

## **Generative AI and Challenges for Copyrights [Working Title]**

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Type: Bachelor's Thesis, Master's Thesis

Language: English

### **Motivation:**

Based on limited prompts given by users, generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools can create outputs such as texts, illustrations, and music. These tools have been developed or 'trained' by using a large body of relevant existing works. Given that these inputs and outputs are typically "creative works" protected by copyrights, the rise of generative AI raises questions about how the creation and usage of these tools stand under current copyright laws and whether the existing laws can appropriately govern them.

At least two important questions have been raised about the relationship between generative AI and copyrights. One question is whether the outputs generated by these AI-powered tools are copyrightable, and if so, who owns the copyright. As it stands, most jurisdictions do not accept the notion of an 'AI author', which is taken to mean that AI-generated works are not copyrightable (Craig, 2022). Alternative legal interpretations may put the copyright in the hands of the prompters (considering the AI as mere tools) or the creators of the AI.

Second, given that the majority of 'training data' behind the creation of these AI tools are copyrighted materials, some have alleged that the copyrights are violated in the process, either when the works are copied en masse into the training datasets, or when the machine learning systems 'learn' from the datasets (Lemley & Casey, 2020). Questions remain whether the process of training the AI falls under the acceptable use of copyrighted materials under current laws (for example, under 'fair use' in the United States) and whether the laws should be changed to allow or prohibit the use of copyrighted materials in such a way.

### **Goal:**

The goal of this thesis project is to provide an overview of the debates related to copyrights, machine learning, and generative AI. The thesis should include an overview of where the current copyright laws stand regarding generative AI tools (in selected jurisdictions) and discussions about designing appropriate copyright policies in the presence of these AI tools.

### **References and Related Literature:**

Craig, C. J. (2022). The AI-copyright challenge: Tech-neutrality, authorship, and the public interest. In R. Abbott (Ed.), *Research handbook on intellectual property and artificial intelligence* (pp. 134–155). Edward Elgar Publishing.

Henderson, P., Li, X., Jurafsky, D., Hashimoto, T., Lemley, M. A., & Liang, P. (2023). *Foundation models and fair use* (arXiv:2303.15715). arXiv.  
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Lemley, M.A. (2023). How generative AI turns copyright law on its head. Working Paper.  
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Lemley, M. A., & Casey, B. (2020). Fair learning. *Texas Law Review*, 99(4), 743–786.

Samuelson, P. (2023). Generative AI meets copyright. *Science*, 381(6654), 158–161.  
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