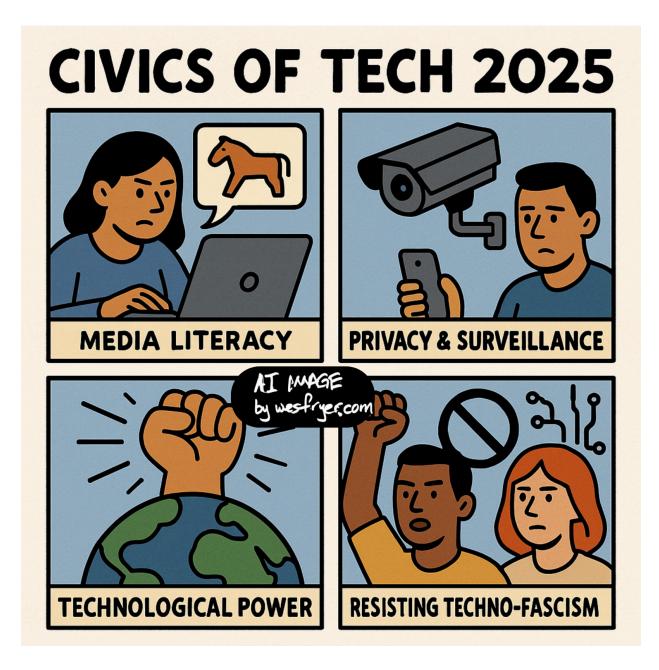
Notes - Civics Of Technology 2025 (July 31 - Aug 1)

What is this?



My name is Wes Fryer and I am a middle school media literacy teacher in North Carolina. More links for me are on:

https://wesfryer.com/after

These are my notes and links from the July 31 / August 1 2025 "Civics of Technology" Conference. More info on:

https://www.civicsoftechnology.org/ (register here)

and

https://www.civicsoftechnology.org/2025conference (password protected during the conference)

My blog post, "Civics Of Tech 2025 Conference"

https://www.speedofcreativity.org/2025/07/31/civics-of-tech-2025-conference/

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Day 1 Keynote: My Zoom Chat posts

"We become what we behold. We shape our tools and thereafter our tools shape us." - McLuhan

I'm based in Charlotte, North Carolina, but visiting family this summer in Kansas.

I teach middle school media literacy in NC, 31st year in Edu, 7th year to be back in the classroom after various admin roles. My favorite units: Froot Loop Conspiracy Theories https://lessons.wesfryer.com/lessons/conspiracy-theories and Family Oral History

https://lessons.wesfryer.com/lessons/family-oral-history and "Coding Mars" (in MinecraftEDU) https://lessons.wesfryer.com/lessons/minecraft-mars

I'm a supporter of "Civics of Technology" and just made a small donation: https://buymeacoffee.com/civicsoftechnology

Check out their great work, I'm attending their summer 2025 free online conference: https://www.civicsoftechnology.org/

#MediaLit

This reminds me of our worship of "speed" generally in our culture. Great book recommendation, "In Praise of Slow" by Carl Honre: https://www.carlhonore.com/

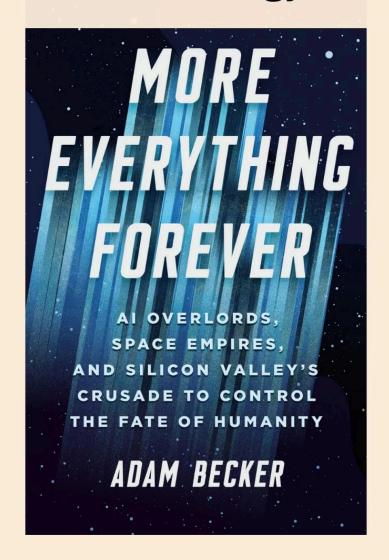
My professional life work is helpfully critiqued by questioning our cultural bias for speed. I setup my professional blog, "Moving at the Speed in Creativity," in 2005: https://www.speedofcreativity.org/

Good reminder of "MOOC Madness." There is still great potential in online / blended learning tho. I've been checking out the Hank Green / ASU "Study Hall" affordable course initiative: https://gostudyhall.com/

Book recc via #CivicsOfTechnology #CivicsOfTech25 #COT2025 keynote chat: "More Everything Forever: Al Overlords, Space Empires, and Silicon Valley's Crusade to Control the Fate of Humanity (Adam Becker, 2025) https://www.civicsoftechnology.org/more-everything-forever

#MediaLit #MediaLiteracy

Civics of Technology



More Everything
Forever: AI
Overlords, Space
Empires, and Silicon
Valleu's Crusade to

Ww Is

Shared on Mastodon https://mastodon.cloud/@wfryer/114948554818145982 & BlueSky https://bsky.app/profile/wesfryer.com/post/3lvbhaksayw24 & Threads https://croissantapp.com

What is our official conference hashtag to use on socials? #COT2025

I remember using "Windows on Science" videos from these HUGE video DVDs (don't remember what that was called but not the later adopted DVD format) for my culminating 4th grade student teaching evaluation in fall 1995

Good inclusion of some Al critiques in the latest "Hard Fork" podcast episode, which is generally very "pro-Al hype"

https://www.nytimes.com/2025/07/25/podcasts/trump-fights-woke-ai-we-hear-out-our-critics.html

Like Betamax format, didn't gain widespread adoption. Still, it did let me bring multimedia into my lesson, which I think was valuable

Recommended follow: Ben Williamson https://www.de.ed.ac.uk/people/dr-ben-williamson

Talking about the "weaponization of data" and the importance of privacy is so important. I wrestle with how to best share this with my middle school students (and AP Comp Sci students last semester)

Back in 2015 I shared a TEDx talk on "Digital Citizenship in the Surveillance State" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kgJnyl4aypw

#MediaLit #MediaLiteracy #BigTech #privacy #surveillance #CivicsOfTechnology #CivicsOfTech25 #COT2025

I would personally rephrase this: I don't see our role in education as categorically rejecting all AI technologies, but rather to "reject techno-facism" and all its value system / manifestations

I think an important way to frame the work we need to do together is "Resisting Techo-Fasicism" https://www.resistandheal.com/what-is-techno-facism

Book recc via #CivicsOfTechnology #CivicsOfTech25 #COT2025 keynote chat: Digital Degrowth: Radically Rethinking our Digital Futures by Neil Selwyn https://www.amazon.com/Digital-Degrowth-Radically-Rethinking-Futures-ebook/dp/B0FJHZSB7

#MediaLit #MediaLiteracy #book2read #edtech #edtechSR

We should all be aware of and resisting / consider resisting 'techno-facism." Great source on this:

https://www.thenerdreich.com/

Keynote Day 1 Notes:

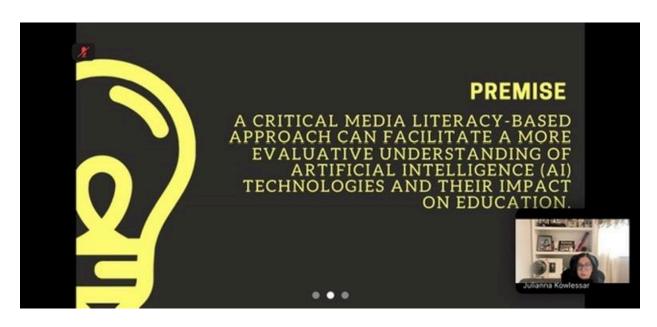
Contribute:

https://buymeacoffee.com/civicsoftechnology

"We need to unsay the LMS" - Audrey Watters https://audreywatters.com/

Day 1 12:05 breakout Room 1 Notes







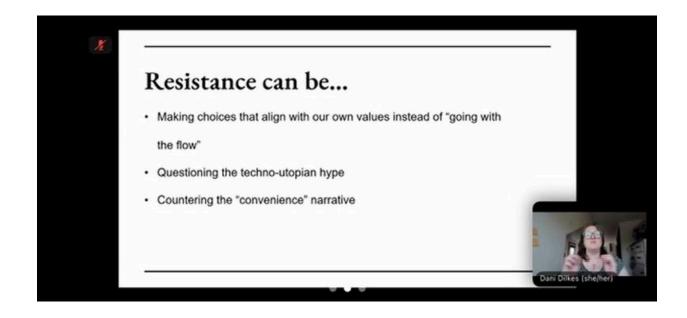
Via Scott Moss:

Critical Media Literacy Framework	
Conceptual Understandings	Guiding Questions
 Secilal Constructivism All information is co-constructed by individuals and/or groups of people who make chaices within social contexts. 	WHO are all the possible people who made choices that helped create this text?
Languages / Semiotics tach medium has its own language with specific grammar and semantics.	HOW was this text constructed and delivered/accessed?
 Audience / Preitienality and Critical Self-Reflexivity individuals and groups understand media messages similarly and/or differently depending on multiple relational and contextual factors. 	HOW does my identity influence my understanding of this text? HOW could this text be understood differently?
4. Politics of Representation Media massages and the medium through which they travel always have a bias and support and/or challengs dominant hierarchies of power, privilege, and pieceure.	WHAT values, points of view, and ideologies are represented or missing from this text or influenced by the medium/
 Production / institutions At media tests have a purpose (often commercial or governmental) that is shaped by the creators and/or systems within which they operate. 	WHY was this test created and/or shared?
 Social and Environmental Justice Media culture is a ternan of struggle that perpetuates or challenges positive and/or negative ideas about people, groups, and issues, it is never neutral. 	WHOM does this text advantage and/or disadvantage? (Adopted from Eather & Share, 2018, p. 8 by Namikonyan et al., under ne

https://betterimagesofai.org/images

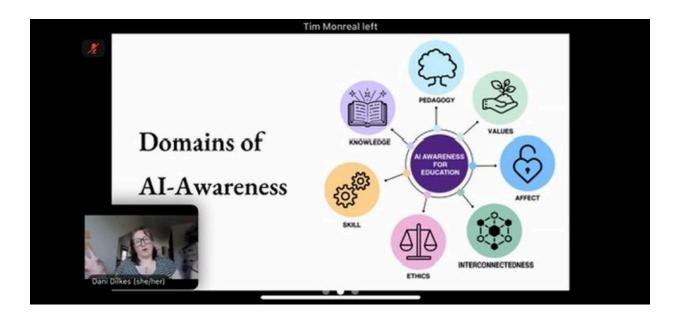
Room 2

Notes from Dani Dilkes https://bsky.app/profile/danid.bsky.social session:









"The Generative AI Challenge:





https://teaching.uwo.ca/genai/posts/index.html#

My (marginally helpful) ChatGPT prompt prior to Day 1

ChatGPT Prompt: I am attending a 2 day virtual conference and need to decide which breakout room sessions to attempt. Please analyze the attached PDF of the conference schedule and recommend which session(s) I should attend, and make a conference schedule for me.... Use these websites and social media feeds to learn the types of media literacy topics and themes I'm most interested in:

my own media literacy website: https://medialiteracy.wesfryer.com
Posts on my own blog about media literacy: https://www.speedofcreativity.org/category/medialit/
My posts to Mastodon about media literacy: https://mastodon.cloud/@wfryer/tagged/medialit

Before making recommendations visit each of these websites, summarize what find are my key topics and themes of interest. Ask me to confirm theses, share the top 5 themes which I can share with others in the conference in Zoom chat.

1:05 Breakout Room Notes - Day 1

Bonnie Stewart session

User / Refuser dichotomy often exists around technology

Her favorite slide EVER:



Important study of "digital belonging" - looking at smaller places as exemplars https://bonstewart.com/belonging/





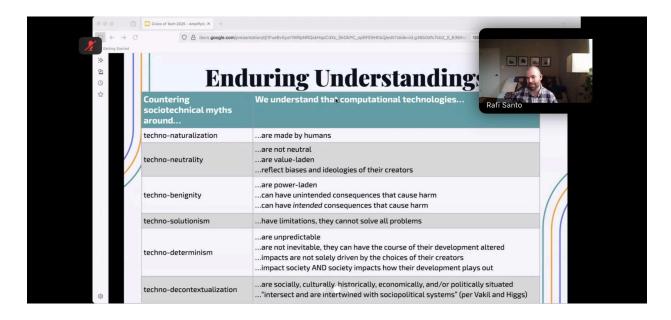
"The value of doing distance without doing scale - the more we move to scale the more we DEHUMANIZE everything we are doing in education"

By Dr. Bonnie Stewart - https://bonstewart.com/belonging/ (Civics Of Technology 2025 Conference)\

#CivicsofTech25 #MediaLit #MediaLiteracy

2nd Preso Lit Review: "Critical Computing Education from Kindergarten to College: A Literature Review

Rafi Santo, PhD (he/him), Jean Ryoo, PhD (she/her), Michael Lachney, PhD (he/him)"



My Zoom chat posts:

I think posting / sharing ideas on our own domains / websites is still SO important (not just putting everything into the TechBro platforms)

Important to listen to Peter Thiel's recent podcast interview https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vV7YgnPUxcU



My social posts:

My notes and links from the #CivicsOfTech25 conference: https://wfryer.me/civicsoftech25

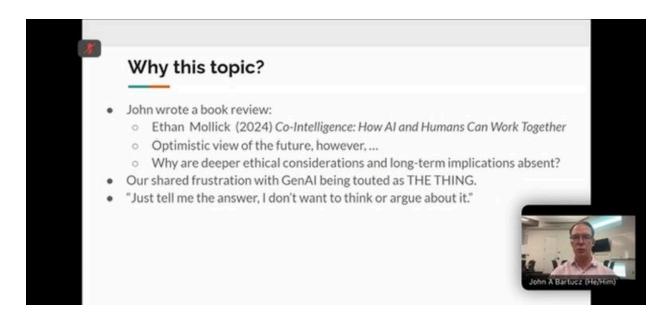
Follow presenters & participants via this BlueSky Starter Pack: https://bsky.app/starter-pack/dankrutka.bsky.social/3lavzzk3hp52g

Register (late) for the FREE conference! https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScjOtjJqISq0H0-Xx5It_vAE-8wS-wxut_uvmEXLvLjIr RBmg/viewform

#MediaLit #MediaLiteracy

Now notes from "GenAl Ethics Made Accessible: Facilitating Classroom Discussions"

John Bartucz (Bar-toosz, he/him), Galyna (gah-LEE-nah) Arabadzhy (ah-rah-bah-DJEE, she/her), Shreepriya (SHREE-pree-ah) Dogra (DOE-grah, she/her)



Giving students different FRAMEWORKS to use can be very helpful to help them develop ways to discuss values and polarizing issues

Link to John's article: "The Process is the Product: A Review of Co-Intelligence by Ethan Mollick"

https://www.bartucz.com/mrbartucz/2024/10/01/the-process-is-the-product-a-review-of-co-intelligence-by-ethan-mollick/

I've been collecting my own reflections & presentations about AI on https://ai.wesfryer.com/

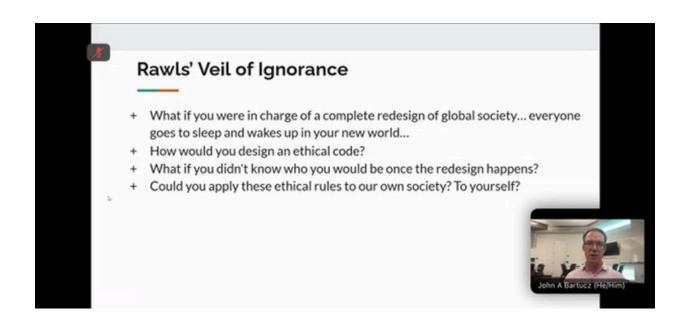
Most important slides and idea from this panel presentation: (via Galyna Arabadzhy)





My Zoom note: Discussing philosophical and ethical frameworks is SO important! I learned a great deal about these by participating in intercollegiate forensics (CX debate but also impromptu / exemp) in college!

Rawls Veil of Ignorance https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Original_position



"We need to challenge technological determinism!"

Day 2 Keynote: Conversation with Chris Guilliard



My Zoom chat posts:

I wrote a blog post reflection following the 3 sessions I attended yesterday: https://www.speedofcreativity.org/2025/07/31/civics-of-tech-2025-conference/

Keynote session notes:





11:10am-12:00pm EST, August 1st, 2025

Started to look into issues of 'revenge porn' and started to use the term "digital redlining" https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Digital redlining

"Digital redlining is the practice of creating and perpetuating inequities between already marginalized groups specifically through the use of digital technologies, digital content, and the internet.[1] The concept of digital redlining is an extension of the practice of redlining in housing discrimination..."

Recommended podcast: "Digital Redlining in the Frictionless Society - Chris Gilliard" https://www.techwontsave.us/episode/55_digital_redlining_in_the_frictionless_society_w_chris_gilliard

"Isolation is a key goal of the large tech companies / platforms"

Also on YouTube: "Artificial Intelligence, Abolition, and Luxury Surveillance" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CO3 gbbShc

Police have and are able to get access to surveillance camera footage of residential cameras both inside and outside your house

There is very limited or no legal recourse

"Coded Bias" documentary: https://www.netflix.com/title/81328723 and https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coded_Bias (required viewing for people / educators in this community interested in privacy / surveillance capitalism)

Also: https://www.codedbias.com

Toward a Luddite Pedagogy in the "Age of AI" w/ Charles Logan https://www.humanrestorationproject.org/podcasts/toward-a-luddite-pedagogy-in-the-age-of-ai-w-charles-logan

"Al is a tool of power that masquerades as a tool of knowledge"

"I don't use AI voluntarily for anything"

"Google has changed so much, we spend more time on Google looking for answers in links"

"I'm thinking more about how people are ceding their own authority to these AI systems

- planning a vacation
- doing lesson plans
- writing a break-up letter"

"There is a larger ideological project here: To reduce people's ability for critical thinking, and to cede authority to this mechanism which is controlled by a small cohort of pretty much evil people"

Post from Dan Krutka on Civics of Tech: "Albert Borgmann lived a good life with technology" https://www.civicsoftechnology.org/blog/albert-borgmann-lived-a-good-life-with-technology

My thought: It seems many of the participants and presenters in this conference are "AI is evil absolutists." For these folks, there is no middle ground of 'use AI to do helpful things.' AI is viewed as a fundamentally 'a priori' evil and any use is unethical / immoral. I'm not on that page today, although I certainly oppose techno-facism and want to actively resist it. But it's helpful to have my thinking challenged in many ways by this group.

Resistance is not futile course:

https://coursesites.georgetown.domains/writ-1150-16-fall2024/

Book recommendation via Marguerite Mayhall: "God, Human, Animal, Machine: Technology, Metaphor, and the Search for Meaning"

https://www.amazon.com/God-Human-Animal-Machine-Technology-ebook/dp/B08P45CY86/ref= tmm_kin_swatch_0

Data Workers Inquiry Project https://data-workers.org/

Not just 'lining up behind authoritarianism," they are 'linking up behind fascism"

Zuck's claim that those not using generative AI will be 'cognatively disabled'

So frustrating - I keep trying to keep my wife's bluetooth earbuds in my ears and disconnecting from the zoom call...:-(#SeniorMoment - apologies to the zoom hosts!

Recommended reading: The New Artificial Intelligentsia by Ruja https://lareviewofbooks.org/article/the-new-artificial-intelligentsia/

The TESCREAL Bundle: Eugenics and the Promise of Utopia Through Artificial General Intelligence (FIRST MONDAY, 14 Apr 2024)

https://firstmonday.org/ojs/index.php/fm/article/view/13636

My top 9 podcasts: https://wiki.wesfryer.com/podcasts

Never Forget What They've Done (WHERE'S YOUR ED AT, 9 Jun 2025) https://www.wheresyoured.at/never-forget-what-theyve-done/

Book recommendation: The Al Mirror: How to Reclaim Our Humanity in an Age of Machine Thinking by Shannon Valor

https://www.amazon.com/Al-Mirror-Reclaim-Humanity-Thinking-ebook/dp/B0CW1F7MBQ/ref=tmm_kin_swatch_0

Military Al Watch

https://www.projectcensored.org/military-ai-watch/

Day 2 Breakout Room 2 Notes

From the program:

Centering Student Voices in Resisting Surveillance

Ian Linkletter (He/Him)

Students are outraged by mandatory academic surveillance technology, and their voices are all around us. I will share how I found them on Reddit, Twitter, and Google Chrome Web Store reviews, and helped make them heard.

lan founded the Canadian Privacy Library https://privacylibrary.ca/

Stand Against Proctorio's SLAPP! (Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation) https://linkletter.org/

Practorio is not edtech, it is "academic surveillance software"

Erik Johnson's lawsuit saga against Proctorio https://x.com/ejohnson99/status/1303121786637373443

Video: Face Detection, Remote Testing Software & Learning At Home While Black — Amaya's Flashlight

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iELUtvhbukE

Proctorio's facial recognition is racist.

https://web.archive.org/web/20250621140247/https:/proctor.ninja/proctorios-facial-recognition-is-racist

"Like Looking at a Spreadsheet": Investigating Teachers' Use of Data Dashboards for K-12 Data-Driven Decision-Making (ACM, 11 April 2024) https://dl.acm.org/doi/10.1145/3715275.3732171

Is Online Test Monitoring Here to Stay? (New Yorker, 7 Oct 2022) https://www.newyorker.com/tech/annals-of-technology/is-online-test-monitoring-here-to-stay

The Guardian Australia link:

https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2020/jul/01/ceo-of-exam-monitoring-Software-proctorio-apologises-for-posting-students-chat-logs-on-reddit

The Ubyssey's coverage of the Proctorio chat logs incident: https://ubyssey.ca/news/proctorio-chat-logs/

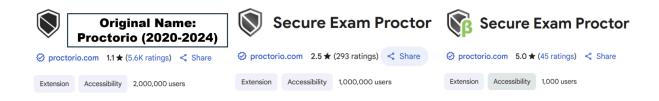
lan created Procteario on Twitter in August 2020. https://x.com/Procteario

lan's flagged Google reviews of Proctorio on https://googlereviews.linkletter.org lan's letter to 10 US Senators on https://dearsenators.linkletter.org

lan is very upset about US Democratic lawmakers not doing any thing about academic surveillance software

Proctorio now uses their own employees to try and obfuscate their reviews, have created duplicate listings with employee positive reviews

Proctorio is creating duplicate listings



Old listing: https://chromewebstore.google.com/detail/proctorio/fpmapakogndmenjcfoajifaaonnkpkei

New listing: https://chromewebstore.google.com/detail/secure-exam-proctor/gfolddmfcichcfnghdchbfgpmgodmkjd/reviews

"Beta" listing: https://chromewebstore.google.com/detail/secure-exam-proctor/gkfbnchmophfmhmcbeapgnhhdnhapoka/privacy

What a fantastic presentation, thank you so much for sharing this and for your advocacy on behalf of students and human rights

What advice do you have for other activists? (Ian said blow the whistle, he would not change anything he did, the community which supported him is strong)

Now hearing from Erin Rose Glass

From the program:

What Can't ChatGPT Say? Language, Resistance, and the Strange Powers We're Forgetting

Erin Rose Glass (She/Her)

This talk invites participants to explore how AI systems like ChatGPT flatten language and thought, and how reclaiming language's wilder, stranger powers can be a form of resistance. By drawing on poetic and philosophical traditions, it asks what kinds of expression artificial systems can't replicate, and why that matters for our collective future.

Presentation resources will be posted on:

https://www.erinroseglass.com/

Her WordPress theme is by https://andersnoren.se/teman/

"You must write and read as if you life depended on it"

- that's the kind of reading and writing I want to investigate today...

3 powers of language sidelined by Al writing tools which enrich our living

- pleasure
- perception

- ?

I didn't say for the rest of this session, I switched to room 1 for:

The Three-Part Illusion of Al Chatbots

Christa Albrecht-Crane (She/Her)

This presentation demonstrates a method for exploring AI chatbot programs for educators in the humanities who often lack a technical background in computer science. I present a hands-on exploration, revealing (1) how language models function as next-word predictors, (2) how user interfaces are designed to create the illusion of a conversation, and (3) how a fictional chatbot persona aims to manipulate users into believing they are interacting with a sentient entity. This approach can be used as part of faculty development or as the basis for classroom exercises with students to encourage the analysis of social, political, and ethical implications of generative AI technologies.

University bio:

https://www.uvu.edu/directory/employee/?id=N1M4eWNndEZDdlBGL0hhbDZVYXA3QT09

Christa Albrecht-Crane on:

- LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/christa-albrecht-crane-09021021b/
- Substack: https://christaalbrechtcrane.substack.com/

Recommended article: Mama, There's a Plagiarist Behind You
On being plagiarised and the disconcerting pollution and decay of the online world
https://thenoosphere.substack.com/p/mama-theres-a-plagiarist-behind-you

My social media post:

Check out my day 2 notes (so far) for #CivicsOfTech25 the "Civics of Technology 2025 Conference." Challenging & important presentations, esp from Chris Guilliard and Ian Linkletter: https://wfryer.me/day2

My blog post about my day 1 learning: https://www.speedofcreativity.org/2025/07/31/civics-of-tech-2025-conference/

#MediaLit #MediaLiteracy #surveillance #privacy #resistance #TechFascism #Fascism