CHIRP

Investigating Religion & Power

CHIRP Lab: Guidelines for Use of AI

Mission and Goals:
Our goal as a research team is to grow as a community of inquiry. The way we do our research should serve our personal and professional formation. Knowledge production is a secondary goal that serves our formation. We recognize and affirm that our growth is the result of difficult and prolonged struggles that often include discomfort. These challenges are not the unfortunate, accidental results of doing research; they are the necessary processes and experiences that enable us to grow as a team. As such, we recognize that the role of technology (e.g. search engines, word processors, generative AI, etc.) in our research must be intentionally and regularly discussed and evaluated. At the beginning of each academic year, our research team should:

- Watch and discuss this video:
    - ▶ Stephen Fry reads Nick Cave's stirring letter about ChatGPT and human creativity
- Discuss these questions at the beginning and end of each academic year and take notes for posterity:
    - In the video, what points do we disagree/agree with?
    - How do we use AI in our daily lives?
    - What new technologies have arisen in the last year?
    - What uses of technologies might help our team's formative goals?
    - What uses of technologies might get in the way of our team's formative goals?

Guiding Principles for AI Use in Our Research

- **Human-Centered Research**: AI is a tool, not a replacement for human analysis and critical thinking. We prioritize the unique insights and interpretations that come from close engagement with primary and secondary sources, interviews, and collaborative discussions.
- **Critical Evaluation of AI**: We approach AI-generated content with a healthy skepticism, always verifying its accuracy, relevance, and potential biases. We recognize the limitations of AI in understanding complex cultural nuances, historical contexts, and the lived experiences of people.
- **Ethical Data Use**: We respect the privacy and sensitivity of the individuals and communities we study. We will not use AI tools to analyze personal data without explicit consent and appropriate ethical review. Additionally, we will consult with librarians regarding current legal policy regarding what published data we can input into an AI tool.

- **Transparency and Attribution**: We are transparent about our use of AI in research. We clearly document and disclose any AI-generated content in our publications and presentations, acknowledging its limitations and potential biases.
- **Continuous Learning**: We stay informed about the latest developments in AI and its potential impact on humanities research. We engage in ongoing discussions within our lab and the broader academic community about the ethical implications of AI. To this end, we will have a discussion at the end of each AY to address changes in the technologies we are using in our research. Any updates to our AI Policies can be made during this discussion.

Helpful Uses of AI in Our Research

- **Literature Review**: AI can help identify relevant articles and summarize key findings, saving time and providing a starting point for deeper analysis.
- **Language Translation**: AI translation tools can facilitate access to sources in other languages, expanding the scope of our research.
- **Transcription**: AI can transcribe interviews and recordings, freeing up time for analysis and interpretation.
- **Creative Brainstorming**: AI can generate ideas and prompts for research questions, presentations, and articles.
- **Citation Management:** AI can help us organize our sources and citations when it comes time for publication.

Harmful or Risky Uses of AI to Avoid in Our Research

- **Uncritical Acceptance**: Relying on AI-generated summaries or analyses without verifying their accuracy and relevance can lead to misinformation and misinterpretation.
- **Ignoring Biases**: AI models can be biased based on the data they are trained on. Failing to recognize and address these biases can lead to distorted or unfair conclusions.
- **Privacy Violations**: Using AI to analyze sensitive personal data without consent is unethical and can cause harm to individuals and communities.
- **Plagiarism**: Presenting AI-generated content as one's own work is a serious violation of academic integrity.
  https://www.up.edu/tl/files/2024-2025-guidelines-and-requirements-for-syllabi.docx
- **Violating Fair-Use Laws**:

Method Guiding Team Reading

- **Primary Readers**: When the group is analyzing a source, there must always be at least one person (the Primary Reader) assigned to read the entire source and create an AR Form. That person should come to the next team meeting ready to present their thoughts regarding the source (e.g. summary, relevant quotes, critical questions, directions for

further research, etc.). The Primary Reader should also articulate how the source relates to (1) the larger research project and (2) specific sources that have previously been analyzed by the team.

- ○ AI tools should never replace or enhance the Primary Reader's personal reading of the source. This assures that the team's reading of the text is always rooted in a human engagement with the source, and only then supplemented by technology.
- ○ The Primary Reader can use AI tools to clarify specific terms or phrases (i.e. much in the way one might use a dictionary or encyclopedia).

● **Secondary Readers**: When the team deems it appropriate, at least one other team member (the Secondary Reader) may use AI tools to summarize and analyze the source. The Secondary Reader may read the analysis generated by the following prompts and come to the team meeting prepared to present them. The Secondary Reader should fact check any responses generated by the AI tool (e.g. Do quotations/citations actually exist in the original article?). After uploading the source PDF to the AI tools, the Secondary Reader can use any combination of the following prompts for analysis. The prompts that are used should be recorded into the AR form for the article.

- ○ **Prompt 1: Initial Understanding:** "Please provide a concise summary of the key points, arguments, and evidence presented in this academic source. What are the main research questions or objectives addressed by the author(s)?"
  - ■ Purpose: This establishes a foundational understanding of the source's core content, setting the stage for deeper analysis.
- ○ **Prompt 2: Methodology and Evidence:** "Describe the research methods or approaches used in this source. How does the author(s) support their claims? What types of evidence or data do they present?"
  - ■ Purpose: This delves into the methodology, revealing the strength and validity of the research, and how well the conclusions are supported.
- ○ **Prompt 3: Implications and Contributions:** "What are the broader implications or significance of the findings in this source? How does it contribute to the existing body of knowledge in its field? Does it challenge or support existing theories or perspectives?"
  - ■ Purpose: This explores the impact of the research, its potential applications, and how it fits into the wider academic landscape.
- ○ **Prompt 4: Critical Evaluation:** "Identify the strengths and weaknesses of this source. Are there any limitations to the methodology or potential biases in the analysis? Could the findings be interpreted differently?"
  - ■ Purpose: This encourages a critical assessment of the source, fostering a deeper understanding of its validity and potential flaws.
- ○ **Prompt 5: Connections and Applications:** "How does this source relate to other works or concepts you are familiar with? Can you identify any potential applications or areas for further research based on the findings presented here?"

■ Purpose: This prompt helps to integrate the source into existing knowledge, sparking connections and new ideas for future exploration.
● All responses generated by AI tools must be thoroughly discussed and vetted by the team members prior to having any material influence on a research deliverable.

Methods Guiding Team Writing

● **Draft Composition:** As a rule, all initial drafting should be done without the use of an AI tool..
● **Draft Consolidation:** If two writers are working on the same project, the drafts they write independently can be entered into an AI tool and consolidated. The team must then collectively read the consolidated prose and thoroughly edit it, making sure that any additions are accurate and beneficial and that any subtractions aren't reducing the quality of the writing.
● **Draft Editing:** We will use AI tools to edit drafts of our writing. The prompts listed below (or others determined by our team) can be used to generate editorial feedback. We will then compile the feedback, discuss the suggestions, and then implement the agreed-upon suggestions.
  ○ **Possible Prompts for Editing**
    ■ "Analyze the overall structure and flow of this draft. Provide suggestions on improving the logical organization and transitions between sections."
    ■ "Check for consistency in the use of terminology, acronyms, and citation styles throughout the draft article and flag any inconsistencies."
    ■ "Review the introduction section and provide feedback on how well it establishes the context, research gap, and objectives of the study."
    ■ "Check for any redundancies, unnecessary repetition, or overly verbose language throughout the draft and suggest ways to tighten and streamline the writing."
    ■ "Analyze the overall tone and language used in the draft, and provide feedback on maintaining an appropriate academic writing style and voice."
    ■ "Check for any potential issues with plagiarism or improper citation of sources, and flag any instances where additional citations or attribution may be needed."
    ■ "Check this article draft for any instances of passive voice and suggest revisions to use more active voice where appropriate."
    ■ "Identify any paragraphs or sections in this article draft that lack cohesion or focus, and suggest ways to tighten and clarify the writing."
    ■ "Review the in-text citations and reference list in this article draft to ensure they follow the appropriate citation style consistently."