

AI News Digest

03/09/2026 - 03/15/2026

WEEKLY DIGEST: HUMANITIES & CULTURAL STUDIES

Trust and Creativity in the Age of AI

This week, discussions around the intersection of trust, creativity, and AI have taken center stage. A philosophical exploration highlights the importance of vulnerability in fostering trust in AI systems. Meanwhile, an upcoming webinar will address the environmental implications of digital humanities research, emphasizing the need for sustainable practices. Additionally, filmmaker Steven Spielberg's rejection of AI in creative processes underscores ongoing debates about the authenticity of artificial creativity and its relationship with consciousness.

KEY FINDINGS

- ✓ Trust mitigates vulnerability but also creates it in AI contexts.
- ✓ The Digital Humanities Climate Coalition is focused on reducing the environmental impact of digital research.
- ✓ Consciousness is argued to be essential for genuine creativity, challenging the notion of artificial creativity.

IMPLICATIONS

- The relationship between trust and vulnerability may influence future AI design and implementation.
- Sustainable practices in digital humanities could reshape research methodologies and funding priorities.
- Debates on artificial creativity may lead to stricter definitions and boundaries regarding the use of AI in creative fields.

1. The value of vulnerability for trustworthy AI

Category: Policy & Ethics

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

Topics: AI Ethics & Safety, Trustworthy AI, Human Vulnerability, Accountability in AI

Impact Score: 24.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 4

Educational Value: 4

Innovation / Novelty: 3

Practical Impact: 3

Interdisciplinary Potential: 5

Ethical / Policy Implications: 5

The article examines the role of human vulnerability in establishing and maintaining trust within social arrangements, arguing that trust not only mitigates vulnerability but also creates it. It highlights the philosophical significance of trust, particularly its relationship to accountability, which is often overlooked in policy frameworks promoting Trustworthy AI (TAI). The author aims to provide a nuanced definition of vulnerability that reflects its complex history and ethical implications across various disciplines, emphasizing the need for a more ethically grounded understanding of TAI. This exploration seeks to bridge the gap between philosophical discussions of trust and practical applications in technology and policy.

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00146-026-02892-3>

2. Event Announcement: An Introduction to the Digital Humanities Climate Coalition Toolkit

Category: Research

Departments: Educational Leadership, Computer Science, Philosophy

Topics: AI Ethics, Sustainable Digital Practices, Environmental Impact Assessment, Digital Humanities Toolkit

Impact Score: 23.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 3

Educational Value: 4

Innovation / Novelty: 3

Practical Impact: 4

Interdisciplinary Potential: 5

Ethical / Policy Implications: 4

On March 18, eLabs will conduct a webinar aimed at examining the environmental impact of digital humanities research. This session will utilize resources from the Digital Humanities Climate Coalition (DHCC), which is dedicated to assessing and reducing the ecological footprint of digital humanities work. A key resource provided by the DHCC is a toolkit intended to assist researchers in making sustainable digital choices for their projects.

<https://digitalhumanitiesnow.org/2026/03/an-introduction-to-the-digital-humanities-climate-coalition-toolkit-elaboratories/>

3. Does artificial creativity require artificial consciousness?

Category: Research

Departments: Philosophy, Psychology, Computer Science, Educational Leadership

Topics: AI Ethics, Artificial Consciousness, Theories of Creativity, Phenomenal vs Access Consciousness

Impact Score: 22.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 4

Educational Value: 4

Innovation / Novelty: 3

Practical Impact: 2

Interdisciplinary Potential: 4

Ethical / Policy Implications: 5

The article presents an argument regarding the relationship between consciousness and creativity, positing that consciousness is essential for genuine creativity. It outlines a General Argument Against Artificial Creativity, which asserts that since AI lacks consciousness, it cannot be considered creative. The author distinguishes between phenomenal consciousness, which involves subjective experience, and access consciousness, which pertains to cognitive functions. The paper aims to explore the implications of these distinctions by examining two prominent theories of creativity: the Boden Model, a psychological approach, and Gaut's Definition, a philosophical perspective, to assess whether consciousness is necessary for the creative process.

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00146-026-02887-0>

4. Steven Spielberg says he's 'never used AI' in any of his films

Category: Policy & Ethics

Departments: Communication, Creative Writing, Philosophy

Topics: AI Ethics, Human-AI Collaboration, Creative AI Tools, AI in Film Production

Impact Score: 12.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 1

Educational Value: 2

Innovation / Novelty: 1

Practical Impact: 2

Interdisciplinary Potential: 2

Ethical / Policy Implications: 4

In a recent interview at the SXSW conference, filmmaker Steven Spielberg expressed his opposition to the use of AI in creative processes, emphasizing that he has never utilized AI in his films. While acknowledging the potential benefits of technology in various fields, he stated that he does not support AI replacing human creativity, particularly in writers' rooms. Spielberg's comments reflect a broader industry debate, as some streaming services explore AI tools for film and TV production, contrasting with his stance on maintaining human involvement in creative endeavors.

<https://techcrunch.com/2026/03/13/steven-spielberg-says-hes-never-used-ai-in-any-of-his-films/>