



The AI Con: How to Fight Big Tech's Hype and Create the Future We Want

Emily M. Bender, Ph.D.

Thomas L. and Margo G. Wyckoff Endowed Professor in the Department Linguistics, University of Washington.
Faculty Director of the Computational Linguistics Master of Science program, and Director of the Computational Linguistics Laboratory,

Alex Hanna, Ph.D.

Director of Research at the Distributed AI Research Institute and a Lecturer in the School of Information, University of California Berkeley.

Timnit Gebru, Ph.D.

Founder and Executive Director of the Distributed AI Research Institute.



Monday, May 12, 2025, 7:00 PM CT
Register: www.bit.ly/BHFANWebinar

PLUS: After-Hours Event!

Purchase a copy of *The AI Con* from FAN's partner bookseller The Book Stall to receive a link to an interactive "After-Hours" event hosted by Bender and Hanna. Details on the Zoom registration form.

This event is #freeandopentothepublic and will be recorded. Suitable for youth 12+

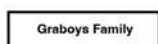
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: EMILY M. BENDER, Ph.D. and ALEX HANNA, Ph.D. - ON ZOOM
CONTACT: Lonnie Stonitsch, Executive Director of FAN, lonnie@familyactionnetwork.net

Monday, May 12, 2025, 7:00 PM CT, The AI Con: How to Fight Big Tech's Hype and Create the Future We Want, a FAN webinar featuring Emily M. Bender, Ph.D., and Alex Hanna, Ph.D., in conversation with Timnit Gebru, Ph.D. REGISTER: www.bit.ly/BHFANWebinar

BONUS AFTER-HOURS EVENT: Attendees who purchase a copy *The AI Con* from FAN's partner bookseller The Book Stall are invited to attend an AFTER-HOURS event hosted by Bender and Hanna that will start immediately after the webinar. Details on the webinar registration page.

Is artificial intelligence going to take over the world? Have big tech scientists created an artificial lifeform that can think on its own? Is it going to put authors, artists, and others out of business? Are we about to enter an age where computers are better than humans at everything?

The answer to these questions, linguist **Emily M. Bender, Ph.D.**, and sociologist **Alex Hanna, Ph.D.**, make clear, is “no,” “they wish,” “LOL,” and “definitely not.” This kind of thinking is a symptom of a phenomenon known as “AI hype.” Hype looks and smells fishy: It twists words and helps the rich get richer by justifying data theft, motivating surveillance capitalism, and devaluing human creativity to replace meaningful work with jobs that treat people like machines. In ***The AI Con: How to Fight Big Tech's Hype and Create the Future We Want***, Bender and Hanna offer a sharp, witty, and wide-ranging take-down of AI hype across its many forms.

Bender and Hanna show you how to spot AI hype, how to deconstruct it, and how to expose the power grabs it aims to hide. Armed with these tools, you will be prepared to push back against AI hype at work, as a consumer in the marketplace, as a skeptical newsreader, and as a citizen holding policymakers to account. Together, Bender and Hanna expose AI hype for what it is: a mask for Big Tech's drive for profit, with little concern for who it affects.

Bender, a professor of linguistics at the University of Washington, and Hanna, director of research at the Distributed AI Research Institute (DAIR), will be in conversation with **Timnit Gebru, Ph.D.**, founder and executive director of DAIR. DAIR is an interdisciplinary and globally distributed AI research institute rooted in the belief that AI is not inevitable, its harms are preventable, and when its production and deployment include diverse perspectives and deliberate processes it can be beneficial.

This event suitable for youth 12+. It will be recorded and available on FAN's website and YouTube channel.

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