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Large Language Models & Black Female Epistemic Exclusion & the Need for Leadership from Africa

Mutale Nkonde, University of Cambridge

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My 2023 Prompt

What is the relationship between Bessie Smith and Mahalia Jackson?

Who is Bessie Smith?

Empress of the Blues

One of the first successful artists for Apollo Records during the 1940's

First Black Female Popular Star

Foundational to the understanding of "race music"

The Response

ChatGPT 3 (2023)

Could not offer a response just two different profiles

Chat GPT 5.6 (2026)

Talked about their contributions but not their shared lineage within the race music tradition

Bessie Smith's Influence on Modern Music

Beyonce Superbowl 2016

During the Rise of #BlackLivesMatter

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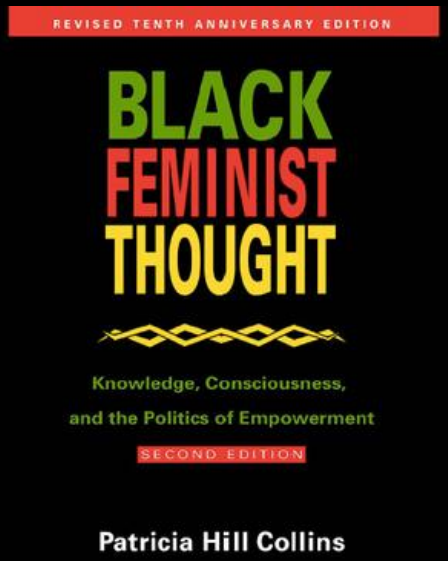
Over 15 Years of Academic Work at the Intersection of Race, Gender and Technology

What This Says About LLMs and Race and Gender



Epistemic Exclusion

Element of African exclusion

The Problem .... Support for Eugenics in Silicon Valley

Existential

Risk

Obser

Should we focus on racism in LLMs?

No Political Will