

Dissertation bibliography preparation: 1155 words

Bates, L. (2026). *'The New Age of Sexism'*: Simon & Schuster UK

Summary: 'The New Age of Sexism' considers the regression of feminism within digital culture and technology as well as the lack of safety measures being provided for young girls, women and other minorities. Bates scopes the growing use of AI as a form of abuse and harmful narratives predominantly projected onto women by communities of men associated with the manosphere and incel culture, with commentary on authority figures dismissing the future implications and trauma caused by technologies use. Bates argues how AI has become a breeding ground for misogynistic abuse, outlining previous examples of its usage, such as AI girlfriends, deepfakes, as well as cyber brothels and the metaverse, which is showing a progression in inequality rather than equality.

Evaluation: Laura Bates' arguments and analysis of modern technology and AI is a well researched and analytical consideration of its faults, whilst also acknowledging its benefits to society in terms of health care and scientific discoveries. Bates has first handedly experienced the perils of AI being used against her, and informs her research by discussing interviews she has had with other women who have experienced similar forms of abuse. Bates further explores this technology through engaging with cyber brothels, the metaverse, sex robots and AI girlfriends to garner a first hand view of and communication with the technology. Bates gives us a written experience of her contact with the technology, analysing them while confronted with them, and considers how they have been developed to cater to men. I struggle to find faults with Bates' research, as it is meticulous in its findings. Perhaps it could be biased as Laura Bates is a woman, but then this is also a strength of the book and her research.

Connection: I believe this book will be useful in my essay as it dissects the use of technology with consideration to its cultural and fictional use and its application and projection onto individuals, this conversation can develop into critically thinking about our relationship to technology and AI as it manifests into our personal and professional lives, its potential in blurring our factual history into fictional history, our factual self into the artificial self, and its reflections of human behaviour and thought without the human senses.

J. Blank, T. (2018). *'Folklore and the Internet: Vernacular Expression in a Digital World'*. USA, San Bernardino, CA: Utah State University Press

Summary: 'Folklore and the Internet' is an anthropological analysis and evaluation of early internet Folklorism and digital culture through comparisons of historical and analogue variations of Folklore. Each chapter covers different aspects of the internet ranging from Facebook memorials to emails and Wikipedia contributions with reference to critical theorist Alan Dundes. 'Folklore and the Internet' pushed the argument that with online culture Folklorism would expand its surface rather than deplete, which was a prominent fear for

Folklorists during the rise of online communication. The book also examines the internet as a preservation for Folklorism, with the decay of websites and ageing, we can examine how posts, documents, etc are interacted with overtime.

Evaluation: In consideration to the topic of this dissertation, this book is highly relevant in my research and practice. Though a bit dated in its publication, it remains to be a great source of understanding in examining the evolution of communication, cultures and relationships across a historical and modern context. In its discussion of digital communities, there is a consistent link between pre-internet expression and its manifestations within online conversation. Part of the dissertation is examining people's relation with one another through the web, this book is largely used in relation to that over examining relations between human and technological intimacy. The author, Trevor J Blank has a relevant background in communication at the State University of New York at Potsdam, establishing himself as an author within Folkloric research which contributes to the books in depth study. Notably, there is use of theorists and self lead research to commentate on varying aspects of digital Folklorism, giving the book both objective and subjective first and second hand experience.

Connection: This book has a very relevant connection in the dissertation as it discusses the evolving relation between human communication through the expansion of digital access but with regards to our traditional ways of conversing through examples of things like graffiti in bathroom stalls and messaging. One of the most prominent theorists of Folkloric research is also referred to throughout the book, Alan Dundes' studies are used in conversation to analyse the transitional period of pre-internet and post-internet communication.

Muldoon, J. (2026). Love Machines: How Artificial Intelligence is Transforming Our Relationships. Hatton Garden, London EC1N 8HN: Faber & Faber Limited

Summary: 'Love Machines' by James Muldoon is an investigative look into the forming relations between human and AI rather than human connection through technology. The book uses an interview style method of gathering research to discuss the flaws and possible opportunities of connecting with AI by conversing with a range of individuals who engage with AI platforms, these range from AI girlfriends, AI therapists, ChatGPT, etc. Muldoon goes further in doing first hand research with a personal AI chatbot in search of gaining understanding for his interviewees with each chapter being a written dialogue between

Muldoon and the people in question, from this we hear of the personal experiences between the human and technology.

Evaluation: Throughout the book, not only are we getting the perspective from individuals using AI to compensate for feelings of loneliness or fulfillment, we're also understanding these systems through interviews with AI creators and those actively contributing to the use of AI. Muldoon's case study makes for a multifaceted view into modern technology, there is consideration of both sides using first hand experience from both the user and maker, as well as from the AI itself. Muldoon himself is a credible source, with a background in sociology and in depth research into supply chains making AI possible, this knowledge carries on into the book. 'Love Machines' has a good balance of its objective findings and subjective experience, the mixture of these things makes for a well rounded source of information and observations of modern technology's impact.

Connection: I believe this book to be a useful source within my dissertation as it relates to themes of technology, human connection and the evolution of non-human relationships. In regards to Folklorism, it does not directly link to studies within this field, but as Folklore consists of conversations around culture, communities and storytelling, naturally this book makes links with these themes as it examines our relations to AI friendships and relationships, how it socialises with us and what stories it can tell. I find it especially interesting in its conversations of deathbots and the usage of reviving a passed loved one, the changes that will bring in our relationship to death and our rituals surrounding it if this were to grow in global popularity.

Henrot, C. (2023). Milkyways. France? : Hatje Cantz . ISBN: 9783775755344

Summary:

Evaluation:

Connection:

Hooks, B. Hall, S. (2017). *Uncut Funk*. Newyork: Routledge

Summary:

Evaluation:

Connection:

Dundes, A. (1980). *Interpreting Folklore*.

Dundes, A. (1965). *The study of Folklore*.

Dundes, A. (2007). *Meaning of Folklore. The analytical Essays of Alan Dundes*.

Barthes, R. Lavers, A. (1975). *Mythologies*.

J. Blank, T. (2020). *Folklore and Social Media*. USA: University Press of Colorado, Utah State University Press ISBN 13: 9781646420582

Summary:

Evaluation:

Connection:

Becker, A. Noone, K. (2011). *Welsh Mythology and Folklore in Popular Culture. Essays on Adaptations in Literature, Film, Television and Digital Media*.

Jarvis, L. Savage, K. (2023). *Avatars, Activism and Postdigital Performance. Precarious Intermedial Identities*. Bloomsbury Publishing
Legacy, R. (2020), *Glitch Feminism, A Manifesto*. New York City: Verso books

Summary:

Evaluation:

Connection: