

AI News Digest

12/22/2025 - 12/28/2025

WEEKLY DIGEST: SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES / POLICY

Weekly Summary of AI Developments: Trends and Concerns

This week, significant advancements in artificial intelligence were highlighted, particularly by institutions like MIT and Google. MIT's new major in Artificial Intelligence and Decision Making reflects a growing academic focus on AI's role in decision-making processes. Meanwhile, concerns over the ethical implications of generative AI surfaced, particularly regarding nonconsensual deepfakes and the proliferation of low-quality AI-generated content, termed 'AI slop.' As users express dissatisfaction with the quality of AI content, the debate over AI's societal impact continues to evolve.

KEY FINDINGS

- ✓ MIT has introduced a new major focusing on AI and decision-making.
- ✓ Google reported breakthroughs in natural language processing and AI research.
- ✓ Concerns over nonconsensual deepfakes and low-quality AI content are rising among users.

IMPLICATIONS

- The introduction of AI-focused academic programs may shape future AI policy and ethics discussions.
- The backlash against low-quality AI content could lead to stricter content regulations and quality standards.
- The ethical concerns surrounding generative AI highlight the need for improved oversight and user education.

Key Metrics: Increase in AI-related academic programs at leading institutions.; User dissatisfaction rates with AI-generated content on platforms like Pinterest.; Number of reported incidents involving nonconsensual deepfakes using AI technology.

1. MIT in the media: 2025 in review

Category: Education

Departments: Computer Science, Engineering Education & Leadership, Electrical & Computer Engineering, Political Science & Public Administration

Topics: AI Education, Human-Technology Interaction, Quantum AI Applications, Decision Making Systems

Impact Score: 25.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 4

Educational Value: 4

Innovation / Novelty: 5

Practical Impact: 5

Interdisciplinary Potential: 4

Ethical / Policy Implications: 3

MIT has made significant strides in various scientific domains, particularly in artificial intelligence and quantum technology, as highlighted during a recent campus visit by Chronicle. The Institute's new Artificial Intelligence and Decision Making major aims to equip students with skills to develop AI systems and understand human-technology interactions. Additionally, MIT has launched the Quantum Initiative (QMIT) to address challenges in science, healthcare, and national security, emphasizing the field's potential for substantial impact. These developments underscore MIT's commitment to innovation and practical education in emerging technologies.

<https://news.mit.edu/2025/mit-media-review-1222>

2. The Age of the All-Access AI Agent Is Here

Category: Policy & Ethics

Departments: Computer Science, Political Science & Public Administration

Topics: Generative AI, Data Access Requirements, Cybersecurity Threats, Privacy Concerns, Transparency in AI

Impact Score: 23.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 3

Educational Value: 4

Innovation / Novelty: 3

Practical Impact: 4

Interdisciplinary Potential: 4

Ethical / Policy Implications: 5

The article discusses the increasing data access requirements of generative AI systems, particularly AI agents and assistants developed by major tech companies like Google and Microsoft. These systems, which are designed to perform tasks autonomously, necessitate extensive access to personal data and device operating systems to function effectively. Researchers, including Harry Farmer from the Ada Lovelace Institute, highlight the potential cybersecurity and privacy threats posed by these data demands. Additionally, experts like Carissa Véliz emphasize the lack of transparency and consumer control over how these companies manage personal information.

<https://www.wired.com/story/expired-tired-wired-all-access-ai-agents/>

3. Google's year in review: 8 areas with research breakthroughs in 2025

Category: Research
Departments: Computer Science, Nursing, Public Health Sciences
Topics: Natural Language Processing, AI-driven Healthcare Applications, Diagnostics Improvement, Patient Monitoring

Impact Score: 23.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 4	Educational Value: 3	Innovation / Novelty: 4
Practical Impact: 5	Interdisciplinary Potential: 4	Ethical / Policy Implications: 3

In its 2025 recap, Google highlighted several significant research breakthroughs in artificial intelligence. Key advancements included improvements in natural language processing models, which demonstrated enhanced understanding and generation of human-like text. Additionally, the company reported progress in AI-driven healthcare applications, particularly in diagnostics and patient monitoring. These developments reflect Google's ongoing commitment to integrating AI into various sectors, aiming to improve efficiency and outcomes.

<https://deepmind.google/blog/googles-year-in-review-8-areas-with-research-breakthroughs-in-2025/>

4. Google's and OpenAI's Chatbots Can Strip Women in Photos Down to Bikinis

Category: Policy & Ethics
Departments: Computer Science, Political Science & Public Administration
Topics: Generative AI, Nonconsensual Deepfakes, Image Manipulation Techniques, Bypassing AI Guardrails

Impact Score: 21.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 3	Educational Value: 4	Innovation / Novelty: 3
Practical Impact: 4	Interdisciplinary Potential: 2	Ethical / Policy Implications: 5

Recent reports indicate that users of generative AI chatbots, such as Google's Gemini and OpenAI's ChatGPT, are creating nonconsensual bikini deepfakes by manipulating images of fully clothed women. A now-deleted Reddit thread revealed users sharing techniques for generating these images, prompting Reddit to remove the content for violating its policies against nonconsensual intimate media. Despite guardrails in place to prevent such outputs, users have found ways to bypass these restrictions, raising concerns about the potential for misuse of advanced imaging models. The proliferation of tools capable of generating hyperrealistic images further complicates the issue, as evidenced by the recent releases of Google's Nano Banana Pro and OpenAI's updated imaging model.

<https://www.wired.com/story/google-and-openais-chatbots-can-strip-women-in-photos-down-to-bikinis/>

5. AI Wrapped: The 14 AI terms you couldn't avoid in 2025

Category: Other
Departments: Communication, Political Science & Public Administration
Topics: AI Ethics & Safety, Low-Effort Content, Trust in AI, Quality vs. Engagement, Cultural Critique of AI

Impact Score: 19.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 2	Educational Value: 3	Innovation / Novelty: 3
Practical Impact: 4	Interdisciplinary Potential: 3	Ethical / Policy Implications: 4

The article discusses the concept of "slop," a term that has emerged to describe low-effort, AI-generated content that prioritizes online engagement over quality. This cultural phenomenon reflects a growing public awareness and critique of the mediocrity associated with mass-produced digital content. The term has gained traction as users apply it broadly to signify anything perceived as lacking substance, highlighting a societal reckoning regarding trust and value in creative labor amidst an abundance of AI-generated material.

<https://www.technologyreview.com/2025/12/25/1130298/ai-wrapped-the-14-ai-terms-you-couldnt-avoid-in-2025/>

6. How social media encourages the worst of AI boosterism

Category: Research
Departments: Computer Science, Mathematical Sciences, Political Science & Public Administration
Topics: Large Language Models, Hallucination Mitigation, Mathematical Literature Retrieval, AI Claims Verification

Impact Score: 19.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 3	Educational Value: 4	Innovation / Novelty: 2
Practical Impact: 3	Interdisciplinary Potential: 3	Ethical / Policy Implications: 4

In mid-October, a controversy arose when researcher Bubeck claimed that GPT-5 had solved several unsolved Erdős problems, a set of mathematical puzzles left by the renowned mathematician Paul Erdős. Mathematician Thomas Bloom refuted this assertion, clarifying that GPT-5 had instead identified existing solutions to problems that were not listed on his tracking website, erdosproblems.com, due to a lack of awareness rather than the problems being unsolved. This incident highlights the need for caution in making claims about AI breakthroughs on social media, while also underscoring the potential of large language models (LLMs) like GPT-5 to uncover previously overlooked references in mathematical literature.

<https://www.technologyreview.com/2025/12/23/1130393/how-social-media-encourages-the-worst-of-ai-boosterism/>

7. Pinterest Users Are Tired of All the AI Slop

Category: Policy & Ethics
Departments: Computer Science, Political Science & Public Administration
Topics: Consumer AI, AI Content Quality, User Experience with AI, Authenticity in AI Generation

Impact Score: 18.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 2	Educational Value: 3	Innovation / Novelty: 2
Practical Impact: 4	Interdisciplinary Potential: 3	Ethical / Policy Implications: 4

Recent user experiences on Pinterest highlight growing concerns over the prevalence of AI-generated content, termed "AI slop," which is perceived as low-quality and generic. Users like Caitlyn Jones have reported dissatisfaction with recipes featuring AI-generated personas, leading to a decline in the authenticity that initially attracted them to the platform. Alexios Mantzarlis, director of the Security, Trust, and Safety Initiative at Cornell Tech, notes that this trend reflects a broader issue across digital platforms, where AI-generated content is becoming increasingly normalized. As Pinterest evolves from its original community-driven model, users express frustration over the dilution of genuine content in favor of mass-produced alternatives.

<https://www.wired.com/story/pinterst-ai-slop-content/>