

Fake News revisited

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As we enter the search process for our 16 faculty positions, we will no doubt encounter a diversity statement. Here is one that stands out for me:

As a white, male researcher in the field of economics, I understand that I come from a position of privilege and that diversity and inclusion are essential to advancing knowledge and creating a more equitable society. In my work as an assistant professor at a top research university, I strive to create a welcoming and inclusive environment for students and colleagues from all backgrounds.

I have been fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with a diverse group of students and colleagues throughout my career. In my teaching, I strive to incorporate diverse perspectives into my lectures and discussions, and I regularly invite guest speakers from underrepresented groups to share their experiences and insights with my students. In my research, I have collaborated with colleagues from a wide range of backgrounds, and I have found that engaging with diverse perspectives has enriched my understanding of economic phenomena and has led to more nuanced and innovative insights.

As a researcher and educator, I believe that diversity and inclusion are not only important for achieving social justice, but also for advancing knowledge and fostering creativity. In my work on trade theory, I have sought to incorporate insights from a range of disciplines, including political science, sociology, and psychology, in order to develop a more holistic understanding of the factors that drive global trade patterns. I have also sought to engage with scholars from diverse backgrounds and experiences, in order to better understand the ways in which trade policies and agreements impact different communities and regions.

In addition to my teaching and research, I have also been active in promoting diversity and inclusion in academia through my service to my department and

university. I have served on several committees focused on diversity and inclusion, and I have worked to develop and implement initiatives that support the recruitment and retention of underrepresented groups in economics. I have also been involved in mentoring programs that aim to support the success of students from diverse backgrounds, and I have worked to create a more inclusive and supportive environment for all members of the university community.

Overall, my commitment to diversity and inclusion is at the core of my work as a researcher and educator. I believe that by fostering a more inclusive and equitable academic environment, we can not only advance social justice, but also create the conditions for more vibrant and innovative research and teaching.

It stands out because it was written by Chat GPT! As we screen candidates, will we be able to distinguish between an AI (artificial intelligence) statement or an authentic one written by the candidate?

And then, there is the issue of determining what is authentic student work. See this link:

<https://stanforddaily.com/2023/01/22/scores-of-stanford-students-used-chatgpt-on-final-exams-survey-suggests/>

On the other hand, here is what ChatGPT said about me:

Bernadine Chuck Fong is an American politician who served as mayor of Honolulu, Hawaii from 1994 to 2004. She was the first Asian American woman to be elected mayor of a major U.S. city. (My only connection to Hawaii is from my father, last name Chuck, who was born there).

On another request it said:

Bernadine Chuck Fong is an American politician who served as the first Asian-American woman to serve in the California State Assembly. She was born in Los Angeles, California in 1941 and is of Chinese-American descent. She attended Los Angeles City College and California State University, Long Beach, where she earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in political science.

Fong was elected to the California State Assembly in 1978, representing the 49th

district. During her time in office, she was a strong advocate for consumer protection, job training, and environmental health. She also helped create the California Coastal Commission, which is responsible for protecting the state's coastline.

Fong served in the Assembly until 1990, when she was appointed to the California Public Utilities Commission. She served on the commission until 2001, when she was appointed to the California State Board of Equalization. She retired from public service in 2003.

Obviously, I must have been a very busy person as during the years noted, as I “also” was at Foothill College. In fact, I asked about myself and added “Foothill College” and it said:

Bernadine Chuck Fong is a professor of English at Foothill College in Los Altos Hills, California. She is an expert in the fields of English and literature, and she has been teaching at the college since 2006. (For the record, my field is psychology. I obviously don't exist in the AI data base.

And yet, here is what it said about Foothill:

Foothill College is a two-year community college located in Los Altos Hills, California. It is part of the Foothill-De Anza Community College District and offers over 140 associate degree and certificate programs. The college serves over 16,000 students and is known for its excellent academic programs, strong student support services, and vibrant campus life. Foothill College is ranked in the top 10 community colleges in the United States by the Aspen Institute. It is also recognized for its commitment to sustainability and its focus on providing quality education to all students. Foothill College is committed to providing a safe and inclusive learning environment for all students.

At least AI got Foothill right!

Download the free app and see what it can do. Impressive but scary at the same time, so beware and be vigilant as we screen job applications, student papers, and the like.

Best regards,
Bernadine

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