

# How to avoid the recolonisation of the curriculum

D&D in Mathematics Conference, Warwick

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# Where we are

Good afternoon,

to register for the event, please use this link:

[https://rsvp.withgoogle.com/events/higher-education-leader-series-emea\\_652653](https://rsvp.withgoogle.com/events/higher-education-leader-series-emea_652653)

We are pleased to invite you to the Google Cloud Higher Education Leader Series EMEA, an executive in-person event for senior higher education leaders exploring how AI and cloud technologies can support institutional transformation, innovation and future-ready education.

**Main event:** Tuesday, 16 June 2026

**Time:** 9:00am – 4:00pm

**Format:** In person

**Location:** Shoreditch Electric, Coronet St, London N1 6HD

**Language:** English



**Flounder Mode**

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Jan 29 \*

"The problem with LLMs is that you eventually run out of other people's work to steal"



**Erik Jonker**

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Jan 25 \*

Important blog about a threat few people understand.

"AI bot swarms threaten to undermine democracy. When AI Can Fake Majorities, Democracy Slips Away"

[garymarcus.substack.com/p/ai-b...](http://garymarcus.substack.com/p/ai-b...)

Underlying paper (preprint), [arxiv.org/abs/2506.06299](http://arxiv.org/abs/2506.06299)



**Fi**

@munin@infosec.exchange

Feb 16

I will also note that, in my immediate sphere, two women - completely unrelated to each other - have come to me recently after their male bosses demanded they integrate LLM usage into their otherwise completely satisfactory work.

One of them was seriously thinking of quitting her job, because trying to fulfill that (remember, -male- applied) demand was making her a worse engineer.

The other was in a panic that she'd be fired before a necessary medical procedure that was scheduled soon.

So in my lived experience, women are not universally empowered by 'ai' and, instead, find themselves being actively disempowered by it, at the specific behest of men in power over them.



**Ciara**

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Sep 21, 2024

'Using GPT-4 to generate 100 words consumes up to 3 bottles of water.'

I'd like to see the climate cost flagged in simple terms like this every time we are about to use AI. Like a calorie counter for the climate. A pop-up AI warning label, like nutritional information on food packaging. If nothing else, it might make us individually aware of the collective cost of using AI frivolously.



**Gerry McGovern**

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5d

"Company-wide metrics from the environmental disclosure of data center operators suggest that AI systems may have a carbon footprint equivalent to that of New York City in 2025, while their water footprint could be in the range of the global annual consumption of bottled water."

"Such estimates are complicated by the fact that data center operators do not publicly disclose the required inputs."

Screenshot 202...



**Aram Sinnreich**

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2d\*

The only thing worse than releasing powerful AI models into the wild without adequate oversight is releasing powerful AI models into the wild with MAGA oversight

[nytimes.com/2026/05/04/technol...](https://nytimes.com/2026/05/04/technol...)



**Associated Press**

@AssociatedPress@flipboard.com

13h

Tech is betting on a former executive in the race for California governor  
[apnews.com/article/mayor-mahan...](https://apnews.com/article/mayor-mahan...)

Posted into Technology @technology-AssociatedPress



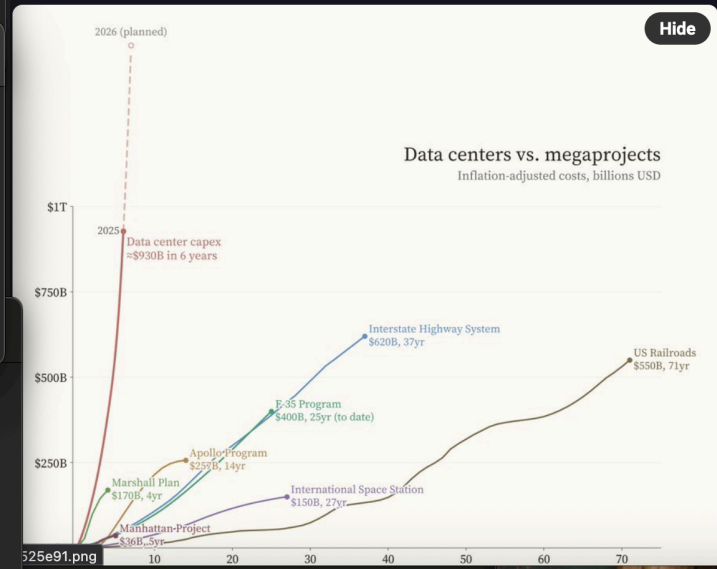
**Official Kakistocracy Jester**

@OGJester@pnw.zone

Apr 18\*

Correcting for inflation, by the end of 2026, we will have spent more on AI than we spent building the entire Interstate Highway System and the transcontinental railroads (all four of them) combined.

At some point, society needs to be asking what the benefit-to-cost value is to all this, because we could just tax all this money from billionaires and do stuff with it that's actually useful.



# New type of colonialism

WARIO WORLD

## Residents Say Elon Musk's AI Facility Is Like Living Next Door to Mordor

"I just haven't really internalized that this is here and this is what's happening."

By [Frank Landymore](#) / Published **Mar 4, 2026 1:01 PM EST** / [Add Futurism](#) ⓘ

## Bright idea? UK firm pioneers data centres using lampposts



The vast data centers that power artificial intelligence guzzle huge amounts of energy but they also have another alarming impact, according to new research. They are creating “[heat islands](#),” warming the land around them by up to 16 degrees Fahrenheit, and making life hotter for more than 340 million people.

A quiet transformation is unfolding in schools: commercial technology is rapidly reshaping how children learn, often without much public debate or inquiry.

From the near-ubiquity of Google and Microsoft to speculative [AI products](#) such as Century Tech, big and ed tech alike promise “personalised learning” while harvesting vast amounts of data and turning education to monetisable widgets and digital badges.

[Home](#) > [Next](#) > [Tech News](#)

## Children are drawing moustaches on their faces to fool online age checks - and it's working

# Data Colonialism

The harvest of our personal data can be seen through the lens of colonialism, where we are the subjects of colonisation, big tech the colonisers. (Mejias & Couldry)

mobile phones

cctv

genAI

education "support" from bigtech

# Where we are in Mathematics

reconsidering assessments

integrating (gen)AI

creating Maths with or Maths for degrees

suddenly there is space in the curriculum

Are we telling our students the (unintended) consequences of Mathematics?

Are we still serving our students and catering for everyone?

The number of students studying mathematical disciplines at UK Universities has remained relatively steady for the last decade, with only a 6% increase from 2012 to 2021, against a 25% overall increase for all subjects, skewed towards high tariff, Russell Group universities. Indeed, the majority of post-92 universities saw a significant decline in Mathematics students during this period (Wakeling, 2024). In the academic year 2021/22 over half of new first degree enrolments in mathematics were at Russell Group universities, compared to only one quarter of enrolments across all subjects.

HESA data from 2022 shows that, while the distribution of Black, Asian, and minority ethnic students is distributed across all categories of university, the distribution of Black students is skewed, percentage-wise, towards post-92 universities. The six universities offering mathematics-based degrees with the biggest percentage of Black students are *all* post-92 universities.

Compared to the broader HE landscape, mathematics students tend to be more frequently men, and from privileged socioeconomic backgrounds (Wakeling, 2024). Black students, and students from lower socioeconomic backgrounds, are under-represented in mathematics compared with sector average. Further, Black students studying STEM subjects in the UK have poorer degree outcomes and lower rates of academic career progression than other ethnic groups (Jisc, 2021).

# Crossroads

We (educators, universities, learned societies and funding agencies) can now choose which path to take.

I proposed lobbying for

-Making Mathematics accessible to everyone that wants to study it,

-Do not relying on bigtech (alternatives exist), e.g.

<https://european-alternatives.eu/>

Distributed Artificial Intelligence Research Institute (DAIR), founded by Timnit Gebru, that produced

Bender, Emily M.; Hanna, Alex (2025). The AI Con: How to Fight Big Tech's Hype and Create the Future We Want. Harper.

and the Mystery AI Hype Theater 3000- videocast

and (in order to address the issued mention by Prof. Nira Chamberlain: why are Humanities ahead of STEM in terms of AI bias)

# Putting Humanity(ies) in Mathematics

Ensuring Mathematics graduates know enough of the world and where Maths will be applied to make informed choices.

A "How the world was made" (M. Ali) or Critical Thinking/Critical Analysis module should be compulsory in Mathematics (and all STEM) degrees.

We can start small: Mathematics in Society.

## Advertising

<https://podverse.fm/podcast/IR2H4Ds1x>

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