

## Selmer Bringsjord

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Selmer Bringsjord specializes in the logico-mathematical and philosophical foundations of artificial intelligence (AI) and cognitive science, and in collaboratively building AI systems on the basis of computational logic. Though he spends considerable “engineering” time in pursuit of ever-smarter computing machines, he claims that “armchair” reasoning time has enabled him to deduce that the human mind will forever be superior to such machines.

Bringsjord received the bachelor’s degree from the University of Pennsylvania, and the PhD from Brown University, where he studied under Roderick Chisholm. Bringsjord is not unhappy about the apparent fact that he is through Chisholm an intellectual descendant of Leibniz, many of whose views to a high degree align with his own, and whose interest in a rather wide range of intellectual matters matches his own trans-disciplinary *modus operandi*.

Bringsjord has long been on faculty at America’s oldest technological university: Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) in Troy; where he currently holds appointments in the Department of Cognitive Science, the Department of Computer Science, and the Lally School of Management & Technology, and where as a Full Professor he teaches AI, formal logic, human and machine reasoning, philosophy of AI, other topics relating to formal logic, and the intellectual history of New York City and the Hudson Valley. Funding for his r&d has come from the Luce Foundation, the National Science Foundation, the Templeton Foundation, AT&T, IBM, Apple, AFRL, ARDA/DTO/IARPA, ONR, DARPA, AFOSR, and other sponsors. Bringsjord has consulted to and advised many companies in the general realm of intelligent systems, and continues to do so.

Bringsjord is author of *What Robots Can & Can’t Be* (1992, Kluwer), concerned with the future of attempts to create robots that behave as humans, and also *Superminds: People Harness Hypercomputation, and More* (2003, Kluwer). Before the second of these books he wrote, with IBM’s David Ferrucci, *Artificial Intelligence and Literary Creativity: Inside the Mind of Brutus, A Storytelling Machine*, published by Erlbaum. He is the author of *Abortion: A Dialogue*, published by Hackett. Bringsjord’s first novel, *Soft Wars*, was published by Penguin USA. Dr. Bringsjord is the author of papers and essays ranging in approach from the mathematical to the informal, and covering such areas as AI, logic, gaming, philosophy of mind, philosophy of religion, robotics, and ethics — and he has of late begun to move into the area of computational economics, for which he has invented a new paradigm, one based (unsurprisingly) on formal logic.

Most of Bringsjord’s publications are unpublished; for example, he has recently written the play *Calculi of Death*. (Many of his writings, including some unpublished ones, are available directly through hotlinks in his vitae, available at <http://www.rpi.edu/~brings>.)

Bringsjord enjoys travel, and has lectured and interviewed in person across the United States, and in many other countries, including England, Scotland, Norway, France, Ireland, Italy, Belgium, Mexico, Australia, Germany, Denmark, Thailand, Japan, The Netherlands, Spain, Portugal, Egypt, and Canada. His next overseas lecture are will be in Finland: “Hypercomputation, Artificial Intelligence, and the Future of Economics: Computational Socialism versus Free-Market Capitalism.” (The abstract is available [here](#).) After that, he will be speaking in China at Tingshua University: “Is Cognitive Science Impossible? Indeed, Some Forms of It Are.” (The abstract is available [here](#).) Bringsjord has interviewed on television and radio in many additional countries.

Though following e.g. Leibniz, Descartes, and Paul in rejecting physicalism, Bringsjord is happy to admit that as an avid athlete not particularly thrilled with losing, he takes the life of the body rather seriously. He has skied since Christmas Day at the age of four, and has been a ski patroller for many years at Jiminy Peak in the mountains near his home; he continues to play decent tennis as long as his son is there to help in doubles; and every now and then he still plays a form of golf which, though filled with fun, doesn’t exactly produce scores in line with even such lukewarm descriptors as “solid.”