in-person interactions on the other. Abstract tasks are characteristic of professional, managerial, and technical occupations, while service and laborer occupations involve many manual tasks (e.g. cleaning, lifting and throwing). These jobs tend to be complemented by machines rather than substituted.”
- Boyle’s hylomorphism (Aristotle): being is a compound of matter and form (they aren’t distinct)—this speaks to the rhetorical aspect of constituting what you’re seeing (the data)
  - Capta rather than data (Joanna Drucker?)
- [Google’s getting close to human-like text summary](#), which constitutes a fair amount of HITs. Of course, the notion of *effective* in this context is based on similarity to the task as humans would do it.
- There are a number of turker communities on places like Reddit.

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## COMPOSITION

robo grading +

- <http://www.lornacollier.com/robogradingCC912.pdf>
- <https://www.proquest.com/docview/1418211092?pq-origsite=gscholar&fromopenview=true>
- <http://www.academypublication.com/issues/past/jltr/vol05/02/04.pdf>

Texas Tech/IKON

RHET/AGENCY  
rhetoric AI/Machine intelligence

NEW LITERACY  
Boyle/sense common  
My C&W 2015 background stuff

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Algorithms are reading our actions, our social interactions, our very material biologies. We should acknowledge that this instantiates a new form of rhetoric in which **we are not the readers but the read**. The rhetorical triangle has broken down in that we now are more message than speaker or receiver, and not in an individual, performative sense. (It's not just that each human rhetor enacts messages; collectively we are a symbol system.) Of course conventional, intra-personal rhetoric still functions; yet, there is a broader scale of rhetorical action that is impossible to ignore and perhaps more salient.

So what does this mean beyond being pithy? It means we should retune the focus of our rhetoric. A Platonic lens sees this as continued attenuation. Our province becomes increasingly smaller as more things that were characteristically human are no longer so. Through another lens, this is a more potent system; it means, from our perspective, the possibility of better rhetorical partners to enlist toward desired ends (achieving such ends is of course the function of rhetoric).

As mechanical turks, we can consider more how we operate as a collective, as a symbolic system. In a sense, it draws us together into shared behavior in order to become more intelligible for the greater collective.

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## Links

### MTurk overview

- <http://www.pewinternet.org/2016/07/11/research-in-the-crowdsourcing-age-a-case-study/>

### MTurk economics

- [easily automated job numbers fall](#)

- [automation and work](#)
- [the death of the attention economy](#)
- [attention attenuation](#)
- [revisiting the jobs AI will create](#)
- [the "trust hole" and Amazon's interest in disinformation and identification](#)
- [mTurk price increase](#)
- [The trick to saving human factory jobs might be teaming up with the machines](#)
- [The next hot job? Pretending to be a robot](#)
- [Netflix used AI to replace workers](#)

## MTurk and exploitation

- <https://www.eastbayexpress.com/oakland/dawn-of-the-digital-sweatshop/Content?oid=3301022>
- <https://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2018/01/amazon-mechanical-turk/551192/>
- <https://arxiv.org/abs/1712.05796>
- <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/pdf/10.1111/ntwe.12038>
- <https://arstechnica.com/?p=1381001>
- <https://gizmodo.com/un-study-finds-average-american-crowdworker-earns-less-1829233627>
- <https://boingboing.net/2019/01/30/prison-profiteering.html>
- <https://www.theverge.com/2019/2/4/18211155/google-microworkers-maven-ai-train-pentagon-pay-salary>
- <https://gizmodo.com/amazon-may-be-forcing-its-sellers-to-contribute-to-its-1832413132>
- <https://www.wired.com/story/when-workers-control-gig-economy/>
- <https://www.fastcompany.com/90336550/how-much-are-we-sacrificing-for-automation>
- <https://www.theverge.com/2019/4/25/18516004/amazon-warehouse-fulfillment-centers-productivity-firing-terminations>
- <https://www.axios.com/big-tech-humane-ethics-google-facebook-twitter-89cf270f-6987-4500-be6c-492a1485ebf2.html>
- <https://gizmodo.com/amazon-shareholders-set-to-vote-on-a-proposal-to-ban-sa-1834006395> and <https://boingboing.net/2019/04/08/amazon-shareholders-will-vote.html>
- "Fauxtamation": <https://logicmag.io/05-the-automation-charade/> and <https://gizmodo.com/how-corporate-delusions-of-automation-fuel-the-cruelty-1834627595>
- <https://gizmodo.com/robots-are-not-coming-for-your-job-management-is-1835127820>
- <https://gizmodo.com/this-report-makes-it-perfectly-clearly-who-automation-is-1836259060>
- <https://gizmodo.com/doordash-is-proof-of-how-easy-it-is-to-exploit-workers-1836729119>

- People would prefer to lose their job to a machine than to another person (but reverse this when it is someone else's job)  
<https://arstechnica.com/science/2019/08/people-dont-want-to-see-workers-replaced-by-a-robot-themselves-excepted/>
- [Horror Stories From Inside Amazon's Mechanical Turk](#)
  - “Someone paid me like 50 cents to recall the most painful memory of my life, it fucked me up for the entire day.”
- <https://futurism.com/the-byte/facebook-pay-mods-52-million-gore-abuse>
- [Moderator Who Watched Hours of Traumatic Videos Sues TikTok for Failing to Protect Her Mental Health](#)
- [How 'Microwork' Preys on the Desperate \(and Other Reasons to Avoid It\)](#)
- [New MIT Research Indicates That Automation Is Responsible for Income Inequality](#)

## Using MTurk for research

- [https://www.amazon.com/Amazons-Mechanical-Academics-Bartel-Sheehan/dp/0978663861/ref=sr\\_1\\_1\\_twi\\_pap\\_2?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1457996191&sr=1-1&keywords=ki+m+bartel+sheehan+and+matthew+pittman](https://www.amazon.com/Amazons-Mechanical-Academics-Bartel-Sheehan/dp/0978663861/ref=sr_1_1_twi_pap_2?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1457996191&sr=1-1&keywords=ki+m+bartel+sheehan+and+matthew+pittman)
- <https://dl.acm.org/citation.cfm?id=1357127>
- [https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=1626226](https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1626226)
- <http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/1745691610393980>
- <https://link.springer.com/article/10.3758/s13428-015-0578-z>
- <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S074756321300160X>
- [https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Tara\\_Behrend/publication/262300488\\_I-O\\_and\\_the\\_crowd\\_Frequently\\_asked\\_questions\\_about\\_using\\_Mechanical\\_Turk\\_for\\_research/links/584048d908ae8e63e61f7b85/I-O-and-the-crowd-Frequently-asked-questions-about-using-Mechanical-Turk-for-research.pdf](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Tara_Behrend/publication/262300488_I-O_and_the_crowd_Frequently_asked_questions_about_using_Mechanical_Turk_for_research/links/584048d908ae8e63e61f7b85/I-O-and-the-crowd-Frequently-asked-questions-about-using-Mechanical-Turk-for-research.pdf)
- <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fpsyg.2017.01359/full>
- <https://www.engadget.com/2018/08/18/bots-on-amazons-task-service-may-be-souring-psych-studies/>

## Using MTurk in business

- <https://www.inc.com/articles/201107/how-to-use-amazon-mechanical-turk-for-business.html>

## Research on MTurk and commentary

- <http://sjdm.org/~baron/journal/10/10630a/jdm10630a.pdf>
- <https://archive.nyu.edu/bitstream/2451/29801/4/CeDER-10-04.pdf>
- [https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=1585030](https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1585030)

- <http://www.ipeirotis.com/wp-content/uploads/cv.pdf?x45159>
- <http://www.behind-the-enemy-lines.com>
- <https://arxiv.org/ftp/arxiv/papers/1712/1712.05796.pdf>
- [https://dl.acm.org/doi/abs/10.1145/1753846.1753873?casa\\_token=yVr5FrdB1UAAAAA:RUuJEthVLf\\_jZ2Bs6ITfJCP6pfdhQm7JAv1tq0EW5W0aNBBPMEaleVXIOFXN1noIWjzUZWTF4V0opg](https://dl.acm.org/doi/abs/10.1145/1753846.1753873?casa_token=yVr5FrdB1UAAAAA:RUuJEthVLf_jZ2Bs6ITfJCP6pfdhQm7JAv1tq0EW5W0aNBBPMEaleVXIOFXN1noIWjzUZWTF4V0opg)
- [https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/wp-content/uploads/sites/9/2016/07/PI\\_2016.07.11\\_Mechanical-Turk\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/wp-content/uploads/sites/9/2016/07/PI_2016.07.11_Mechanical-Turk_FINAL.pdf)
- <https://link.springer.com/article/10.3758/s13428-015-0578-z>
- <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S074756321300160X>
- [https://www.mitpressjournals.org/doi/pdf/10.1162/COLI\\_a\\_00057](https://www.mitpressjournals.org/doi/pdf/10.1162/COLI_a_00057)
- <https://link-springer-com.liblink.uncw.edu/article/10.1007/s10869-016-9458-5>
- <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs12108-015-9266-9>
- [https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.3102/0013189X17725519?casa\\_token=AS5uLd27cl0AAAAA%3ATO858HMrBORPVh\\_ZOwLzCz0XlaQg5J7WmN27yY\\_AfN17QE6BgkFAE1t7TGSG-mpk5\\_hhjJvkx73ig](https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.3102/0013189X17725519?casa_token=AS5uLd27cl0AAAAA%3ATO858HMrBORPVh_ZOwLzCz0XlaQg5J7WmN27yY_AfN17QE6BgkFAE1t7TGSG-mpk5_hhjJvkx73ig)
- [https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/0963721414531598?casa\\_token=8GCXPg5BOMYAAAAA%3Aw6QytrOEIt3EZcOnoQ6Lk1PAsDNaCf8pj9JI3d3e2C9Of4ao2-pBDFj7TtD44PUghvpczof-KhUTVQ](https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/0963721414531598?casa_token=8GCXPg5BOMYAAAAA%3Aw6QytrOEIt3EZcOnoQ6Lk1PAsDNaCf8pj9JI3d3e2C9Of4ao2-pBDFj7TtD44PUghvpczof-KhUTVQ)
- <https://link-springer-com.liblink.uncw.edu/article/10.3758/s13428-010-0039-7>
- <https://www.cceol.com/search/article-detail?id=692934>
- [https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/j.1749-818X.2011.00295.x?casa\\_token=dpzxaqLGjekAAAAA%3AXyHRa\\_bsRDliEalPY\\_NHQCDKpVgZVBE04gnERdS-OIKA5EO66wKvdIhe0ITs8D88ruWZhzCNGwrDcuWq](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/j.1749-818X.2011.00295.x?casa_token=dpzxaqLGjekAAAAA%3AXyHRa_bsRDliEalPY_NHQCDKpVgZVBE04gnERdS-OIKA5EO66wKvdIhe0ITs8D88ruWZhzCNGwrDcuWq)
- There are [computation data sets about turkers](#) that may help frame the subject we're addressing—it's kinda lit. review material.

## Research tools

- <https://crowd-workers.com/landing>
- <http://www.mturk-tracker.com/#/arrivals>

## Adjacent Research

- <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/english-majors-rejoice-employers-want-you-more-than-business-majors/> (look at the study's methods)

## Pre-digital "human computers"

- <https://www.engadget.com/2019/02/06/how-harvards-human-computers-helped-invent-modern-astronomy/>

## Similar kinds of writing

- <http://uselesspress.org/things/pckwck/>
- <https://arstechnica.com/video/2018/08/how-to-write-science-fiction-with-ai/>
- <https://boingboing.net/2019/05/01/watch-a-hollywood-screenwriter.html>
- <https://boingboing.net/2019/09/05/what-its-like-to-collectivel.html>

## Human symbolic elements that are read (with connections to labor and value)

- ["to get the full thing, \[companies or researchers\] will have to be interested in either your traits or your genome or both," Church says. In fact, people might even make money on the deal, especially if they have an unusual trait that a company wants to study.](#)
- <https://www.wired.com/story/how-to-teach-artificial-intelligence-common-sense/>
- <https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-46055595>
- <https://www.npr.org/sections/thesalt/2018/09/29/643386327/no-cash-needed-at-this-cafe-students-pay-the-tab-with-their-personal-data>
- <https://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2018/01/the-strange-brands-in-your-instagram-feed/550136/>
- [It wasn't that the bookstore wasn't real, but rather that it felt reverse-engineered by an online business, or a series of them.](#)
- [join team human](#)
- [code isn't human readable; humans are code readable](#)

## Human curation (people doing turk labor)

- <https://kottke.org/18/10/apple-on-the-radical-use-of-humans-to-edit-the-news>
- <https://www.macrumors.com/2018/10/25/human-curation-apple-news/>
- [Facebook 10 years thing: people selecting the images to train the algorithm](#)
- <https://www.engadget.com/2019/05/06/facebook-privacy-content-labeling/>
- <https://tech.slashdot.org/story/19/08/15/2223222/ai-startup-claims-to-automate-app-making-but-actually-just-uses-humans>
- <https://www.engadget.com/2019/08/20/facebook-news-tab-human-curation/>
- <https://techcrunch.com/2019/08/23/netflix-tests-human-driven-curation-with-launch-of-collections/>
- <https://news.slashdot.org/story/19/12/24/151243/the-next-big-streaming-trend-recommendations-from-actual-people>

- <https://www.theverge.com/21268972/hbo-max-design-recommendation-human-curation-friends-kids-profiles>
- humans correcting Alexa, Siri, and Cortana audio and video recordings that machine learning can't understand:
  - <https://www.theverge.com/2018/12/20/18150531/amazon-alexa-voice-recordings-wrong-user-gdpr-privacy-ai>
  - <https://mobile.twitter.com/girlziplocked/status/1085945913003118595/photo/1>
  - <https://boingboing.net/2019/04/11/1000-clips-per-shift.html>
  - <https://gizmodo.com/amazons-human-helpers-are-quietly-listening-in-on-some-1833960052>
  - <https://appleinsider.com/articles/19/04/10/thousands-of-amazon-workers-are-listening-to-echo-conversations-report-says>
  - <https://arstechnica.com/tech-policy/2019/04/amazon-admits-that-employees-review-small-sample-of-alexa-audio/>
  - <https://www.macrumors.com/2019/04/24/amazon-alexa-employees-customer-addresses/>
  - <https://www.engadget.com/2019/07/26/apple-siri-contractors-hear-sensitive-info/>
  - <https://www.engadget.com/2019/08/02/siri-recordings-response-grading-apple/>
  - [https://www.vice.com/en\\_us/article/xweqbg/microsoft-contractors-listen-to-skype-calls](https://www.vice.com/en_us/article/xweqbg/microsoft-contractors-listen-to-skype-calls)
    - <https://arstechnica.com/gadgets/2019/08/microsoft-will-continue-human-voice-recording-review-and-its-privacy-policy-says-so/>
    - <https://www.engadget.com/2019/08/14/microsoft-skype-cortana-voice-recordings-humans-privacy/>
  - <https://yro.slashdot.org/story/19/08/07/1432204/microsoft-contractors-are-listening-to-some-skype-calls>
  - <https://boingboing.net/2019/08/15/facebook-voice-to-text-messenger.html>
  - <https://www.engadget.com/2019/08/13/facebook-contractors-were-transcribing-messenger-voice-chats/>
  - <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-09-18/facebook-contractors-have-been-listening-to-hey-portal-clips>
  - <https://gizmodo.com/the-bright-side-of-humans-eavesdropping-on-your-alexa-r-1837316806>
  - <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-10-10/is-amazon-watching-you-cloud-cam-footage-reviewed-by-humans>
  - <https://arstechnica.com/tech-policy/2019/11/google-search-results-have-more-human-help-than-you-think-report-finds/>
  - <https://www.theverge.com/2020/2/20/21145584/facebook-pay-record-voice-speech-recognition-viewpoints-pronunciations-app>
- <https://yro.slashdot.org/story/19/08/14/2152231/working-on-microsofts-cortana-is-laborious-and-poorly-paid>

- A cache of leaked documents obtained by Motherboard gives insight into what the human contractors behind the development of tech giants' artificial intelligence services are actually doing: laborious, repetitive tasks that are designed to improve the automated interpretation of human speech. This means tasks tech giants have promised are completed by virtual assistants and artificial intelligence are trained by the monotonous work of people.
- <https://gizmodo.com/the-vast-majority-of-all-futures-trading-is-now-automat-1834285247>
  - "These types of trades are considered automated trades for the purpose of this story but the decision to make the trade wasn't done in a black box as a fund manager reviews the orders before placing them for the day. TLDR: Saying the vast majority of trades are automated is true but there's a lot of nuance under the phrase 'automated.'" **WOW, they work together**
  - Related: <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-05-06/who-to-sue-when-a-robot-loses-your-fortune>
- <https://gizmodo.com/many-google-duplex-ai-calls-are-actually-made-by-humans-1834976966>
  - "So what was originally promoted as an entirely automated system is actually a cyborg-like blend of AI and humans."
- <https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2019/may/28/a-white-collar-sweatshop-google-assistant-contractors-allege-wage-theft>
  - "Artificial intelligence is not that artificial; it's human beings that are doing the work."
  - This also fits with exploitation
- <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1gJ6GWjLdjQW7Alqv-jHpGApoit1RFvP>
  - "Let's define the Francine problem as what happens when robots' humanlike traits lead humans to become overly credulous about the humanity of robots. On the other hand, what if humanlike traits in robots lead humans to become overly *incredulous* about the humanity of fellow humans?"
- <https://www.newscientist.com/article/2220438-deepmind-ai-beats-humans-at-deciphering-damaged-ancient-greek-tablets/>
  - Given an inscription with missing information, Pythia provides 20 different suggestions that could plug the gap, with the idea that someone could then select the best one using their own judgement and subject knowledge. "It's all about how we can help the experts," says Assael.
- <https://hardware.slashdot.org/story/20/02/28/2137236/when-ai-cant-replace-a-worker-it-watches-them-instead>
  - "some jobs will be transformed by artificial intelligence even when they're unlikely to be eliminated by AI anytime soon. Many jobs in manufacturing require dexterity and resourcefulness, for example, in ways that robots and software still can't match. But advances in AI and sensors are providing new ways to digitize

manual labor. That gives managers new insights -- and potentially leverage -- on workers.”

- <https://futurism.com/the-byte/robot-journalist-accused-racism>
- <https://arstechnica.com/tech-policy/2020/11/facebook-touts-enforcement-amid-investigations-moderator-complaints/>
- <https://www.theverge.com/2021/3/15/22331502/amazon-warehouse-gamification-program-expand-fc-games>
- <https://gizmodo.com/amazon-chatgpt-google-youtube-fb-ai-art-human-work-1850072549>
- <https://gizmodo.com/ai-art-images-twitter-community-notes-fact-check-1850491085>

## Machine systems and “magic” or deception

- <https://boingboing.net/2019/07/09/expert-at-the-pivot-table.html>
  - “And just like magicians, the companies and agencies that use machine learning systems won't let you look behind the scenes or examine the props”

## Characteristic human labor

- <https://www.chicagotribune.com/business/ct-biz-farmworker-automation-robot-fruit-picker-20190218-story.html>
- <https://www.cnn.com/2019/09/04/business/robot-farmers/index.html>
- <https://www.npr.org/2021/03/16/977769873/the-age-of-automation-is-now-heres-how-to-futureproof-yourself>

## Cultural Technique Things

- [Figure Eight](#)
- the connection between gold/click farming and crypto-currency mining: both are mundane tasks. It doesn't matter if you're human or machine (what's the difference?).
  - And clicker games
  - And phone farms  
([https://www.vice.com/en\\_us/article/d3naek/how-to-make-a-phone-farm](https://www.vice.com/en_us/article/d3naek/how-to-make-a-phone-farm))
- Fiverr, BeMyEyes, crowdsourced captions
  - These seem to want individuals—in fiverr's case, individuals with particular skills
  - [https://www.vice.com/en\\_us/article/a35vzi/freelance-site-fiverr-offers-illegal-private-spying-services](https://www.vice.com/en_us/article/a35vzi/freelance-site-fiverr-offers-illegal-private-spying-services)
  - <https://arstechnica.com/gadgets/2020/09/youtube-celebrates-deaf-awareness-week-by-killing-crowd-sourced-captions/>
  - <https://www.engadget.com/microsoft-azure-ai-image-captions-humans-150040200.html>

- <https://gizmodo.com/the-problem-with-zoom-adding-free-captions-after-gettin-1846353898>
  - [Google Chrome now has live captioning](#)
- [Facebook Viewpoints](#)
  - <https://www.theverge.com/2020/2/20/21145584/facebook-pay-record-voice-speech-recognition-viewpoints-pronunciations-app>
- [Google Opinion Rewards](#)
- [Amazon Ignite teaching materials marketplace](#)
- [Amazon Inspire teaching materials commons](#)
- Upwork
- Rev
- The [RealReal](#)
- eTrading, land rush to get closer to the trading floor (micro seconds), we can't even audit the machines' thought processes and subsequent behaviors
  - <https://hackaday.com/2018/08/06/feeling-the-heat-of-high-frequency-trading/>
  - <https://science.slashdot.org/story/21/03/09/0146238/activity-in-brains-risk-circuits-can-forecast-changes-in-stock-prices>
- [Platform co-ops](#)
- Transcribing abolitionists' letters
  - <https://vitals.lifehacker.com/transcribe-anti-slavery-letters-to-help-historians-1844070062>
- Alexa Answers
  - <https://gizmodo.com/soon-alex-a-might-be-as-dumb-as-your-neighborhood-troll-1838067385>
    - "Gotta love how Amazon founded Amazon Turk to undercut minimum wage employment for menial tasks and now decides that nope, next to nothing ain't enough, let's give them literally nothing and tell them to like it."
  - <https://venturebeat.com/2019/11/01/amazon-alex-a-answers-vetting-user-questions/>
- Using machines for creativity
  - <https://arstechnica.com/gaming/2019/08/yachts-chain-tripping-is-a-new-landmark-for-ai-music-an-album-that-doesnt-suck/>
  - <https://www.engadget.com/2019/09/12/ani-abakumova-thread-algorithms/>
  - <https://boingboing.net/2021/02/10/this-ai-neural-network-transforms-text-captions-into-art-like-a-jellyfish-pikachu.html>
  - <https://qz.com/1963544/is-wattpad-and-its-machine-learning-tool-the-future-of-tv/>
  - <https://pudding.cool/2021/03/love-and-ai/>
- And mathematics
  - <https://www.vice.com/en/article/xgzkek/machines-are-inventing-new-math-weve-never-seen>
- Although there are issues humans don't encounter

- <https://www.theverge.com/2021/3/8/22319173/openai-machine-vision-adversarial-typographic-attack-a-clip-multimodal-neuron>
- Auto-writing technologies
  - [https://www.dropbox.com/sh/qdzfcihkidq9bhm/AABizESjcM\\_OFTRjYQkY0m8Ka?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/qdzfcihkidq9bhm/AABizESjcM_OFTRjYQkY0m8Ka?dl=0)
  - <https://boingboing.net/2021/03/17/this-ai-neural-network-writes-college-essays-better-than-students.html>
- Catfishing? (human/bot)
- Plagiarism detectors (turnitin) that both check and use the material
  - Parsing its output
- Humans doing robot jobs
  - <https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2020/feb/05/amazon-workers-protest-unsafe-grueling-conditions-warehouse>
- AI-derived applicant screening questions
  - <https://venturebeat.com/2020/05/01/linkedins-ai-generates-candidate-screening-questions-from-job-postings/>
- AI job applicant filtering
  - <https://www.bbc.com/news/business-55932977>
  - <https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-56515827>
- Outsourced customer service
  - <https://boingboing.net/2021/02/12/propublica-digs-into-the-gig-economy-pyramid-scheme-that-sells-work-from-home-customer-service-reps.html>
- Distributed surveillance
  - [Here too](#)
  - [How a group of online sleuths are helping the FBI track down Jan. 6 rioters](#)
  - [Photo App Turns Users Into Unwitting Spies for US Military](#)
  - [Russian military uses Premise microtasking platform to aim and calibrate fire during their invasion of Ukraine](#)
  - [Gig App Gathering Data for U.S. Military, Others Prompts Safety Concerns](#)
- Is covid-19 part of a cultural technique? It's a sorting machine that groups workers together into different categories (not high-skill and low-skill, but essential [health care workers, politicians, grocery store stockers, janitors and sanitation workers] and inessential [everyone else including most smarty-pants knowledge workers])
- Quantified humanity
  - How demographics influence cars, factories, medicine, etc.
- Writing stub notes on the semantic web (making the web readable/intelligible to humans and machines)

## MTurk history

- <https://spectrum.ieee.org/tech-talk/tech-history/dawn-of-electronics/untold-history-of-ai-charles-babbage-and-the-turk>

- <https://spectrum.ieee.org/tech-talk/tech-history/dawn-of-electronics/untold-history-of-ai-mechanical-turk-revisited-tkkt>

## AI and chess/games

- [Can AI Help Us Reimagine Chess?](#)
- [AI Unmasks Anonymous Chess Players, Posing Privacy Risks](#)
- [Defending quantum chess champion takes the title again in 2021 tournament](#)
  - This appears to be played by humans, although they are affiliated with tech companies. The game also seems to rely on computing to function.
- [How AI Conquered Poker](#) (tells)