



The Death of the Author? AI and the Future of Literature

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Abstract

This paper challenges deeply ingrained philosophical concepts of authorship, originality and the nature of literary expression by examining the transformative impact of AI's increasing role as a creative collaborator. Through a close analysis of case studies featuring human/AI cocreated literary works, the paper scrutinises the blurring boundaries between human and artificial creativity. It interrogates our evolving definitions of what constitutes an 'author' and a 'literary' work in a world where sophisticated AI can produce stylistically accomplished text. Addressing a critical and timely issue, this paper expands the existing body of literature by presenting AI-authored works not as technological curiosities, but as catalysts compelling us to reconsider the philosophical foundations of the literary endeavour. Offering a unique perspective, the paper bridges cutting-edge AI research with philosophical theories of authorship. It draws parallels to historical movements that similarly challenged the notion of a singular author, contextualising AI as the latest evolution of this inquiry. The research adopts a hybrid methodology, blending case study analysis with rigorous philosophical interrogation. Rather than proposing definitive answers, the paper serves as a platform for provoking thoughtful reexamination of our fundamental assumptions about artistic creation. It explores questions surrounding consciousness, intentionality and the evolving role of the human writer in a literary landscape where machines demonstrate a capacity for generating aesthetically engaging texts.

Keywords: Aesthetics; collaboration; consciousness; creativity; hybridity