

## Departmental Seminar

# Letting AI take over our teaching: what could possibly go wrong?

**Prof. J.P. de Ruiter**  
Tufts University, USA

### ABSTRACT

The use of Generative AI (genAI) by students to complete assignments and projects is already widespread, likely underestimated, and growing fast. Unsurprisingly, educators are also adopting these tools at increasing rates. As the scale and cost of higher education continue to grow, students are starting to question the value of the traditional model: Why pay tuition and sit through lectures when powerful AI tools can do the same or an even better job? Institutions, for their part, are also seeing opportunities to cut costs.

In response to this emerging “AI crisis”, many educators are debating whether to restrict students' use of genAI or embrace it more fully, for both teaching and learning. The common goal is to keep humans in charge, with AI playing a supportive role: lightening the workload, opening new possibilities, and enhancing the learning experience.

But what if we flipped the script entirely? Instead of asking, “How can we keep teaching as humans while incorporating genAI?” we could run a thought experiment: What if we left the whole process of teaching, including lecturing, providing feedback, and testing, to genAI? Could it work? What might it look like? And most importantly, what meaningful roles would be left for human educators?

This talk explores the potential upsides of such a scenario, the downsides, and a number of possibly overlooked risks. The goal is to spark a deeper conversation about what, if anything, is truly irreplaceable in the human contribution to the educational process.

### ALL ARE WELCOME

**Date:**  
15 May 2025 (Thu)

**Time:**  
10:00 am - 11:30 am

**Venue:**  
Room G6, G/F,  
Ho Tim Building, CUHK

**Language:**  
English



### ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Prof. De Ruiter is a cognitive scientist and psycholinguist whose primary research focus is on the cognitive foundations of human communication. Prof. De Ruiter aims to improve our understanding about how humans and artificial agents can use language, gesture and other forms of multimodal and nonverbal signals to effectively communicate with each other. He is also interested in the computational processes involved in conversational turn taking and intention recognition in agent-agent communication. He has published in linguistic, psycholinguistic, methodological, neurocognitive, and cognitive-psychological journals. His interests include philosophy of science, artificial intelligence, and inferential statistics. Prof. De Ruiter has also initiated and/or been involved in several projects in social robotics, working on the encoding and decoding of communicative intentions in embodied artificial systems.

