

Fiction and Reportage In The Era of Chatbots and Fabricated News

BMCC Faculty Forum, November 15 2023

2-4 pm, The Hudson Room



This semester's Faculty Forum is an open discussion on the ongoing nature of Fiction and Reportage in our current era of deep fakes, chatbots, data dumps, and generated text. We are featuring three fiction writers—Katie Bockino, Thomas McGonigle, and Lara Stapleton—who will present excerpts of their work interspersed with a moderated exchange from faculty attendees and a few fledgling stars from the student Writers Guild.

We hope to explore several interrelated questions and provocations. What is the nature of Roland Barthes' "author function" in the era of "unmanned" text generation? How is our current sense of "automatic writing" very different from W. B. Yeats' idea of depersonalized occult transmission? How thinned-out is Walter Benjamin's aura of the authentic in the Age of Artificial Intelligence?

Considering the implications for our profession and our passions, we hope for a large turnout and a generous and productive back-and-forth. We look forward to enjoying the fruits of our featured panelists' creativity, and to a productive discussion on the ever-shifting frameworks all our efforts occur within.