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A Poet In Space: Identity Construction Through Hybridity

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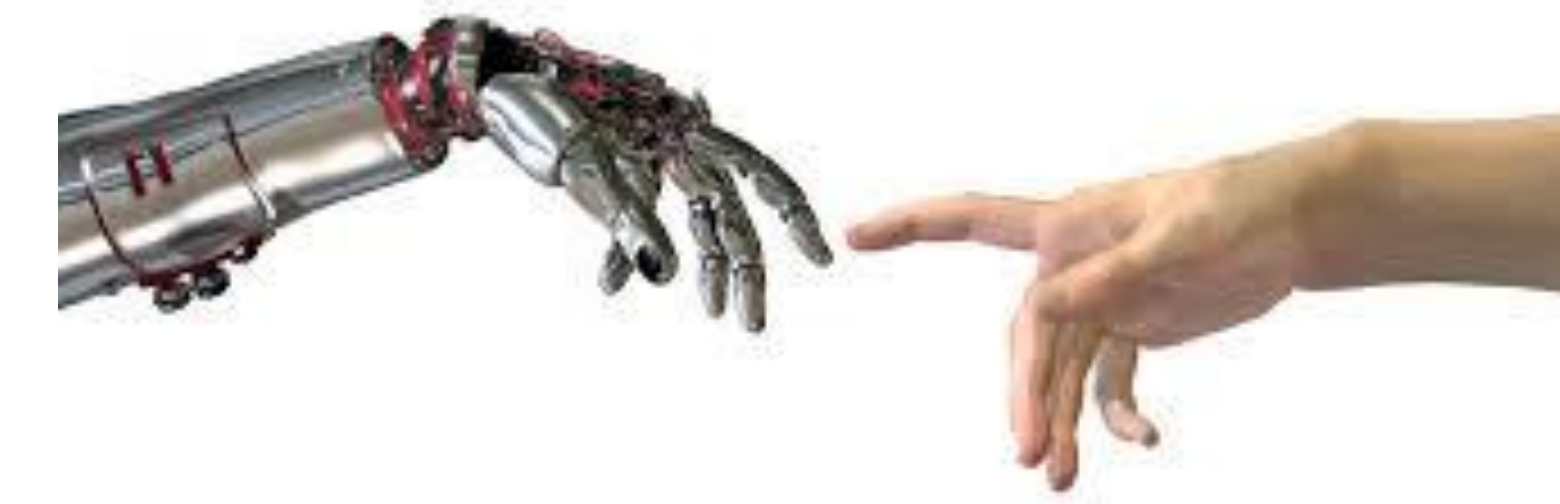
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A Poet In Space: Identity Construction Through Hybridity

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Abstract

William Carlos Williams wrote: A poem is a small Machine made of words. Poetry and the STEM fields are no different when each discipline attempts to find meaning in the world, when each creates something beautiful through experimentation. STEM has the scientific method, with inductive and deductive reasoning, and the laws of nature while English has rhetorical style and grammatical structure. With a little imagination, hybridity between these two seemingly different discourses can produce new perspectives within each, and for each. These new perspectives could lead to new questions which would not have been imagined separately. This hybridity may be able to formulate questions we don't know to ask yet. Building community between STEM and English, when for so many years that thought remained in rigid tradition, may have a transformative effect upon society. A poet in space would be an amazing use of our greatest capacities as human beings.

Background

In the course of human evolution, the concept of the hybrid has always been. Hybridization made humans what we are today. Stone tools, writing, art, mathematics, engineering, rhetoric—all were essential for humans to progress further, to be more human. Technology has driven the human species to higher achievements of hybridity. The cyborg, as both a social and a material construct, places humanity within the realm of an inclusionary action. Identity construction is a melding of seemingly disassociated discourses, allowing humans to construct their own "best" version of themselves. Science and poetry are exactly at this nexus of inventive and positive human identity construction. Using feminist theory scholar Donna Haraway and her seminal work, A Cyborg Manifesto, as a frame of reference, I examined the ways hybridity can achieve a positive and creative narrative to send a poet into space. Imagine the scientific metaphors, the excitement of collaboration, and the possibilities of an inclusionary environment.
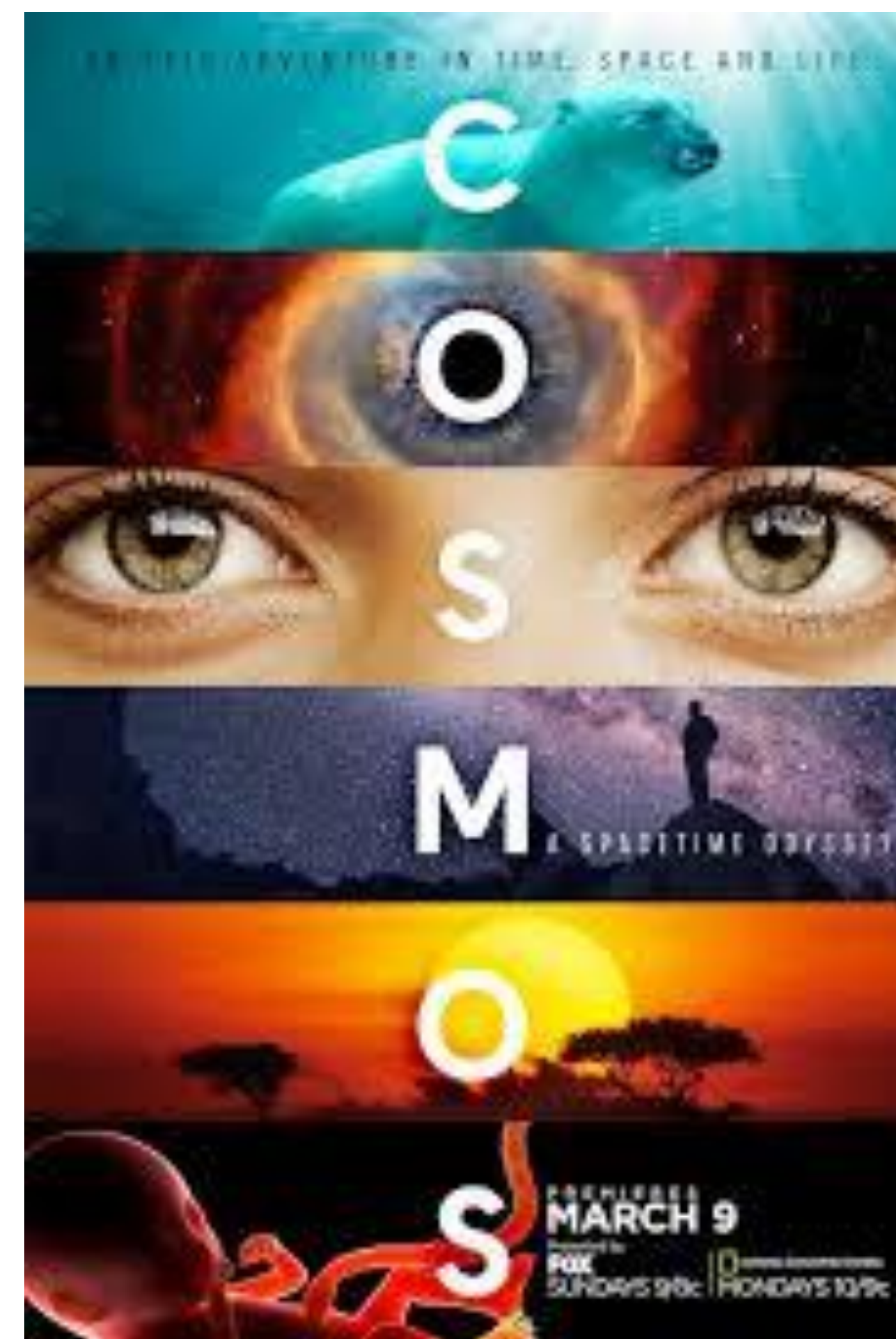
Methods

- Critical discourse analysis of scholarly articles on identity construction, social hybridity, and the relationship between science and poetry
- **Constructivist approach to bridge the discourses of feminist theory, STEM, and poetry**
- **Media/digital analysis in the construction of a social identity**

Hypothesis

Can the hybridization of STEM and poetry develop a new discourse of inclusionary social identity?

Discussion/Conclusions

- Inclusion is attainable through creative hybridization.
- The next step is curriculum to enhance the process.
- Experimentation is needed to ensure a positive identity construction

References

NASA, TedTalks, Donna Haraway/A Cyborg Manifesto, Pireeni Sundaralingan/Science and Poetry: Predation or Symbiosis?, Judith Butler/Performative Acts and Gender Constitution, Judy Wajcman/Technoscience Reconfigured,