

Review of: "[Essay] The Algorithm; Mind of a Virtual Era – Our Code of Codes"

Robert Kozinets¹

¹ University of Southern California

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This is a very interesting and useful history of algorithms. It is extremely wide ranging. I particularly like the parts where the author starts to develop thinking about how human thought is different from mechanized thought, which surely is a matter of both qualitative and quantitative difference. What is interesting about the recent round of generative AI products, in image and text production, is the seeming facility they have with what appears to be creativity. DALL-E-2, for example, comes up with some brilliantly creative works. Not always, but regularly. The author invokes Katherine Hayles work, which I was glad to see (although the essay cites the work as Haynes and Hayes as well as by its correct name). One of the things Hayles' work does well is go deep into the semantic vocabularies. I wonder if this essay might dive a bit deeper into the current vocabularies as they unfold in the contemporary world of AI's development. Building this sort of a fresh cultural analysis into a more trenchant and structured analysis of the differences between human and mechanized thinking might lead to some additional interesting directions and more usefulness/applicability for the work.