

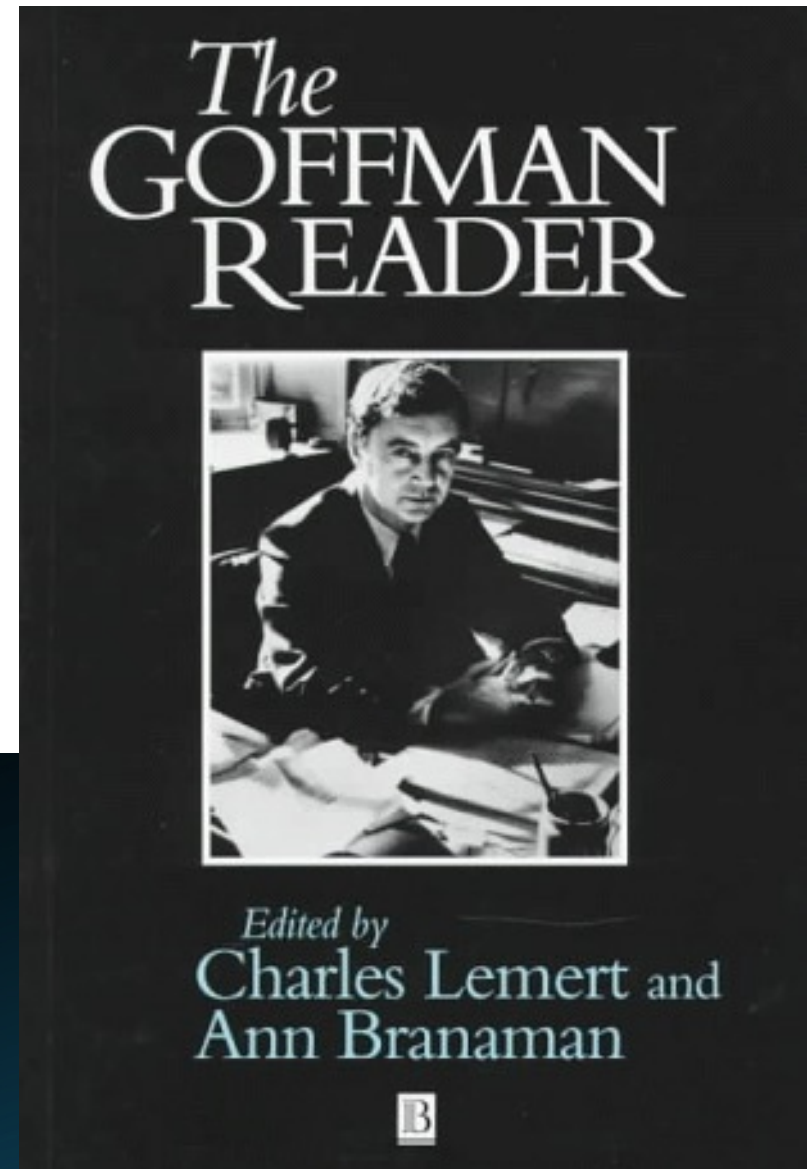
Accountability in AI-assisted scholarship

A Goffmanian perspective

Jim O'Driscoll

CIDER Session

March 18, 2026





**ARTIFICIAL
INTELLIGENCE**



When whole texts can be AI-generated

- Credited to whom? copyright?
- Who is responsible for claims?
- Who to ask for clarification/evidence?

- Where does accountability lie?



The GOFFMAN READER



Edited by
Charles Lemert and
Ann Branaman



Erving Goffman

The sociology of occasions

The GOFFMAN READER



Edited by
Charles Lemert and
Ann Branaman



Maverick / loner

He seems to have entirely eschewed the ritual apparatus of institutional continuity: never editing collections of papers by his students or imitators; never contributing a prefatory endorsement of another's book; discouraging the growth of commentaries and secondary studies of his work; and, until 1981 never publicly responding to published criticisms. (Williams 1988:64)

Goffman's Production Format

'speaker' deconstructed

- Animator
- Author
- Principal

Politician making a speech

- **Animator**
- Author – speechwriter
- **Principal**

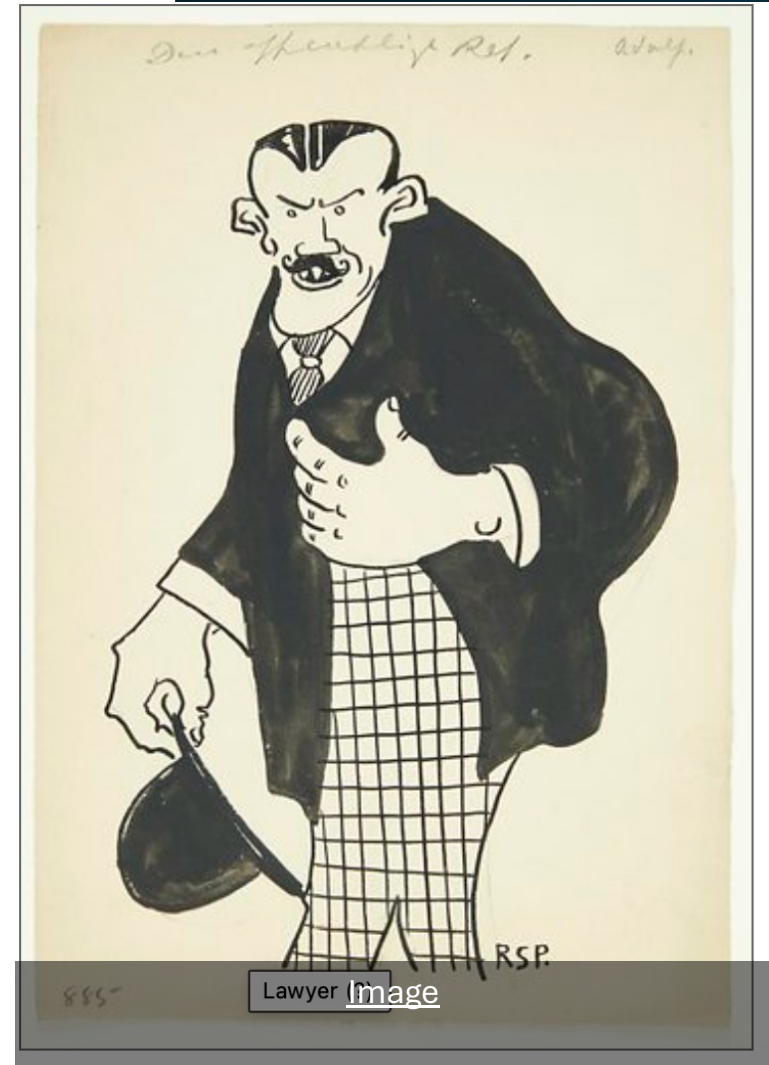


Image: [Mohamedismail83](#)

Image

Lawyer reading out a statement outside court

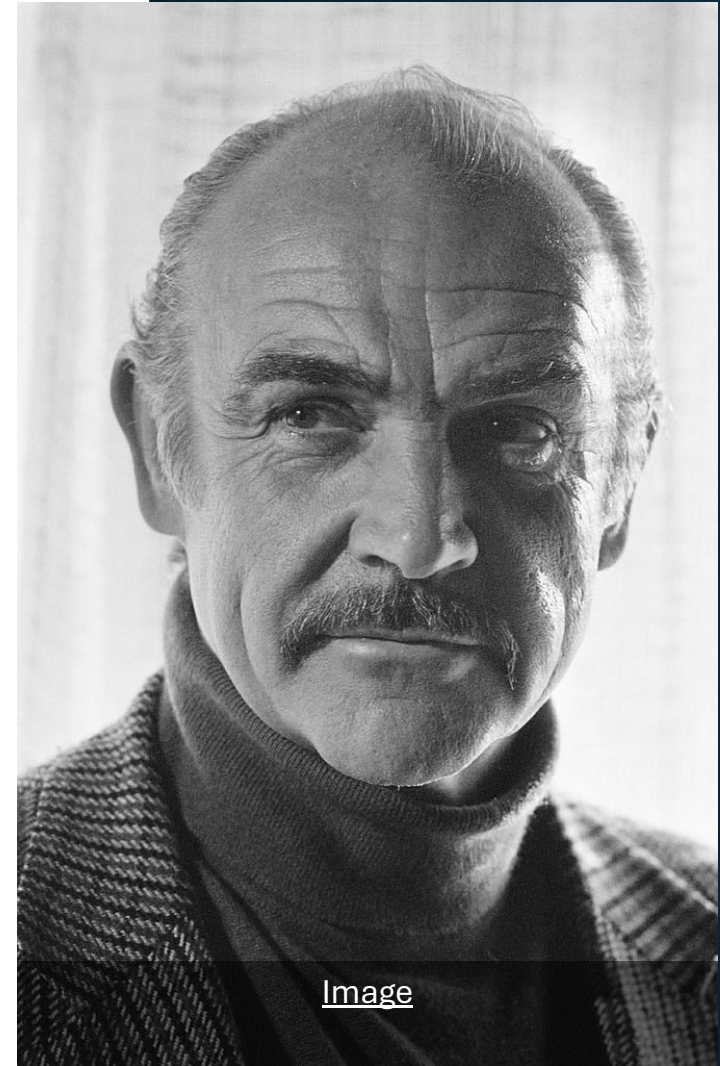
- Animator
- Author
- Principal – client



Lawyer Image

Actor in role

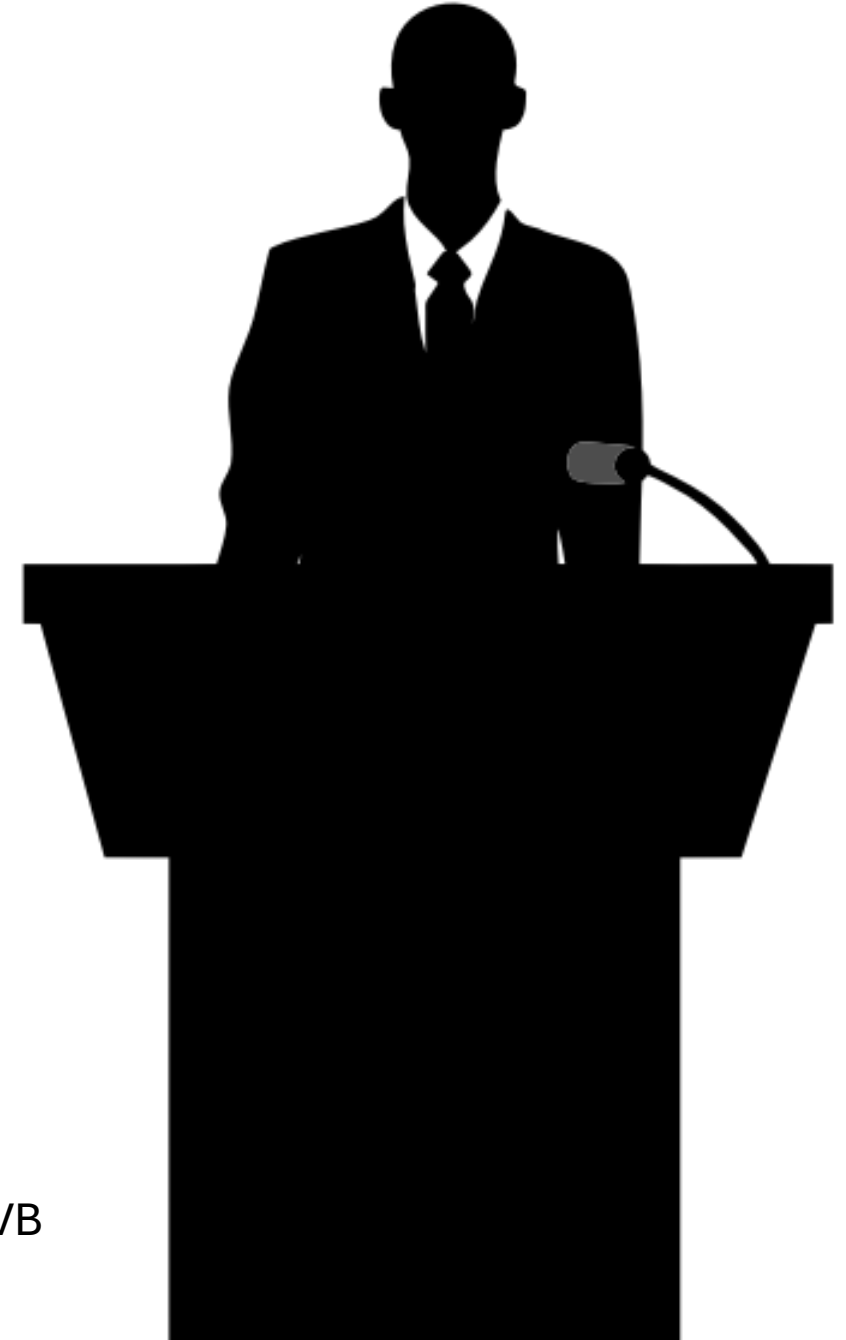
- Animator
- Author – playwright / screenwriter
- Principal – playwright/ screenwriter
a/o theatre owner / production
company



Image

Roles can be shared

Politician making a speech



Animator

Author –
speechwriter
+
politician?

Principal

[Image:FreeSVB](#)



Roles can be shared Lawyer outside court

- Animator
- Author + client?
- Principal – client

Roles can be shared Politician being interviewed

- Animator
- Author
- Principal +
political party



Roles can be shared

Me now!

- Animator
- Author
- Principal +
Goffman

[Image](#)



**Production format in
written mode**

***Even more role
division!***



Statement issued by multinational

- Animator = secretary typing
- Author = manager dictating
- Principal = the company



Production format in written mode

Even more sharing of roles!

ANIMATION IN BYGONE CENTURIES

Amanuensis

>>> courier

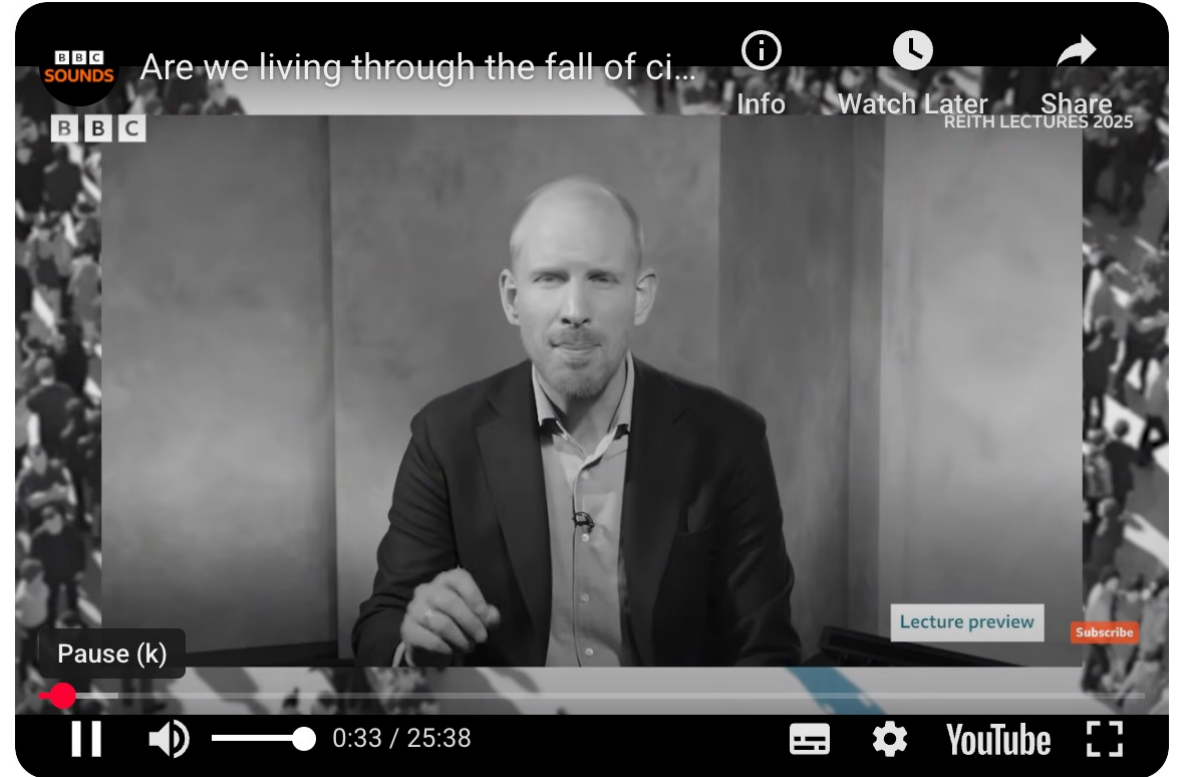
>>> literate associate

**Problem: (censorship & dissemination)
Relaying animators as principals?**

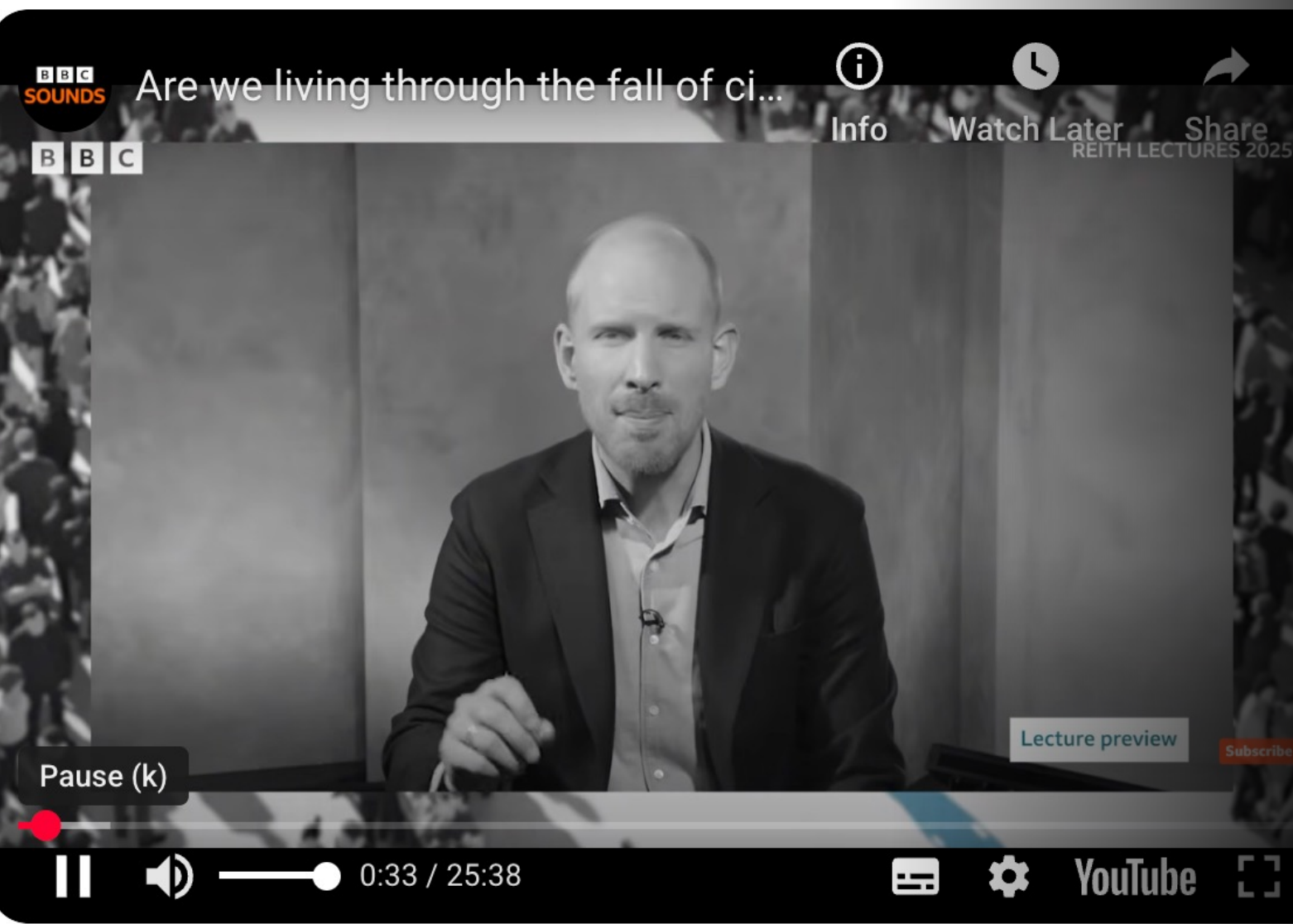
We're only the messenger, don't shoot!

The power to decide

B B C



Rutger Bregman's Reith Lectures



..... on the other hand, we had a convicted reality star who now rules as the most openly corrupt president in American history. When it comes to staffing his administration

D. H. LAWRENCE

**LADY CHATTERLEY'S
LOVER**

æ
arcadia ebook



For scholarship

Relaying animators as *subsidiary* principals only

To avoid chilling effect on academic freedom / diversity of thought

- accountable only for procedural integrity
- Main principal (for truth, originality) - human author

Problem

'author' (and cognates)

Conflates Goffman's author & principal
GenAI splits the conflation

- Principal something to say: meanings
- **Designer** how to say it: form
- Animator visible/audible

ISEGORIA

ἰσηγορίη

- the right to have one's views considered on their merits, regardless ...
- NOT ONLY of who you are
- ALSO of “eloquence or rhetorical flourish”

Image: Wikipedia



Problem in the academic domain (GenAI) designers as principals? **NO!**

identifiable human principal essential

- further research, policy, real-world actions
- follow-up, clarification, further evidence,
- responsibility if claims flawed / fraudulent



CRT

CRedit

CRedit is high-level taxonomy, including 14 roles, that can be used to represent the roles typically played by contributors to scientific scholarly output. The roles describe each contributor's specific contribution to the scholarly output.

Contributor Roles Taxonomy

The research publication process

Roles

- **Principal: Identifiable human(s)**

- decide(s) core meanings, arguments, findings to communicate
- stand(s) by what gets disseminated

- **Designer: human & GenAI**

- for optimal form, structure, wording

- **Animator:** human (typing) >>> GenAI (text on screen) >>> human (sending) >>> internet service provider (transmitting) >>> publisher (formatting / disseminating).

Widespread GenAI use

One clear positive

Texts assessed on their merits

Not on the authority (sic!) of who wrote it

Never trust the artist, trust the tale (DH Lawrence)

Don't look at the finger, look at where it's pointing (Buddhist maxim)

