

AI News Digest

03/23/2026 - 03/29/2026

WEEKLY DIGEST: HUMANITIES & CULTURAL STUDIES

Exploring AI's Role in Creativity and Culture

Recent discussions in the humanities highlight the ongoing debate about artificial intelligence's capacity for creativity and its representation in cultural narratives. While some researchers argue that current AI models lack genuine creative abilities, others explore the implications of AI's integration into creative fields like film, literature, and music. Studies reveal that AI can misinterpret literary quality, raising concerns about its understanding of storytelling. As AI continues to evolve, its impact on human creativity and cultural expression remains a critical area of inquiry.

KEY FINDINGS

- ✓ Current generative AI models do not possess true creativity.
- ✓ AI frequently misjudges nonsensical text as high-quality literature.
- ✓ The integration of AI in creative tools is expanding, as seen with Lyria 3 Pro.

IMPLICATIONS

- The debate on AI's creativity may distract from its actual capabilities.
- AI's role in creative industries could redefine artistic processes.
- Understanding AI's limitations is crucial for its ethical application in culture.

1. Beyond Apocalypse: "New AI" in Film and Television

Category: Applications

Departments: Communication, Philosophy, Political Science & Public Administration

Topics: AI Ethics & Safety, Cultural Narratives, Consciousness Representation, Narrative Templates, Identity in AI

Impact Score: 25.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 4

Educational Value: 4

Innovation / Novelty: 5

Practical Impact: 3

Interdisciplinary Potential: 5

Ethical / Policy Implications: 4

In "Representing the New AI in Film and Television," Graham Allen addresses the divide between the technical aspects of artificial intelligence and the cultural narratives surrounding it, proposing that films and television serve as complex thought experiments on themes such as consciousness and personhood. He introduces a taxonomy of seven narrative templates that extend beyond traditional dystopian and utopian frameworks, identifying Mary Shelley's "Frankenstein" as a foundational text for modern AI narratives, which he interprets through a Levinasian lens as a tragedy of "failed hospitality." Allen applies this analytical framework to contemporary films, illustrating how narratives of romance and identity in works like "Ex Machina" and "Her" reflect and reshape societal understandings of AI. His analysis emphasizes that the portrayal of AI is not merely a reflection of technological concerns but is deeply intertwined with ethical and social considerations.

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00146-026-02893-2>

2. Human creativity still resists automation: Artists rank highest, with unguided AI coming in last

Category: Research

Departments: Art, Computer Science, Philosophy

Topics: Generative AI, AI Creativity Limitations, Imaginative Process Analysis, Misconceptions in AI

Impact Score: 24.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 5

Educational Value: 4

Innovation / Novelty: 4

Practical Impact: 3

Interdisciplinary Potential: 3

Ethical / Policy Implications: 5

A recent study published in Advanced Science challenges the notion of genuine creativity in artificial intelligence (AI), asserting that current generative AI models do not possess true creative abilities. The research, conducted by an international team from the University of Barcelona and associated institutions, analyzes the imaginative processes of these AI systems and concludes that their outputs are not the result of authentic creativity. This work aims to clarify misconceptions about AI's creative capabilities and emphasizes the limitations of current generative models.

<https://techxplore.com/news/2026-03-human-creativity-resists-automation-artists.html>

3. Lyria 3 Pro: Create longer tracks in more

Category: Applications

Departments: Music, Computer Science, Creative Writing

Topics: Generative AI, High-Fidelity Audio Generation, Collaborative Music Creation, Custom Soundtrack Development

Impact Score: 22.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 3

Educational Value: 4

Innovation / Novelty: 4

Practical Impact: 5

Interdisciplinary Potential: 4

Ethical / Policy Implications: 2

Lyria 3 Pro has been launched in public preview on Vertex AI, enabling businesses to generate high-fidelity audio at scale for various applications, including gaming and creative tools. The integration of Lyria 3 into Google AI Studio and the Gemini app enhances musical awareness and structural coherence, allowing developers and users to create customized soundtracks and longer tracks for diverse media projects. Additionally, ProducerAI, a collaborative music creation tool, leverages Lyria 3 Pro to assist artists and producers in the iterative songwriting process. These tools are now accessible to both free and paid subscribers, expanding the capabilities for music generation across platforms.

<https://deepmind.google/blog/lyria-3-pro-create-longer-tracks-in-more/>

4. Will machines ever be intelligent?

Category: Research

Departments: Computer Science, Psychology, Philosophy

Topics: Large Language Models, Transformer Architectures, Cognitive Psychology in AI, Comparative Intelligence Analysis

Impact Score: 21.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 4

Educational Value: 4

Innovation / Novelty: 3

Practical Impact: 2

Interdisciplinary Potential: 5

Ethical / Policy Implications: 3

In a recent podcast episode of "The Shape of Things to Come," hosted by Doug Burger from Microsoft Research, AI researchers Nicolò Fusi and Subutai Ahmad discuss the comparative architectures of digital intelligence, specifically large language models, and biological intelligence, such as the human brain. The conversation centers on whether these two forms of intelligence can be considered equivalent or if they excel in fundamentally different areas. Fusi brings expertise in transformer-based models and information theory, while Ahmad offers insights from cognitive psychology and computer science, emphasizing the complexity of understanding and implementing intelligence. The discussion aims to explore the implications of these differences for the future of AI development.

<https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/research/podcast/will-machines-ever-be-intelligent/>

5. AI is not creative, and the debate is a distraction

Category: Policy & Ethics

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

Topics: AI Ethics, AI Creativity Debate, Agency in AI, Social Embedding of AI

Impact Score: 21.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 3

Educational Value: 4

Innovation / Novelty: 3

Practical Impact: 2

Interdisciplinary Potential: 4

Ethical / Policy Implications: 5

The article critiques the ongoing discourse surrounding AI and creativity, arguing that AI's lack of creativity stems not from a deficiency but from its design as a non-subject, serving external interests without agency or understanding. It contends that proposals to enhance AI's social and physical embedding miss the fundamental point that such embedding does not equate to autonomy or self-authorship. The author emphasizes that what is often celebrated as AI creativity is merely functional performance within predefined constraints, revealing a broader societal tendency to conflate optimized output with genuine agency. Ultimately, the article calls for a reevaluation of how we perceive creativity and authorship in both machines and humans in the context of modernity's focus on instrumental reason.

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00146-026-02942-w>

6. ChatGPT's taste for literary nonsense sparks alarm

Category: Research

Departments: Computer Science, English, Philosophy

Topics: Natural Language Processing, Literary Quality Assessment, Context Understanding Limitations, Nonsensical Content Evaluation

Impact Score: 21.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 4

Educational Value: 3

Innovation / Novelty: 4

Practical Impact: 3

Interdisciplinary Potential: 2

Ethical / Policy Implications: 5

A study conducted by a German researcher reveals that OpenAI's GPT models frequently misjudge "pseudo-literary" text as high-quality literature. The findings indicate that these models can be easily deceived by nonsensical content, raising questions about their ability to evaluate literary merit accurately. This research highlights potential limitations in the models' understanding of context and meaning in written language.

<https://techxplare.com/news/2026-03-chatgpt-literary-nonsense-alarm.html>

7. Job Announcement: Call for Predoctoral Fellowships at the International Max Planck Research School for Multimodal Digital Humanities (IMPRS-MDH)

Category: Research

Departments: Computer Science, Art, Chicano Studies, Languages & Linguistics, Philosophy, History

Topics: Multimodal AI, Digital Humanities, Interdisciplinary Scholarship, Art and Architectural History

Impact Score: 21.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 4

Educational Value: 3

Innovation / Novelty: 4

Practical Impact: 3

Interdisciplinary Potential: 5

Ethical / Policy Implications: 2

The International Max Planck Research School for Multimodal Digital Humanities (IMPRS-MDH) has been established as a collaborative doctoral program between the Bibliotheca Hertziana - Max Planck Institute for Art History and the University of Zurich, with funding from the Max Planck Society for a duration of six years. This initiative aims to advance research at the intersection of art and architectural history, linguistics, and multimodal artificial intelligence, building on previous work conducted at the MPG-UZH Digital Visual Studies center. The program seeks to foster interdisciplinary scholarship in these emerging fields.

<https://digitalhumanitiesnow.org/2026/03/job-announcement-call-for-predoctoral-fellowships-at-the-international-max-planck-research-school-for-multimodal-digital-humanities-imprs-mdh/>

8. Can AI understand literature? Researchers put it to the test

Category: Research

Departments: Computer Science, English, Educational Leadership

Topics: Large Language Models, Literary Comprehension, Narrative Structure Analysis, Interpretive Nuance Evaluation

Impact Score: 20.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 4

Educational Value: 3

Innovation / Novelty: 3

Practical Impact: 2

Interdisciplinary Potential: 4

Ethical / Policy Implications: 4

Recent advancements in large language models, such as ChatGPT, have enhanced their capabilities in assisting with complex tasks like research and summarization. However, questions persist regarding their ability to comprehend storytelling and literature, particularly in terms of interpretive nuance. This highlights a gap in the current understanding of how these models engage with narrative structures and literary analysis. Further investigation is needed to evaluate their effectiveness in these areas.

<https://techxplore.com/news/2026-03-ai-literature.html>

9. Resource: Layered Memories: Histories in One Square Block

Category: Research

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

Topics: AI Ethics & Safety, Cultural Heritage Preservation, Historical Narrative Analysis, Community Memory Mapping

Impact Score: 17.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 2

Educational Value: 3

Innovation / Novelty: 2

Practical Impact: 3

Interdisciplinary Potential: 4

Ethical / Policy Implications: 3

The "Layered Memories: History in One Square Block" project employs lieux de souvenir analysis to uncover the complex and often overlooked histories of three significant sites in New Orleans: the Hermann-Grima historic house, the Royal Orleans Hotel, and the New Orleans African American Museum. This research highlights the physical and social transformations of these locations over three centuries, revealing their connections to contentious aspects of the nation's history, including slavery and African American heritage. The project aims to bring awareness to these hidden narratives that shape the collective memory of the community.

<https://digitalhumanitiesnow.org/2026/03/resource-layered-memories-histories-in-one-square-block/>

10. Review: Capturing O'Neill

Category: Research

Departments: Music, Chicano Studies, Languages & Linguistics, History, Philosophy, Sociology & Anthropology

Topics: Digital Humanities, Ethnomusicology Applications, Historical Contextualization, Collaborative Archiving Techniques, Irish Studies Research

Impact Score: 15.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 3

Educational Value: 2

Innovation / Novelty: 3

Practical Impact: 2

Interdisciplinary Potential: 4

Ethical / Policy Implications: 1

The "Capturing O'Neill" project, led by Scott B. Spencer at the University of Southern California, is a peer-reviewed digital humanities initiative that compiles signed dedication pages from books gifted by Captain Francis O'Neill between 1903 and 1934. The project aims to contextualize O'Neill's contributions to Irish traditional music within the broader Irish and Irish-American historical narrative, particularly during significant socio-political events of the early 20th century. It features over 70 dedication pages, each accompanied by biographical information about the recipients and the provenance of the books, highlighting the collaborative efforts of various archivists and scholars. By establishing itself as a legitimate scholarly resource, the project seeks to enhance the recognition of digital humanities work in musicology, ethnomusicology, and Irish studies.

<https://reviewsindh.pubpub.org/pub/capturing-oneill>