

Blurring the Future
AI Regurgitation and the Singapore Muslim Community

James McGrail

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Blurring the Future

AI Regurgitation and the Singapore Muslim Community

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there is no future in nostalgia

& certainly no nostalgia in the future of the past.
now, the corner cigarette-seller is gone, is perhaps dead.
no, definitely dead, he would not otherwise have gone.
he is replaced by a stamp-machine,
the old cook by a pressure-cooker,
the old trishaw-rider's stand by a fire hydrant,
the washer-woman by a spin-dryer
& it goes on
in various variations & permutations.
there is no future in nostalgia.

Arthur Yap 1977

The cover photo is the blurring together of two photographs, the first is the image of a screen malfunctioning in a mosque taken by my interlocutor Iskandar. The second is a picture I took of a poster displayed in a back alley of China town, near Maxwell food centre, showing AI generated skyscrapers.

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LIST OF KEY ACRONYMS

AGI	– Artificial General Intelligence
AI	– Artificial Intelligence
AI4E	– Artificial Intelligence for Everyone
AISG	– Artificial Intelligence Singapore
AMLA	– Administration of Muslim Law Act
AYN	– Asatizah Youth Network
CBD	– Central Business District
CMIO	– Chinese Malay Indian Other
CNA	– Channel News Asia
F/OSS	– Free Open-Source Software
gAI	– Generative AI
HDB	– Housing Development Board (also refers to apartments built by this organisation)
ICA	– Immigration Checkpoint Authority
IMDA	– Infocomm Media Development Authority
ISA	– Internal Security Act
LKY	– Lee Kuan Yew
LLM	– Large Language Model
MATAR	– Multi Purpose All Terrain Autonomous Robot
MCCY	– Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth
MOM	– Ministry of Manpower
MRHA	– Maintenance of Religious Harmony Act
MRT	– Mass Rapid Transit
MUIS	– Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura
MuslimSG	– Muslim Singapore (app)
NAC	– National Arts Council
NUS	– National University of Singapore
OCBC	– Overseas-Chinese Banking Corporation
PAP	– People’s Action Party
RPCS	– Research Programme in the Study of Muslim Communities of Success
SAF	– Singapore Armed Forces
SAM	– Singapore Art Museum
SEO	– Search Engine Optimisation
SMI	– Singapore Muslim Identity
SOE	– State Owned Enterprise