

AI News Digest

05/04/2026 - 05/10/2026

WEEKLY DIGEST: ARTS, MEDIA & PERFORMANCE

Cultural Workers Navigate AI's Impact on Creativity

This week, discussions around the intersection of AI and cultural production intensified, highlighting the struggles of Brazilian voice actors advocating for worker-led AI governance. The socio-cultural ramifications of sexualized deepfakes were also examined, linking them to historical gender norms. Meanwhile, OpenAI introduced new voice intelligence features aimed at enhancing user interaction, while a new Discord community for AI artists was launched to foster collaboration. Reports on the fragility of cultural records and job opportunities in digital studies further underscore the evolving landscape of arts and media in the age of AI.

KEY FINDINGS

- ✓ Brazilian voice actors are pushing for worker-led AI governance.
- ✓ Sexualized deepfakes perpetuate historical gendered power dynamics.
- ✓ OpenAI's new voice features enhance interaction and translation capabilities.

IMPLICATIONS

- Worker-led governance models may reshape AI's role in creative industries.
- The rise of deepfakes necessitates urgent discussions on gender and consent.
- New AI tools could transform research practices and accessibility in the arts.

1. Dubbed over: the struggles of Brazilian voice actors towards a worker-led AI governance

Category: Policy & Ethics

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

Topics: AI Policy & Regulation, Worker-led AI Governance, Global Dependencies in AI, Cultural Industries Dynamics, Dubbing Practices and AI

Impact Score: 27.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 4

Educational Value: 4

Innovation / Novelty: 4

Practical Impact: 5

Interdisciplinary Potential: 5

Ethical / Policy Implications: 5

The article theorizes worker-led AI governance as a relational and context-dependent process, emphasizing that it is not a given but rather a site of ongoing contestation among cultural workers. It identifies two critical factors influencing this governance: global dependencies in the political economy of generative AI and the local configuration of workers' power resources. Drawing on Latin American dependency theory, the article situates these dynamics within existing cultural industries and their value chains, highlighting the intersection of global inequalities and local power struggles. The recent SAG-AFTRA strike exemplifies these issues, as the union negotiated provisions around AI use, including consent and compensation for actors, while also revealing gaps in protections, particularly concerning dubbing practices.

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00146-026-03013-w>

2. Sexualized deepfakes as a socio-technical continuation of gendered power

Category: Policy & Ethics

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

Topics: AI Ethics & Safety, Deepfake Pornography, Gendered Power Dynamics, Visual Coercion, Online Harassment

Impact Score: 25.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 4

Educational Value: 3

Innovation / Novelty: 4

Practical Impact: 5

Interdisciplinary Potential: 4

Ethical / Policy Implications: 5

The article examines the socio-cultural implications of sexualized deepfakes, emphasizing their connection to historical visual practices and gender norms. It identifies three interrelated dimensions: visibility and power, gender and sexual harm, and the nature of harm inflicted, arguing that deepfake pornography is a form of visual coercion that undermines the autonomy and identity of the depicted individuals. The article highlights documented cases where deepfakes have been used to humiliate and threaten women, illustrating how these practices are embedded in broader patterns of online harassment and gendered intimidation. Ultimately, it positions deepfake pornography as a significant socio-cultural phenomenon rather than merely a technical issue.

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00146-026-03080-z>

3. OpenAI launches new voice intelligence features in its API

Category: Applications
Departments: Computer Science, Engineering Education & Leadership, Communication, Political Science & Public Administration
Topics: Generative AI, Voice Intelligence, Real-time Translation, Speech-to-Text Transcription

Impact Score: 25.0

Rubric Scores

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

OpenAI has announced the integration of new voice intelligence features into its API, including the GPT-Realtime-2 voice model, which utilizes GPT-5-class reasoning for more complex user interactions. The new capabilities also include GPT-Realtime-Translate for real-time translation across over 70 input and 13 output languages, and GPT-Realtime-Whisper for live speech-to-text transcription. These tools aim to enhance customer service and support various sectors such as education and media, while OpenAI has implemented safeguards to prevent misuse, including mechanisms to halt conversations that violate content guidelines. All features are available through the Realtime API, with billing based on usage.

<https://techcrunch.com/2026/05/07/openai-launches-new-voice-intelligence-features-in-its-api/>

4. Conference: Digitisation of Scholarly Knowledge through the Prism of Research Practices: Memory, Uses, and Critical Issues

Category: Research
Departments: Educational Leadership, Communication, Computer Science, Philosophy
Topics: AI Policy & Regulation, Digital Scholarly Practices, Interdisciplinary Research Tools, Representation of Scientific Memory

Impact Score: 21.0

Rubric Scores

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

The CollEx-Persée Digitization program is hosting a conference focused on the impact of digitization on research practices and scholarly activities. It aims to facilitate interdisciplinary discussions on how the selection of corpora, tools, and formats influences research methodologies and the representation of scientific memory. The event will feature two keynote lectures, five thematic panels, and two round tables, bringing together international researchers and information professionals to explore mechanisms that enhance the effectiveness of digitized academic literature in supporting both traditional and emerging research practices.

<https://digitalhumanitiesnow.org/2026/05/numerisation-des-savoirs-scientifiques-au-prisme-des-pratiques-de-recherche-memoires-usages-et-enjeux-critiques-sciencesconf-org/>

5. Job Announcement: Kluge Fellowships in Digital Studies

Category: Research
Departments: Computer Science, Educational Leadership, Philosophy, Communication, Sociology & Anthropology
Topics: Digital Humanities, Interdisciplinary Research, Data Science Methods, Digital Scholarship, Digital Publishing

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 Kluge Fellowship in Digital Studies offers scholars the chance to engage with the Library of Congress's extensive digital collections and resources while employing digital methods in their research. The program encourages interdisciplinary and cross-cultural studies, welcoming applicants from all academic fields. It supports a diverse range of work, including digital scholarship, digital humanities, data science, and digital publishing. Fellows will collaborate with various digital departments at the Library while conducting and disseminating their research.

<https://digitalhumanitiesnow.org/2026/05/kluge-fellowships-in-digital-studies-fellowships-chairs-fellows-hips-the-john-w-kluge-center-at-the-library-of-congress-programs-library-of-congress/>

6. Tool: Sourcery App: Reimagining Remote Research

Category: Applications
Departments: Educational Leadership, Communication
Topics: Consumer AI, Remote Research Tools, Archival Material Scanning, Crowdsourced Research Assistance

Impact Score: 20.0

Rubric Scores

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

Sourcery, developed by the University of Connecticut and Digital Scholar, offers a web application that allows researchers to request scans of archival materials from local archives in over 40 U.S. cities without the need for travel or email communication. The platform enables users to manage requests from multiple repositories through a single dashboard, facilitating access to critical resources. Additionally, individuals can participate as "Sourcerers," earning money by creating scans for other researchers. The service includes a promotional offer for a free initial request.

<https://digitalhumanitiesnow.org/2026/05/home-sourcery/>

7. Join Our Discord Community! ☑☑

Category: Other

Departments: Art, Computer Science, Engineering Education & Leadership

Topics: Generative AI, AI Image Generation, AI Video Generation, Creative Collaboration

Impact Score: 17.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 1

Educational Value: 4

Innovation / Novelty: 3

Practical Impact: 4

Interdisciplinary Potential: 3

Ethical / Policy Implications: 2

A new Discord community has been launched for AI artists and creators, aimed at fostering collaboration and knowledge sharing among participants. The platform features real-time discussions on AI tools, weekly creative challenges, and dedicated channels for various topics, including AI image and video generation. Members are encouraged to share prompts and suggest content topics, contributing to the community's development. The initiative seeks to create a supportive environment for both AI and traditional artists to learn and grow together.

https://aiartblog.com/uncategorized/join-our-discord-server/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=join-our-discord-server

8. Report: Vanishing Culture: A Report on Our Fragile Cultural Record

Category: Policy & Ethics

Departments: Communication, Philosophy, Political Science & Public Administration, History

Topics: AI Policy & Regulation, Cultural Preservation Strategies, Digital Archiving Techniques, Cybersecurity for Cultural Heritage

Impact Score: 16.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 1

Educational Value: 2

Innovation / Novelty: 1

Practical Impact: 3

Interdisciplinary Potential: 4

Ethical / Policy Implications: 5

The report "Vanishing Culture: A Report on Our Fragile Cultural Record" addresses the threats to public access to cultural history posed by corporate interests, changing distribution models, and cyber attacks. It documents recent cases of cultural loss and identifies the factors contributing to these vulnerabilities, particularly in the context of digital materials. The report advocates for the empowerment of public-serving libraries and archives to enhance their role in preserving cultural artifacts, ensuring continued access to collective memory for future generations.

<https://digitalhumanitiesnow.org/2026/05/vanishing-culture-a-report-on-our-fragile-cultural-record-2026-luca-messarra-free-download-borrow-and-streaming-internet-archive/>

9. AI Now is Hiring!

Category: Other

Departments: Political Science & Public Administration, Communication

Topics: AI Policy & Regulation, Organizational Capacity Building, Public Engagement Strategies, AI Societal Implications

Impact Score: 10.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 1

Educational Value: 2

Innovation / Novelty: 1

Practical Impact: 3

Interdisciplinary Potential: 2

Ethical / Policy Implications: 1

AI Now is expanding its team to enhance its organizational capacity in response to the evolving landscape of AI and its societal implications. The organization is seeking to fill three key positions: a Senior Operations Director to oversee finance, legal, and HR functions; a Program Associate to assist in executing flagship reports and events; and a Communications Associate to manage external engagement with the public and media. Applications for these roles are due by May 25, 2026. Further details can be found on their Careers page.

<https://ainowinstitute.org/general/ai-now-is-hiring>