

Selmer Bringsjord

Director, Rensselaer AI & Reasoning Lab; Professor, Cognitive Science and Computer Science at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Troy, NY, US

Expert in logic and philosophy, specializing in AI and reasoning

Biography

Selmer Bringsjord specializes in the logico-mathematical and philosophical foundations of artificial intelligence (AI) and cognitive science, and in collaboratively building AI systems on the basis of computational logic. Though he spends considerable "engineering" time in pursuit of ever-smarter computing machines, he claims that "armchair" reasoning time has enabled him to deduce that the human mind will forever be superior to such machines. "Soon enough, much of what many humans do for a living will be better done by indefatigable machines who require not a cent in pay," Bringsjord said. "I figure the ultimate growth industry will be building smarter and smarter such machines on the one hand, and philosophizing about whether they are truly conscious and free on the other. Job security is nice. I've worked in this two-fold industry for a long time, and plan to continue as long as my health holds out." Bringsjord is the author of papers and essays ranging in approach from the mathematical to the informal, and covering such areas as AI, logic, gaming, philosophy of mind, philosophy of religion, robotics, and ethics and he has of late begun to move into the area of computational economics, for which he has invented a new paradigm based on formal logic. He is the author of *What Robots Can & Can't Be*, concerned with the future of attempts to create robots that behave as humans, and also *Superminds: People Harness Hypercomputation, and More*. Before the second of these books he wrote, with IBM's David Ferrucci, *Artificial Intelligence and Literary Creativity: Inside the Mind of Brutus, A Storytelling Machine*. Bringsjord currently holds appointments in the Department of Cognitive Science, the Department of Computer Science, and the Lally School of Management & Technology, and teaches AI, formal logic, human and machine reasoning, philosophy of AI, other topics relating to formal logic, and the intellectual history of New York City and the Hudson Valley. Funding for his research and development has come from the Luce Foundation, the National Science Foundation, the Templeton Foundation, AT&T, IBM, Apple, AFRL, ARDA/DTO/IARPA, ONR, DARPA, AFOSR, and other sponsors. Bringsjord has consulted to and advised many companies in the general realm of intelligent systems, and continues to do so.

Areas of Expertise

Artificial Intelligence, Philosophical Foundations of AI, Computational Economics, AI Systems, Formal Logic, Computational Logic

Affiliations

American Philosophical Association, American Association for Artificial Intelligence, Association for Symbolic Logic, Society for Machines and Mentality (past President), Cognitive Science Society

Education

Brown University
PhD Philosophy

University of Pennsylvania
BA Philosophy

Accomplishments

Elected Fellow of the British Computer Society (BCS)
2015

Covey Award, from the International Association for Computing and Philosophy, for "Excellence in the Area of Research in Computing and Philosophy"
2014

IBM Faculty Fellow Award
2014

Annual Rensselaer Trustees Celebration of Faculty Achievement
2011

Undergraduate Research Program Mentor Award
2008

Best Paper Award for "Provability Based Semantic Interoperability"
2007

Best Paper Award from GameOn2005
2005

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