

Stephen Thomas – Colloquium Seminar – September 7, 2023
MSU

Title:

Generative AI and Teaching: Hope, Dread, and Conversations We Need to Have in Community.

Abstract:

In this presentation and discussion, we will explore some of the current capabilities of generative AI, approaches to teaching with it, and what it might look like to use this tool as part of your scholarly practice. If one of our goals in teaching is to prepare students for their future career, what does that preparation look like with generative AI now an easily accessed tool. No definitive answers will be given in this session, but come start or continue the conversation for what do these new developments mean for scholarly, ethical work in physics.

Bio:

Dr. Stephen Thomas is the Assistant Dean for STEM Education Teaching and Learning, the Associate Director for the Center for Integrative Studies in General Science (CISGS) and the Digital Curriculum Coordinator for the College of Natural Science at MSU. Since coming to MSU, Stephen's focus has shifted from virulence of fungal pathogens of *Lymantria dispar* to visual communication of science in formal and informal settings, STEM education, and teaching with technology. He has worked on projects such as the use of comics to reduce subject anxiety in non-major science courses, the development of a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) to teach general science, and augmented reality and kiosk games to engage visitors in science museums. More recently, he has worked on curriculum reform and mapping in CISGS and the development of the Laptop Loan Program to provide a

technology safety net for undergraduate students. In his professional development work, Stephen collaborates with Dr. Julie Libarkin on building communities of practice in STEM teaching, STEM education research, and interdisciplinary experiences in art, science, and culture. You can learn more about this work at the [STEMed@State website](<https://stemeducationatstate.commons.msu.edu/>).
