

AI News Digest

03/23/2026 - 03/29/2026

WEEKLY DIGEST: EDUCATION & LEADERSHIP

AI's Role in Enhancing Human Oversight and Creativity

Recent advancements in AI highlight the growing intersection of technology and human creativity, particularly in education and citizen science. Researchers are exploring innovative applications, such as using neural cellular automata for music-driven visuals and computer vision for monitoring fish migration. Additionally, discussions around AI transparency in healthcare emphasize the need for human oversight as AI systems evolve. The implications of generative AI on authorship and meaning-making further underscore the importance of integrating human perspectives in AI development.

KEY FINDINGS

- ✓ Neural cellular automata can create responsive music-driven visuals.
- ✓ Automated fish monitoring enhances citizen science efforts in tracking river herring migration.
- ✓ Human oversight is critical in the deployment of AI in healthcare.

IMPLICATIONS

- Increased collaboration between technology and human creativity could lead to innovative educational tools.
- Enhanced transparency in AI systems may improve trust and accountability in healthcare applications.
- The evolving role of authorship in the age of generative AI necessitates a reevaluation of traditional concepts of meaning-making.

1. Seeing sounds

Category: Research

Departments: Music, Computer Science, Art, Engineering Education & Leadership

Topics: Generative AI, Neural Cellular Automata, Music-Driven Visuals, Self-Organized Systems

Impact Score: 26.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 5

Educational Value: 4

Innovation / Novelty: 5

Practical Impact: 4

Interdisciplinary Potential: 5

Ethical / Policy Implications: 3

Mariano Salcedo, a graduate student in MIT's new Music Technology and Computation Graduate Program, is researching the use of neural cellular automata (NCA) to create music-driven visuals that can regenerate in response to audio stimuli. His work allows users to manipulate the relationship between music energy and the NCA system through a web interface, enabling the generation of unique visual performances. Salcedo's research aims to enhance the listening experience by integrating self-organized systems with music, reflecting a multidisciplinary approach to music technology. He has been recognized for his contributions and will deliver the student address at the 2026 Advanced Degree Ceremony for the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences.

<https://news.mit.edu/2026/seeing-sounds-mariano-salcedo-0326>

2. Augmenting citizen science with computer vision for fish monitoring

Category: Research

Departments: Computer Science, Biological Sciences, Engineering Education & Leadership

Topics: Computer Vision, Automated Fish Monitoring, Deep Learning Models, Citizen Science Enhancement

Impact Score: 26.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 5

Educational Value: 4

Innovation / Novelty: 5

Practical Impact: 5

Interdisciplinary Potential: 4

Ethical / Policy Implications: 3

A collaborative research team from the Woodwell Climate Research Center, MIT, and Intuit developed an automated fish monitoring system using underwater video and computer vision to enhance traditional citizen science efforts in tracking river herring migrations. Their study, published in **Remote Sensing in Ecology and Conservation**, details an end-to-end pipeline for automated fish counting, which includes video collection, labeling, and model training. The researchers found that their deep learning models, trained on a diverse dataset, produced high-resolution fish counts consistent with traditional methods while also providing insights into migration behavior and environmental influences. This approach addresses the limitations of manual monitoring by offering a scalable and efficient solution for continuous fish population assessment.

<https://news.mit.edu/2026/augmenting-citizen-science-computer-vision-fish-monitoring-0325>

3. Q&A:: Deloitte on AI transparency and the future of computer vision in healthcare

Category: Policy & Ethics

Departments: Computer Science, Nursing, Public Health Sciences, Engineering Education & Leadership

Topics: Healthcare AI, AI Transparency, Computer Vision Applications, Trustworthy AI Governance

Impact Score: 25.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 4

Educational Value: 4

Innovation / Novelty: 4

Practical Impact: 5

Interdisciplinary Potential: 3

Ethical / Policy Implications: 5

Dr. Bill Fera, a principal at Deloitte, emphasizes the necessity of human oversight in the deployment of AI in healthcare, particularly as AI systems evolve and modify their behavior autonomously. He critiques the current lack of transparency in AI model training and advocates for the establishment of trustworthy frameworks to ensure responsible AI governance. Fera identifies computer vision as the next significant innovation in healthcare, with potential applications including predicting falls and enhancing hospital throughput. He underscores the importance of continuous monitoring of AI systems to mitigate risks and ensure beneficial outcomes.

<https://www.mobihealthnews.com/news/ga-deloitte-ai-transparency-and-future-computer-vision-healthcare>

4. Truth, text, and technology: critical reflections on the institutional implications of generative artificial intelligence

Category: Policy & Ethics

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

Topics: Large Language Models, Algorithmic Ideology, Data-Driven Interpretation, Authorship Implications

Impact Score: 25.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 4

Educational Value: 4

Innovation / Novelty: 4

Practical Impact: 3

Interdisciplinary Potential: 5

Ethical / Policy Implications: 5

The article examines the implications of Large Language Models (LLMs) on the concepts of authorship and meaning-making, contrasting the roles of fictional and human authors. It argues that the foundational authority in Western thought, historically rooted in hermeneutics, is shifting towards an "algorithmic ideology," where meaning is derived from numerical representation and statistical analysis rather than interpretive engagement. This transformation reconfigures societal governance and legitimacy, as political institutions increasingly rely on metrics and automated calculations for decision-making. The authors contend that while the traditional metaphysical basis for meaning has not been abolished, it has been displaced by a new reliance on data-driven interpretations.

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00146-026-02965-3>

5. Speculative institutional grammars: rethinking the limits of participatory AI

Category: Research

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

Topics: AI Ethics, Prompt Design Influence, Cross-Linguistic Normativity, Deliberative Discourse Structures

Impact Score: 25.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 5

Educational Value: 4

Innovation / Novelty: 5

Practical Impact: 3

Interdisciplinary Potential: 4

Ethical / Policy Implications: 4

The study investigates the divergence between grammatical forms of normativity in deliberative discourse and the actor-centered structures of institutional rule systems across four languages: English, Basque, Czech, and Hebrew. It finds that while all languages can produce ADICO-compatible rule statements when explicitly instructed, English consistently favors rule-like formulations even without such prompts, unlike the other languages. The research highlights that prompt design significantly influences normative outputs, revealing deeper cross-linguistic differences in how normativity is articulated. The findings suggest that English's approach is characterized by a hybrid governance framework, while the other languages employ different grammatical constructions to convey similar regulatory concepts.

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00146-026-02998-8>

6. Call For Papers: Special Issue on AI Governance, Authenticity, and Provenance for Visual Media

Category: Research

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

Topics: AI Governance, Authenticity Verification, Provenance Tracking, Digital Forensics, Interactive Visualization

Impact Score: 25.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 4

Educational Value: 3

Innovation / Novelty: 4

Practical Impact: 4

Interdisciplinary Potential: 5

Ethical / Policy Implications: 5

This special issue invites submissions addressing the challenges of authenticity, provenance, and accountability in visual media, particularly in the context of AI governance and deep learning advancements. It seeks technical contributions from various fields, including computer graphics, visualization, and human-computer interaction, focusing on methods for tracking and verifying the creation and transformation of visual content. Topics of interest include algorithmic approaches to watermarking, digital forensics, interactive provenance visualization, and tools for compliance and accountability in media workflows. The deadline for submissions is September 30, 2026, with publication scheduled for March 2027.

<https://wpcms.computer.org/digital-library/magazines/cg/cfp-ai-governance-authenticity-provenance>

7. DHNow Newsletter, March 25, 2026

Category: Policy & Ethics

Departments: Political Science & Public Administration, Communication, Educational Leadership, Sociology & Anthropology

Topics: AI Ethics, Digital Blackface, AI Representation, Cultural Sensitivity, Image Processing Tools

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

This issue, curated by Colleen Nugent McLean, highlights the implications of AI in the context of digital blackface, particularly focusing on social media accounts that utilize AI-generated characters resembling Black women. Additionally, it includes resources and reports, notably a tool designed to eliminate bleed-through in scans of medieval manuscripts. The content aims to address both the ethical considerations of AI representation and practical advancements in digital humanities.

<https://digitalhumanitiesnow.org/2026/03/dhnow-newsletter-march-25-2026/>

8. The Bay Area's animal welfare movement wants to recruit AI

Category: Policy & Ethics

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

Topics: Large Language Models, Animal Welfare Reasoning, AI Training for Ethics, Effective Altruism Critique

Impact Score: 24.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 4

Educational Value: 3

Innovation / Novelty: 4

Practical Impact: 3

Interdisciplinary Potential: 5

Ethical / Policy Implications: 5

The article discusses the intersection of the Bay Area animal welfare movement and effective altruism, highlighting the complexities and criticisms of the latter's utilitarian approach. Critics argue that effective altruism may overlook systemic issues and prioritize future harms over present-day suffering. At a recent summit, Jasmine Brazilek, cofounder of Compassion in Machine Learning, presented a benchmark for evaluating how large language models (LLMs) reason about animal welfare and advocated for training AI models with documents that reflect animal welfare concerns. Her goal is to ensure that future AI systems prioritize nonhuman interests and promote positive human values.

<https://www.technologyreview.com/2026/03/23/1134491/the-bay-areas-animal-welfare-movement-wants-to-recruit-ai/>

9. Building Human-In-The-Loop Agentic Workflows

Category: Applications

Departments: Computer Science, Engineering Education & Leadership

Topics: Human-In-The-Loop Workflows, Agentic Workflows, Human-AI Collaboration, Decision-Making Enhancement

Impact Score: 24.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 4

Educational Value: 4

Innovation / Novelty: 4

Practical Impact: 5

Interdisciplinary Potential: 3

Ethical / Policy Implications: 4

The article discusses the implementation of human-in-the-loop (HITL) workflows within the LangGraph framework. It outlines the methodology for integrating human feedback into automated processes to enhance decision-making and task execution. The focus is on establishing effective agentic workflows that leverage both human and machine capabilities to improve outcomes in various applications. The findings emphasize the importance of collaboration between human agents and AI systems in achieving optimal performance.

<https://towardsdatascience.com/building-human-in-the-loop-agentic-workflows/>

10. Creating with Sora Safely

Category: Applications

Departments: Computer Science, Educational Leadership

Topics: Generative AI, Safety Measures Implementation, User Safety Enhancements, Advanced Video Models

Impact Score: 24.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 4

Educational Value: 3

Innovation / Novelty: 4

Practical Impact: 5

Interdisciplinary Potential: 3

Ethical / Policy Implications: 5

The article discusses the development of Sora 2 and the Sora app, which are designed to tackle safety challenges associated with advanced video models and a new social creation platform. The initiative emphasizes the implementation of specific safety measures as foundational elements of the technology. The focus is on establishing concrete protections to enhance user safety in these digital environments.

<https://openai.com/index/creating-with-sora-safely>