

AI News Digest

04/06/2026 - 04/12/2026

WEEKLY DIGEST: HUMANITIES & CULTURAL STUDIES

Exploring AI's Impact on Human Experience and Ethics

This week, discussions in the humanities and cultural studies highlight the multifaceted implications of AI on human experience, ethics, and historical perspectives. From the introduction of Graphilosophy, which aims to enhance understanding of classical texts, to the ethical dilemmas posed by deepfakes and AI-driven emotional support, the articles reflect a growing concern over the intersection of technology and human values. Additionally, calls for papers emphasize the need for historical analysis of AI's role in society. These themes underscore the importance of critically examining AI's influence on personal and collective identities.

KEY FINDINGS

- ✓ Graphilosophy offers a new framework for understanding classical texts.
- ✓ AI chatbots can provide effective emotional support, challenging skepticism.
- ✓ Deepfakes raise significant ethical concerns regarding image authority.

IMPLICATIONS

- The integration of AI in humanities may reshape traditional scholarship.
- Ethical frameworks are needed to address AI's impact on personal identity.
- AI's role in emotional support could redefine therapeutic practices.

1. Graphilosophy: graph-based digital humanities computing with the four books

Category: Research

Departments: Computer Science, Philosophy, Educational Leadership, Chicano Studies, Languages & Linguistics

Topics: Digital Humanities, Knowledge Graph Framework, Semantic Search, Philosophical Reasoning, Bias Mitigation in AI

Impact Score: 25.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 4

Educational Value: 3

Innovation / Novelty: 5

Practical Impact: 4

Interdisciplinary Potential: 5

Ethical / Policy Implications: 4

The article introduces Graphilosophy, an ontology-guided, multilayered knowledge graph (KG) framework designed to model The Four Books and their associated commentaries. This framework aims to enhance the accessibility and interpretive clarity of these foundational Confucian texts by explicitly mapping relationships among the original Classical Chinese, modern Vietnamese translations, and commentaries. By transforming Tuan's commentaries into a structured, machine-readable dataset, Graphilosophy supports semantic search and philosophical reasoning, addressing existing gaps in computational research and representation of Confucian ethics. The initiative highlights the importance of pluralistic approaches in digital humanities to mitigate biases in interpretive authority.

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00146-026-03015-8>

2. A philosophy of work

Category: Policy & Ethics

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

Topics: AI Ethics & Safety, Work-Life Balance, Ethical AI Education, Philosophical Perspectives on AI

Impact Score: 24.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 3

Educational Value: 4

Innovation / Novelty: 3

Practical Impact: 4

Interdisciplinary Potential: 5

Ethical / Policy Implications: 5

Michal Masny, the NC Ethics of Technology Postdoctoral Fellow at MIT, examines the multifaceted value of work beyond financial compensation, emphasizing its role in personal development, social contribution, and community building. He argues against the notion that reducing or eliminating work would universally benefit society, suggesting that optimal combinations of work and leisure are essential for well-being. Masny advocates for a revised educational approach that integrates ethical considerations into the training of scientists and technologists, aiming to bridge the gap between technical and philosophical perspectives. His research, which addresses ethical issues related to technology and AI, has been supported by the NC Cultural Foundation to foster critical discourse in these fields.

<https://news.mit.edu/2026/philosophy-work-michal-masny-0409>

3. Persuasive machines: large language models and the art of rhetoric

Category: Policy & Ethics

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

Topics: Large Language Models, Rhetoric in AI, Truth Orientation in LLMs, Philosophical Implications of 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

Large language models (LLMs) generate fluent and contextually appropriate language but lack an intrinsic orientation toward truth, functioning instead as persuasive machines. This raises philosophical and political concerns, as LLMs operationalize a mode of discourse historically viewed with suspicion-rhetoric-which can produce authoritative-sounding content without understanding or accuracy. The article argues that LLMs amplify existing anxieties about rhetoric's potential to mislead and manipulate public opinion, challenging the philosophical ideal of knowledge grounded in truth. Additionally, it suggests that the emergence of LLMs may reveal the extent to which philosophy itself has relied on rhetorical practices, complicating the traditional dichotomy between truth-seeking and persuasive discourse.

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00146-026-03022-9>

4. Artificial Empathy: When we outsource our feelings

Category: Policy & Ethics

Departments: Philosophy, Psychology, Political Science & Public Administration

Topics: AI Ethics, Therapeutic Chatbots, Emotional Processing, Cognitive Outsourcing

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 reflects on the author's personal experience using a chatbot as a therapeutic tool, highlighting the effectiveness of AI in providing emotional support despite the author's initial skepticism. The author notes that the chatbot's responses were validating and organized, leading to a sense of calm and clarity, which raises concerns about the implications of relying on AI for emotional processing. The discussion draws on philosophical perspectives regarding technology's influence on human experience and cognition, emphasizing that while cognitive outsourcing has been accepted in various forms, the lack of a feedback mechanism in AI-driven conversations poses unique challenges. Ultimately, the author warns that such systems may facilitate a bypassing of essential human relational dynamics in emotional contexts.

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00146-026-03008-7>

5. Deepfakes at face value: image and authority

Category: Policy & Ethics

Departments: Philosophy, Political Science & Public Administration

Topics: AI Ethics, Authority Interest View, Moral Implications of Deepfakes, Biometric Identity Control

Impact Score: 23.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 4

Educational Value: 3

Innovation / Novelty: 4

Practical Impact: 3

Interdisciplinary Potential: 4

Ethical / Policy Implications: 5

The article argues that the creation of pornographic deepfakes constitutes a moral wrong by violating individuals' authority over their own images and identities. It introduces the "Authority Interest View," positing that individuals possess a normative interest in controlling the use of their biometric identity, which is undermined by deepfakes. The discussion highlights that existing accounts fail to adequately address the moral implications of deepfakes, as they often overlook the concept of "bare wrongings," which occur even without direct harm. The authors suggest that the authority to govern one's identity is a fundamental interest that should be recognized in ethical considerations surrounding synthetic media.

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00146-026-03018-5>

6. CFP: AI in Historical Perspectives

Category: Research

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

Topics: AI Ethics & Safety, Historiographic Analysis, AI in Labor History, Cultural Implications of AI

Impact Score: 23.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 4

Educational Value: 4

Innovation / Novelty: 3

Practical Impact: 2

Interdisciplinary Potential: 5

Ethical / Policy Implications: 5

The American Historical Association (AHR) is inviting proposals for essays that examine artificial intelligence (AI) as a historical and historiographic phenomenon rather than merely a contemporary technology. The initiative aims to integrate AI into existing historiographies related to labor, empire, economy, culture, science, and human agency. By analyzing AI's historical contingencies and continuities, the AHR seeks to provide a framework for historians, particularly those outside the fields of AI and technology history, to explore the ethical and moral implications of AI in historical research and education.

<https://digitalhumanitiesnow.org/2026/04/ahr-call-for-proposals-ai-in-historical-perspectives/>

7. CFP: Japanese Association for Digital Humanities 2026

Category: Research

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

Topics: AI Ethics, Digital Sustainability, Cultural Data Contextualization, Institutional Frameworks

Impact Score: 23.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 4

Educational Value: 3

Innovation / Novelty: 4

Practical Impact: 3

Interdisciplinary Potential: 5

Ethical / Policy Implications: 4

The Japanese Association for Digital Humanities (JADH) will host its 15th annual conference at Kyushu University from September 11-13, 2026, focusing on the theme "Whose World, Whose Data? Sustainability in Digital Umwelts." The conference aims to explore the contextual nature of digital data, emphasizing that data is embedded within specific cultural, institutional, and technological frameworks. It seeks to redefine digital sustainability beyond mere preservation, prompting discussions on the implications of digital practices on various communities and their respective worlds.

<https://digitalhumanitiesnow.org/2026/04/jadh2026-cfp-japanese-association-for-digital-humanities/>

8. The grammatical error of acknowledging AI

Category: Policy & Ethics

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

Topics: AI Ethics, Academic Acknowledgment, Human-AI Distinction, Recognition Integrity

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

In a critical letter, the author argues against the practice of acknowledging AI systems, such as Anthropic's Claude, in academic work. The author contends that acknowledgment is fundamentally a recognition of human relationships characterized by sacrifice and care, which AI lacks, as it does not possess agency or emotional investment. This conflation of AI contributions with human efforts, the author argues, undermines the integrity of academic acknowledgment and risks degrading the value of recognition itself. The letter highlights the need for clearer distinctions between human contributions and AI-generated outputs in academic contexts.

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00146-026-03029-2>

9. From 'BuddhaBot' to \$1.99 chats with AI Jesus, the faith-based tech boom is here

Category: Business
Departments: Communication, Philosophy, Educational Leadership
Topics: Consumer AI, Conversational AI, Faith-Based AI Applications, Personalized Interaction

Impact Score: 21.0

Rubric Scores

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

Just Like Me, a technology company, is offering a service that allows users to engage in personal conversations with a simulated version of Jesus Christ at a rate of \$1.99 per minute. This initiative aims to enhance the personal relationship aspect of faith for evangelical Christians by providing an interactive experience. The service leverages AI technology to create a conversational interface that reflects the beliefs and teachings associated with Jesus.

<https://techxplore.com/news/2026-04-buddhabot-chats-ai-jesus-faith.html>

10. CFP: L. DENNIS SHAPIRO AND SUSAN R. SHAPIRO DIGITAL HISTORY SEMINAR

Category: Education
Departments: History, Computer Science, Educational Leadership
Topics: Digital History, Computational Data Analysis, Archival Engagement, Digital Publications

Impact Score: 18.0

Rubric Scores

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

The Shapiro Digital History Seminar at the Massachusetts Historical Society (MHS) aims to showcase ongoing projects that utilize digital methods in historical research. The seminar will cover topics such as digitizing analog primary sources, employing computational tools for data analysis, and producing digital publications for diverse audiences. Emphasizing engagement with archival materials, the series will feature presentations intended for both academic scholarship and public history, with opportunities for attendee feedback and pre-session material review.

<https://digitalhumanitiesnow.org/2026/04/massachusetts-historical-society-l-dennis-shapiro-and-susan-r-shapiro-digital-history-seminar/>