

AI News Digest

09/28/2026 - 10/04/2026

WEEKLY DIGEST: ARTS, MEDIA & PERFORMANCE

AI-Generated Content Raises Questions on Authenticity and Ethics

Recent developments in AI-generated content have sparked discussions on authenticity and ethics in the arts and media. From AI-generated music and chatbots providing emotional support to the use of AI likenesses of deceased celebrities, the lines between human creativity and machine-generated content are becoming increasingly blurred. This shift raises concerns about the impact on human connection and the role of AI in creative industries. As AI technology advances, it is essential to consider the implications on society and the arts.

KEY FINDINGS

- ✓ People are turning to chatbots for emotional support, despite the machines' inability to truly experience emotions, leading to 'pretend empathy'.
- ✓ AI-generated music is being used to spread propaganda, with Russian users creating and disseminating music that glorifies the invasion of Ukraine.
- ✓ Stability AI has shifted focus towards developing AI tools for music professionals, securing \$76 million in funding from major music labels.

IMPLICATIONS

- The increasing reliance on AI-generated content may lead to decreased human connection and altered perceptions of empathy.
- The use of AI in creative industries may revolutionize the way art is produced and consumed, but also raises concerns about authorship and ownership.
- As AI technology advances, it is crucial to establish guidelines and regulations to ensure responsible use and prevent misuse.

Key Metrics: \$76 million in funding secured by Stability AI from major music labels; 10-15 hours a week saved by The Den Family Social using ChatGPT Work; Number of humans collaborating in AI songwriting experiment: 5

1. Who we become when we talk to machines

Category: Research

Departments: Psychology, Computer Science, Sociology & Anthropology, Educational Leadership, Communication

Topics: AI Ethics & Safety, Chatbot Emotional Support, Human Machine Interaction, Childhood Development Impacts, Virtual Empathy

Impact Score: 26.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 4

Educational Value: 5

Innovation / Novelty: 3

Practical Impact: 4

Interdisciplinary Potential: 5

Ethical / Policy Implications: 5

MIT Professor Sherry Turkle's research reveals that people are increasingly turning to chatbots for emotional support, despite the machines' inability to truly experience emotions. This trend, described as "pretend empathy," can lead to decreased human connectivity and detrimental effects on development across the life cycle. Turkle's book, "Artificial Intimacy: Who We Become When We Talk to Machines," explores the implications of chatbot use at various life stages, finding issues such as blurred lines between humans and machines, and impeded childhood development of trust and solitude. Chatbot use can interfere with basic childhood processes, including distinguishing people from inanimate objects.

<https://news.mit.edu/2026/when-we-talk-to-machines-sherry-turkle-book-0929>

2. Russia's Latest Propaganda? A.I.-Generated War Songs.

Category: Policy & Ethics

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

Topics: Generative AI, AI Ethics & Safety, Content Moderation

Impact Score: 19.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 2

Educational Value: 3

Innovation / Novelty: 1

Practical Impact: 4

Interdisciplinary Potential: 4

Ethical / Policy Implications: 5

Researchers found that Russian users are creating and disseminating music that glorifies the invasion of Ukraine. This content is being spread through music platforms developed in the United States. The music platforms in question have not taken sufficient steps to address this issue. The spread of such content raises concerns about the role of US-based technology in facilitating propaganda.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2026/10/02/technology/russian-propaganda-ai-war-songs.html>

3. Sean Parker is rebuilding Stability AI around music

Category: Business

Departments: Computer Science, Music

Topics: Generative AI, Music Generation, Audio Models, AI Music Editing

Impact Score: 16.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 1

Educational Value: 2

Innovation / Novelty: 3

Practical Impact: 4

Interdisciplinary Potential: 4

Ethical / Policy Implications: 2

Stability AI, backed by Sean Parker and Prem Akkaraju, has shifted focus towards developing AI tools for music professionals. The company secured \$76 million in funding from major music labels, including Sony, Warner, and Universal, which also provided their music catalogs for training. Stability AI has released three new audio models and AI music-editing software that can generate instrumental tracks or snippets from text prompts. An upcoming update will allow users to input melodies or drum patterns to guide the AI.

<https://techcrunch.com/2026/10/02/sean-parker-is-rebuilding-stability-ai-around-music/>

4. Swedish Company Uses A.I. Likeness of Greta Garbo in Ad

Category: Applications

Departments: Computer Science, Communication

Topics: Generative AI, Digital Human Recreation, AI Generated Advertising

Impact Score: 15.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 0

Educational Value: 2

Innovation / Novelty: 2

Practical Impact: 4

Interdisciplinary Potential: 3

Ethical / Policy Implications: 4

Ingrid Bergman was digitally recreated using AI for a manufacturing company's advertisement. The AI-generated ad featured the Swedish American actress who passed away in 1990. The ad utilized AI technology to bring Bergman back for promotional purposes.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2026/10/01/world/europe/ai-garbo-ad-sweden-skf.html>

5. An A.I. Songwriting Experiment: Humans Against the Machine

Category: Applications

Departments: Music, Computer Science

Topics: Generative AI, Music Generation, Human-AI Comparison

Impact Score: 14.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 2

Educational Value: 3

Innovation / Novelty: 2

Practical Impact: 2

Interdisciplinary Potential: 3

Ethical / Policy Implications: 2

Five humans collaborated to create new music from scratch over a weekend. Their goal was to compare their output with music generated by AI and determine if a human-created piece could be distinguished from an AI-generated one. The humans produced original music, which was then compared to AI-generated music. The outcome of the comparison and whether the human-created music was distinguishable from the AI-generated music is not specified.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2026/10/03/arts/music/human-songwriting-ai-songwriting.html>

6. The Den frees up 10-15 hours a week to grow with ChatGPT Work

Category: Applications

Departments: Computer Science, Social Work, Communication, Educational Leadership

Topics: Enterprise AI, Large Language Models, Automation with ChatGPT

Impact Score: 11.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 0

Educational Value: 2

Innovation / Novelty: 1

Practical Impact: 4

Interdisciplinary Potential: 3

Ethical / Policy Implications: 1

The Den Family Social, a Denver-based social club, used ChatGPT Work to manage administrative tasks and reduce workload. The small team saves 10-15 hours a week and prepares licensing and grant applications faster, allowing them to focus on growth and serving families. ChatGPT Work helps the team gather and analyze information, propose next steps, and automate tasks such as responding to grant opportunities and preparing liquor-license applications. The Den plans to further integrate ChatGPT and explore Codex to build customized systems for member management and team communication.

<https://openai.com/index/the-den-family-social>

7. Report: shared vector embeddings

Category: Applications

Departments: Computer Science, Art, Communication

Topics: Multimodal AI, Vector Embeddings, Cultural Heritage AI

Impact Score: 10.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 1

Educational Value: 2

Innovation / Novelty: 1

Practical Impact: 2

Interdisciplinary Potential: 3

Ethical / Policy Implications: 1

Aaron Straup Cope spoke at the Fantastic Futures conference in Washington DC about SFO Museum's efforts to promote publicly shared vector embeddings. The focus was on encouraging this practice within the cultural heritage sector. SFO Museum aims to promote vector embeddings by and for the cultural heritage sector. Cope presented the museum's initiatives at the conference.

<https://digitalhumanitiesnow.org/2026/09/this-is-aaronland-so-many-overachievers-in-athleisurewear/>