For the Future of Our Work: Decolonizing Our Classrooms through Heutagogy and Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI)

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We are using generative artificial intelligence (AI) to enhance our efforts at ADC to decolonize teaching and learning. Technologies such as ChatGPT can be resources by which to practice heutagogy (self-determined learning) in the classroom, a pedagogical approach that invites more inclusivity and creativity. We have designed an REB-approved experiment to leverage AI in our classrooms as a decolonizing resource that empowers diverse graduates and helps them imagine how to use AI in their diverse future work contexts. We have designed an ADC Course Content Creator AI tool and are using it to create and deliver a 10-week course on AI, ethics, and pastoral ministry.

The session will highlight the theories behind our experiment, including comparative "gogies" (pedagogy, andragogy, and heutagogy) and their connections with decolonization[1] as well as the case for including heutagogy across academic disciplines.[2] We will reflect on challenges and opportunities of AI as a heutagogical resource that can offer decolonized, personalized learning experiences for diverse students.[3]

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[1] Blaschke, Lisa M. (2023). Self-determined learning: Designing for heutagogic learning environments. *Learning, Design, and Technology*, 245-266

[2] Shahjahan, R.A., et al (2022). "Decolonizing" curriculum and pedagogy: A comparative review across disciplines and global higher education contexts. *Review of Educational Research*, *92*(1): 73-113

[3] Mollick, E. and Mollick, L. (2024). *Instructors as innovators: A future-focused approach to new AI learning opportunities, with prompts*. Available at https://ssrn.com/abstract-4802463

The session will reveal initial findings from our experiment and illustrate how colleagues might try similar experiments. We will explain how we created our ADC Course Content Creator to build content from our institution's mission, program outcomes, syllabus template, and marking rubric. We also will invite faculty to try out similar AI tools during the workshop. These AI resources can help faculty create syllabi, assess student work, prioritize mentoring and coaching, and even reflect on the ethics of AI within their own disciplines.