**Acton University**

**AI Maps: Mental Models for Making Sense of AI**

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*The map is not the territory*. (Alfred Korzybski)

**Maps**

Not the Territory

* Abstraction
* Simplification
* Distortion

Conceptual Model

* Visualization
* Visual Rhetoric
* Navigate Complicated Realities
  + Revealing + Obscuring: Maps simultaneously reveal and obscure.
  + Context + Creators: Maps reveal something about their context and creators.
  + Purpose Specific: Maps vary depending upon the purpose for which they are being used.

Examples of various maps illustrating these points:

* Bunting Clover Leaf Map, drawn by Heinrich Bunting in Germany in 1581.
* Cosmas Indicopleustes
* Map centered on Japan
* Subaquatic cable map
* AI generated map

**Overview of Four Mental Models – AI Maps – for making sense of AI**

1. Hype
2. Impact
3. Doomtopia
4. Dynamic

**Hype**:

1. Check this out
2. This changes everything
3. I guess not
4. Let’s Keep working

Key Action: Keep a level head when it comes to AI

-Plan for (a) Hype (b) Letdown (c) Reality

**Amara’s Law**:

* Short-term = Overestimate
* Long-term = Underestimate

Key Action: Short-term **fears** will be overblown. Long-term **impact** will be under-estimated

-Stay the course today.

-Plan for massive upheaval.

**Doomtopia (Doom-Dream Index):**

* Doom – Dream
* Far – Near
  + Examples: AGI, Live AI language translation, Generative AI, Voice cloning, Neural implants, AI Preachers

Key Action: Learn to assess new developments in AI. Know when to take action and when to wait.

Index AI developments according to...

(1) Optimism + Pessimism

(2) Near + Far

**Dynamic:** Our interaction with AI is a dynamic combination of:

(1) Theological foundations

(2) Technological Tools

(3) Habitual Use

Key Action: Foundational doctrine and values determine our tools and habits.

Habits of use can counterbalance the tools we use