

Plain English Summary
of
Human-Governed AI Authorship (HGAA)

A Framework for Preserving Epistemic Agency and Accountability in AI-Mediated Work

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The paper ***Human-Governed AI Authorship (HGAA): A Framework for Preserving Epistemic Agency and Accountability in AI-Augmented Work*** argues that, as AI becomes more common in writing, analysis, and decision-making, there needs to be a clearer way to determine when a final work can still be regarded as genuinely human-authored.

Current AI governance frameworks tend to focus on system-level issues such as safety, fairness, transparency, and risk management. While these concerns are important, they do not fully address a more practical question for organizations and individuals: **when AI helps produce a work, under what conditions does that work remain meaningfully human-authored?**

The paper argues that authorship is not simply a matter of who entered the words. It also involves who shaped and structured the content, who interpreted and evaluated the meaning and validity of its claims, and who is prepared to accept responsibility for the final result.

To address this issue, the paper proposes **HGAA, or Human-Governed AI Authorship**, as a framework for evaluating when AI-mediated work may still be regarded as legitimately human-authored. In straightforward terms, the framework holds that a work may still be considered human-authored when

an identifiable human source of authorship remains meaningfully responsible for the judgment, meaning, and accountability behind it, rather than merely accepting AI-generated material with minimal review or control.

The paper also explains that this depends on two supporting conditions. First, the work must remain grounded in a clear human context of intent, meaning, purpose, and governing judgment throughout the process. Second, the human role must remain visible and traceable, so that human direction, review, and approval can be identified and, where necessary, demonstrated.

The paper organizes this idea into three parts:

Expressive authorship — whether the human shaped and structured the content

Epistemic authorship — whether the human evaluated, interpreted, and stood behind the ideas or claims

Accountability authorship — whether the human accepted responsibility for the final work, including any errors or consequences

The paper also proposes practical criteria for applying this framework. It argues that AI-mediated work should be treated as human-authored only when the human exercises interpretive judgment, makes substantive choices about what to accept, reject, revise, or reorganize, contributes meaningful input beyond prompting alone, accepts accountability for the final product, and leaves a traceable record of human direction, review, and approval.

The central message is straightforward:

Using AI does not automatically mean a work is no longer human-authored. But for that authorship to remain credible, an identifiable human source of authorship must still remain meaningfully in charge of the judgment, shaping, and accountability behind the final work.

The paper's broader concern is that, without clearer standards, AI-mediated work may increasingly be presented as human work even when meaningful human judgment played only a limited role. Over time, this could weaken

trust, blur responsibility, and make it harder to tell who is truly accountable for what the work says or does.

In summary, the paper offers a practical way to distinguish between using AI as a tool within human-governed authorship and allowing AI to perform or displace the core work of authorship itself.

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For a copy of the whitepaper, *Human-Governed AI Authorship (HGAA): A Framework for Preserving Epistemic Agency and Accountability in AI-Mediated Work*, please visit:

www.HumanGovernedAI.com

