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### **AnAesthetics: Stock Images and the Technological Imaginaries of Artificial Intelligence**

Why is Artificial Intelligence (AI) so poorly represented? What are the consequences of these representations? Type “artificial intelligence” on your Web browser. Look for images. You will find unreal holographic interfaces, luminescent energy balls, half-flesh half-circuit brains, lines of code waving in space, not to mention hundreds of variations of Michelangelo’s *The Creation of Adam* in a human-robot version. Most of these images come from image banks.

Human and social sciences, and philosophy, in particular, have generally paid little attention to these images. And yet, similar visual representations of AI are pervasive, not only on the Web, but also on magazines, posters of scientific events, and publications for scientific vulgarization. In this presentation, I intend to demonstrate the importance of this issue. In particular, I will contend that stock images play a central role in the constitution of the present technological imaginaries of AI. I will also argue that they have less communicative than ideological or “anesthetic” effects. As a case study, I will consider a limited corpus of images from Shutterstock and Getty Images, on which I will perform an exploratory semiotic analysis.