

# Navigating the AI Frontier: Cultivating Responsible and Ethical AI Practices

Wednesday, October 9th, 3:00 – 4:00 PM CDT

A panel of Texas higher education experts will explore strategies and best practices for equipping educators and students to navigate the emerging landscape of AI technologies. Panelists will share insights on promoting digital fluency, critical thinking about AI, and cultivating responsible AI practices within teaching and learning environments.

## Panel Moderator



**Dr. Julie Schell** is the Assistant Vice Provost of Academic Technology and the Director of the Office of Academic Technology at The University of Texas at Austin. She oversees the University's technology-enhanced learning ecosystem and works to advance teaching and learning through the strategic use of academic technology. She is also an Assistant Professor of Practice in the Departments of Design and Educational Leadership and Policy, where she teaches graduate and undergraduate courses on learning experience design. In her current studios, Dr. Schell and her students are partnering with generative AI to prototype speculative objects and environments designed to improve teaching and learning in education settings.

Dr. Schell is also an award-winning college teaching and learning expert with over 25 years of expertise in higher education. She has delivered over 100 talks, workshops, and keynotes on teaching and learning. She is the creator of Think Before You Design Think™, a popular introductory human-centered design curriculum she first launched at AT&T and has delivered at Fortune 500 companies and non-profit organizations throughout the United States. Dr. Schell's approach to design thinking focuses on using the principles of learning science to develop design thinking self-efficacy, especially among non-designers. She has supported thousands of new learners in their journey to understand and apply human-centered design to improve lived experiences.

Before joining the Provost's office, Dr. Schell served as the Assistant Dean of Instructional Continuity and Innovation at the College of Fine Arts, where she led the transition to online learning for over 200 arts and design faculty and academic staff during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr. Schell completed her doctorate in higher and postsecondary education at Teachers College, Columbia University, and a four-year post-doctoral fellowship focused on the science of teaching and learning in the Mazur Group at Harvard University. Her dissertation, dedicated to improving undergraduate teaching and learning, won the Dissertation of the Year award for the American Educational Research Association's higher education division. She has held positions at the nation's top research universities, including Yale, Stanford, Columbia, and Harvard.

## Panel Participants



**Dr. Yunhe Feng** is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering at the University of North Texas (UNT). He directs the Responsible AI Lab and co-directs the Master's Program in Artificial Intelligence. His research interests include Responsible AI, Generative AI, and Data Security & Privacy. Dr. Feng is the recipient of the 2023 IEEE Smart Computing Special Technical Community Early Career Award for his contributions to smart and responsible computing. Recently, he was named to the inaugural Dallas Innovates AI 75 List, which honors the most significant people in AI in the Dallas-Fort Worth area across seven categories.



**Dr. Art Markman** is the Annabel Irion Worsham Centennial Professor of Psychology, Human Dimensions of Organizations, and Marketing and Vice Provost for Academic Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin. He has written over 150 papers on topics including reasoning, decision making, and motivation. Art brings insights from cognitive science to a broader audience through his blogs at Psychology Today and Fast Company as well as his radio show and podcast

Two Guys on Your Head. He is the author of several books including Smart Thinking, Smart Change, Brain Briefs, and Bring Your Brain to Work.



**Dr. Rizwan Virani** is the Senior Director of Cybersecurity Programs at San Jacinto College, where he oversees the development and delivery of cybersecurity education and training programs for students and professionals. Rizwan also serves as an Adjunct Instructor of Cybersecurity at Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service and Lone Star College, where he teaches courses on cybersecurity fundamentals, frameworks, and standards. Additionally, Rizwan serves as the Vice Chairman of alliant, a leading provider of business, digital consulting, and cybersecurity services for American businesses. With over 20 years of experience in enterprise operations, risk management, cybersecurity, data privacy, and business operations consulting, Rizwan has helped hundreds of organizations across various industries navigate the complex and evolving digital, business, and compliance landscape. He possesses a strong background in engineering, having worked as an electrical engineer in the semiconductor manufacturing industry before transitioning into professional services. Rizwan holds multiple certifications in cybersecurity and risk management, including CISSP, CCSP, CISA, CISM, and others.



**Alex Watkins M.A.**, is a Program Coordinator and Faculty member in the Technical Communications program at ACC. Her research interests include digital fluency, multilingualism, and inclusive teaching. Recently, she's been doing a deep dive into the role of AI in the writing process, the ethics of AI, and best practices for teaching students to use AI critically.