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TO BE
F*CKING IT
UP FOR ALL
OF US":
ADAM
FERRIER ON
A MACHINELED FUTURE





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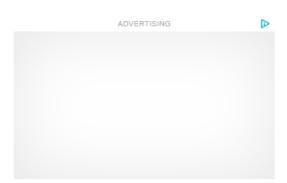




IS MARKETING EFFICIENCY THROUGH PROGRAMMATIC AND AUTOMATION KILLING CREATIVE THINKING? SHOULD THE FUTURE BE MACHINE-LED OR CREATIVE-LED? ACCORDING TO CONSUMER PSYCHOLOGIST AND AGENCY BOSS ADAM FERRIER, CREATIVITY SHOULD LEAD THE WAY.

Debating the topic 'Marketing is a combination of art and science, but should the machine lead creativity?' at Nine's popup Big Idea Store, Ferrier said: "The machines are going to be fucking it up for us and if you agree with the premise machines should lead, you're putting a dagger into the soul of all of us."

Ferrier also claimed "marketing is not rocket science." He said it's much more complicated than that.



"Rocket science and brain science are actually quite simple, albeit important, jobs. Marketing is much harder because you're dealing with humans and emotions," he said.

"Ideas come from the mistakes and the



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craziness of culture but machines don't operate like that. They do efficiencies and optimise ridiculous shit. Until there's a computer [debating against us], we win."

TrinityP3 managing director Nathan Hodges, debating for a machine-led future of marketing, said there is no denying machines and creativity are interdependent, yet there is an order of which comes first.

"There's a co-relationship there. Each makes the other better. And that order is fundamental to the success of that relationship. We're in the business of commercial creativity, not creative commerce. And in there, there is a blend, and there is a balance, but there is also an order of attack and it is crucial."

He argued machines should come first because "consumers are messy and complicated creatures."

"The more we find out about humans the more data points we have and the messier and more complicated they seem to become. But the beauty of the machine that we're building with all of these data points is its ability to articulate, quantify and overlay all of those different data points.

"It provides a structure and a foundation, and a strategy for help. It's a strategy and a practical application with a budget and ROI that provides a brief and a platform for creativity. It has to be that way around."

He also said it's a myth everyone has all the same data points making machinerybased creative work nondistinctive from one another.

"No one has all their data lined up. It's a myth. There's so much ground to be made On the other side of the debate, GroupM chief investment officer Nicola Lewis said advertising always will be "grounded in art."

"Creativity lies on imagination," she said.
"Imagination is the conscious
representation of what is not immediately
present to the five senses, and the five
senses can be measured. Imagination
cannot be measured, nor can it be
mimicked.

Lewis said: "To accept that machine is creativity to propagate the world of media dystopia."

Nine director of Powered Liana Dubois, also debating for a creative-led future, said what has led our growth innovation is human creativity, and the only thing that can drive creativity is a human.

"Human is the only thing that understands a human. A machine never can."

Dubois said: "Creativity has literally transformed the world around us. The machine driving all of it is the creative machine. The machine, which applies to things like technology, automation, data, programmatic, procurement, martech – all those cogs are designed by humans."

She said machines will never keep up or lead because it is humans who are creating the codes and algorithms, adding: "Only human instinct; only human emotion; only human experience; and only a human being can drive another human bein to act in a way and influence their human behavior."

Prior to the debate, an audience poll was taken on whether the future of marketing should be machine or creative-led. Twothirds of the audience voted creative. At the end of the debate? Creativity still came out on top.

Debate panel

Moderated by Mumbrella's Tim Burrowes.

Debating for a creative-led future: Adam Ferrier, chief thinker, Thinkerbell; Nicola Lewis, chief investment officer, GroupM; and Liana Dubois, director of Powered, Nine.



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Debating for a machine-led future: Nathan Hodges, MD, TrinityP3; Juliette Stead, senior VP APAC, Telaria; and Stephen Kyefulumya, group director of enterprise and data solutions, Nine.

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