

AI News Digest

03/02/2026 - 03/08/2026

WEEKLY DIGEST: HUMANITIES & CULTURAL STUDIES

Exploring AI's Impact on Human Identity and Ethics

This week's articles delve into the complex interplay between artificial intelligence and human identity, examining how technology reshapes our understanding of self and ethics. From the concept of digital twins in healthcare to the ethical implications of AI-generated content, the discourse highlights the challenges of integrating AI into cultural and philosophical frameworks. Additionally, the emergence of AI in educational settings and its potential to alter perceptions of animals and consciousness raises critical questions about our relationship with technology. The ongoing exploration of these themes underscores the need for a nuanced approach to AI's role in society.

KEY FINDINGS

- ✓ The tension between the 'felt self' and 'datafied self' in healthcare digital twins.
- ✓ Robophilosophy highlights a 'triple gridlock' hindering AI research and policymaking.
- ✓ AI-generated content may desensitize humans to the intrinsic value of animals.

IMPLICATIONS

- The integration of AI in humanities could redefine creative expression and language innovation.
- Ethical considerations in AI development are crucial for preserving human values.
- Understanding somatic alienation may influence future AI design and interaction.

1. The Shadow and the self in digital twins in healthcare as an AI environment

Category: Policy & Ethics

Departments: Nursing, Public Health Sciences, Computer Science, Philosophy, Political Science & Public Administration

Topics: Healthcare AI, Digital Twin Systems, Self-Awareness Enhancement, Datafied Self, AI Governance

Impact Score: 27.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 4

Educational Value: 4

Innovation / Novelty: 5

Practical Impact: 4

Interdisciplinary Potential: 5

Ethical / Policy Implications: 5

This article examines the epistemic tension between the "felt self," rooted in personal experience, and the "datafied self," shaped by algorithmic modeling within healthcare digital twin environments. Utilizing Jung's concepts of the Self and the Shadow, the authors argue that these digital systems can obscure important aspects of health and identity while also revealing uncomfortable truths about individual health behaviors. The study highlights the dual potential of digital twins to either enhance self-awareness through data insights or exacerbate self-surveillance and undermine personal autonomy, emphasizing the importance of design and governance in shaping these outcomes. By framing healthcare digital twins as complex socio-technical systems, the authors contribute to ongoing discussions about identity and agency in the context of AI and healthcare.

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00146-026-02960-8>

2. A review of Robophilosophy, edited by Johanna Seibt, Raul Hakli, and Marco Nørskov

Category: Policy & Ethics

Departments: Philosophy, Political Science & Public Administration, Computer Science

Topics: AI Ethics & Safety, Social Robotics Governance, Moral Status of Robots, Philosophical Expertise in AI Policy

Impact Score: 25.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 4

Educational Value: 4

Innovation / Novelty: 3

Practical Impact: 4

Interdisciplinary Potential: 5

Ethical / Policy Implications: 5

In the edited volume "Robophilosophy," Seibt, Hakli, and Nørskov explore the implications of social robotics within the context of applied philosophy and technology governance. They identify a "triple gridlock" that obstructs research-based policymaking and argue for the necessity of philosophical expertise in addressing the challenges posed by the integration of social robots into everyday life. The volume discusses the moral status of social robots and the complexities of their deployment in various societal settings, emphasizing that current decisions regarding their development may have lasting consequences. While it does not provide a specific policy framework, the work is positioned as essential for understanding the conceptual issues surrounding the governance of social robots.

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00146-026-02957-3>

3. Grammarly Is Offering 'Expert' AI Reviews From Your Favorite Authors-Dead or Alive

Category: Applications

Departments: Computer Science, Educational Leadership, Philosophy, Political Science & Public Administration

Topics: Generative AI, Expert Review Systems, AI Grading Tools, Copyright in AI

Impact Score: 24.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 3

Educational Value: 4

Innovation / Novelty: 4

Practical Impact: 5

Interdisciplinary Potential: 3

Ethical / Policy Implications: 5

Grammarly has expanded its AI capabilities, rebranding as Superhuman and introducing features that simulate feedback from both contemporary and historical authors and academics. The platform now includes tools such as an AI chatbot for drafting assistance, a paraphraser, a humanizer for stylistic revisions, and an AI grader for document evaluation. A notable addition is the "Expert Review" option, which allows users to receive critiques inspired by the works of real experts, although these individuals have no direct involvement with the process. Concerns have been raised regarding the legality of using the intellectual property of both living and deceased authors without permission, highlighting ongoing debates about copyright and content ownership in AI applications.

<https://www.wired.com/story/grammarly-is-offering-expert-ai-reviews-from-your-favorite-authors-dead-or-alive/>

4. Synthetic emotions and consciousness: exploring architectural boundaries

Category: Research

Departments: Computer Science, Philosophy, Psychology, Political Science & Public Administration

Topics: AI Ethics & Safety, Emotion-like Control Mechanisms, Affective Memory Systems, Consciousness in AI

Impact Score: 23.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 4

Educational Value: 3

Innovation / Novelty: 4

Practical Impact: 4

Interdisciplinary Potential: 3

Ethical / Policy Implications: 5

The article investigates the potential for artificial systems to implement emotion-like control mechanisms without necessitating access-like consciousness. It proposes a biologically motivated control architecture that utilizes need-based appraisal and episodic affective memory to influence decision-making through affective states. The authors highlight the practical implications of such systems, noting the risks of emotional expressiveness leading to user manipulation or the emergence of consciousness in increasingly sophisticated systems. They argue for a deeper understanding of the relationship between emotion-like control and consciousness to ensure responsible development of AI technologies.

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00146-026-02896-z>

5. Job Announcement: Assistant Professor (AI Humanities) at the Chinese University of Hong Kong

Category: Education

Departments: Art, Communication, Philosophy, Educational Leadership, Computer Science

Topics: AI Humanities, AI and Creative Expression, AI and Language Innovation, Interdisciplinary Collaboration

Impact Score: 23.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 4

Educational Value: 5

Innovation / Novelty: 4

Practical Impact: 3

Interdisciplinary Potential: 5

Ethical / Policy Implications: 2

The Faculty of Arts is establishing a new MA Programme in AI Humanities, featuring two streams: AI and Creative Expression, and AI and Language Innovation. The first stream emphasizes the integration of AI with art and cultural production, while the second focuses on AI's impact on language-related fields such as communication and translation. The program aims to attract applicants with a blend of computational skills and a strong foundation in the humanities, encouraging interdisciplinary collaboration and the development of innovative interpretive methodologies. Candidates can choose to specialize in one or both streams and are invited to propose relevant courses for the curriculum.

<https://digitalhumanitiesnow.org/2026/03/job-announcement-assistant-professor-ai-humanities-at-the-chinese-university-of-hong-kong/>

6. From alienated organs to alienated minds: understanding AI through the lens of somatic alienation

Category: Research

Departments: Philosophy, Political Science & Public Administration, Sociology & Anthropology

Topics: AI Ethics, Somatic Alienation, Cognitive Externalization, Technological Estrangement

Impact Score: 22.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 4

Educational Value: 3

Innovation / Novelty: 4

Practical Impact: 2

Interdisciplinary Potential: 5

Ethical / Policy Implications: 4

The article examines the concept of somatic alienation, which describes the historical process of displacing human physical and cognitive capacities through technological advancements. It argues that this externalization is not merely parallel but interrelated, where the loss of physical capabilities creates conditions for cognitive displacement, ultimately reshaping human relationships with technology and physicality. The author critiques traditional narratives that celebrate technology as an extension of human abilities, positing instead that AI-driven cognitive externalization leads to estrangement from essential human faculties. The paper distinguishes this phenomenon from Marxist alienation by focusing on how technological systems alienate humans from their embodied capacities across various economic contexts, outlining four overlapping modes of alienation that reflect increasing estrangement.

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00146-025-02838-1>

7. Are A.I.-Generated Videos Changing How We See Animals?

Category: Policy & Ethics

Departments: Political Science & Public Administration, Philosophy, Biological Sciences

Topics: AI Ethics & Safety, Animal Research Ethics, Desensitization Effects, Human-Animal Relationship, AI in Animal Behavior

Impact Score: 22.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 2

Educational Value: 3

Innovation / Novelty: 3

Practical Impact: 4

Interdisciplinary Potential: 5

Ethical / Policy Implications: 5

The article discusses the ethical implications of using animals in research and experimentation, particularly in the context of artificial intelligence. It highlights the potential desensitization of humans to the intrinsic value and capabilities of animals as they are manipulated for various purposes. The author argues for a reevaluation of our relationship with animals in light of advancements in AI, emphasizing the need to recognize and appreciate their natural behaviors and wonders rather than viewing them solely as tools for human benefit.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2026/03/07/magazine/ai-generated-videos-animals.html>

8. Resource: An Ottoman Turkish document viewer built with Claude Cowork

Category: Applications

Departments: History, Computer Science, Educational Leadership

Topics: Generative AI, IIIF Document Viewer, Ottoman Turkish Annotation, AI in Historical Research

Impact Score: 21.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 3

Educational Value: 4

Innovation / Novelty: 3

Practical Impact: 4

Interdisciplinary Potential: 5

Ethical / Policy Implications: 2

The article discusses the development of a static five annotation layer IIIF viewer for Ottoman Turkish, created using the Claude Cowork tool over a span of five hours. The project, which represents the author's largest undertaking to date, showcases an image from the first issue of the Ottoman government gazette Takvîm-i Vekâyi, published in 1831. The viewer is hosted in a IIIF-demo repository on the AI and History Collaboratory GitHub organization. The author, an historian rather than a coder, highlights the utility of Cowork in facilitating this project.

<https://digitalhumanitiesnow.org/2026/03/an-ottoman-turkish-document-viewer-built-with-claude-cowork/>

9. Report: Ways of working with the Wayback Machine

Category: Research

Departments: Communication, Art, History, Sociology & Anthropology

Topics: Digital Archiving, Web Material Repurposing, Collaborative Research Tools, Cultural Digital Investigations, Creative Project Methodologies

Impact Score: 21.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 3

Educational Value: 4

Innovation / Novelty: 3

Practical Impact: 4

Interdisciplinary Potential: 5

Ethical / Policy Implications: 2

On February 9, researchers convened at the Internet Archive Europe in Amsterdam to discuss methodologies for utilizing archived pages from the Wayback Machine. The gathering highlighted collaborative efforts between researchers, journalists, and artists in digital investigations and creative projects. Participants explored existing tools and methods for repurposing web materials and identified potential new tools to enhance these practices. The event underscored the significance of web archives in understanding and engaging with digital culture.

<https://digitalhumanitiesnow.org/2026/03/ways-of-working-with-the-wayback-machine-internet-archiv-e-europe/>

10. Are conscious machines valuers?

Category: Research

Departments: Computer Science, Philosophy, Political Science & Public Administration

Topics: AI Ethics, Artificial Valence, Goal Formation in AI, Reinforcement Learning Pathways

Impact Score: 20.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 4

Educational Value: 3

Innovation / Novelty: 4

Practical Impact: 2

Interdisciplinary Potential: 3

Ethical / Policy Implications: 4

The article addresses the concept of artificial valence, focusing on the grounding of value in conscious artificial beings. It explores whether such entities could develop their own goals, akin to self-preservation in living organisms, which would allow them to experience the world in valenced ways. The author examines four potential pathways for artificial systems to establish independent goals-designer-independent goals, reinforcement learning, rational evaluation, and hallucinations-but concludes that none effectively resolve the value grounding problem. Ultimately, the discussion highlights the distinction between genuinely autonomous goals and those that remain derivative or externally constituted.

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00146-026-02959-1>