

AI News Digest

02/09/2026 - 02/15/2026

WEEKLY DIGEST: HUMANITIES & CULTURAL STUDIES

Exploring AI's Impact on Human Perception and Ethics

Recent studies and discussions highlight the complex relationship between humans and AI, particularly in how generative AI can influence perceptions and ethical considerations. Research on 'AI-induced psychosis' reveals that users may experience hallucinations in tandem with AI interactions, suggesting a need for deeper understanding of this phenomenon. Additionally, the ethical implications of algorithmic decision-making are examined, contrasting public moral beliefs with professional ethics. As AI continues to evolve, its role in companionship and social dynamics raises critical questions about human relationships and societal norms.

KEY FINDINGS

- ✓ Users may experience 'hallucinations' alongside generative AI interactions.
- ✓ The ethical beliefs of the general public differ from those of professional ethicists.
- ✓ AI has the potential to provide companionship for individuals lacking social connections.

IMPLICATIONS

- Understanding AI-induced psychosis may inform better AI design and user guidelines.
- The divergence in ethical beliefs could lead to challenges in AI policy-making.
- AI's role in companionship may reshape social dynamics and human relationships.

1. What is 'AI-induced psychosis'? Study explains how chatbots may sustain delusions

Category: Research

Departments: Psychology, Philosophy, Political Science & Public Administration

Topics: AI Ethics, User Hallucination, Generative AI Misinformation, Cognitive Interaction with AI

Impact Score: 25.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 4

Educational Value: 4

Innovation / Novelty: 5

Practical Impact: 3

Interdisciplinary Potential: 4

Ethical / Policy Implications: 5

A recent study published in **Philosophy & Technology** examines the phenomenon of human users "hallucinating" alongside generative AI systems, rather than solely attributing errors to the AI itself. The research emphasizes the interactive nature of AI-generated misinformation and how users may misinterpret or accept these inaccuracies as truth. This perspective shifts the focus from AI's limitations to the cognitive processes of users engaging with AI outputs.

<https://techxplora.com/news/2026-02-ai-psychosis-chatbots-sustain-delusions.html>

2. Resource: Extracting Keywords from Crowdsourced Collections Project

Category: Research

Departments: Computer Science, Educational Leadership, History

Topics: Natural Language Processing, Automated Keyword Extraction, FAIR Data Principles, Bias Mitigation in Metadata, Crowdsourced Collections

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 project "Extracting Keywords from Crowdsourced Collections," funded by a Digital Scholarship @ Oxford Research Development Grant, investigated the application of Natural Language Processing (NLP) methods to automate keyword extraction from the Their Finest Hour Online Archive, which contains over 2,000 records related to the Second World War. The research aimed to challenge the traditional manual keyword assignment process, which can be resource-intensive and may perpetuate biases, by allowing digital collection records to generate their own keyword tags. This approach seeks to enhance search and discovery while adhering to FAIR data principles, particularly in the context of crowdsourced collections of personal histories. The findings highlight the potential for NLP to democratize metadata creation and reshape historical representations.

<https://digitalhumanitiesnow.org/2026/02/github-digital-scholarship-oxford-crowdsourced-data-tools-crowdsourced-data-tools/>

3. DHNow Newsletter, February 11, 2026

Category: Policy & Ethics
Departments: Computer Science, Educational Leadership, Communication, Philosophy, Political Science & Public Administration
Topics: AI Ethics & Safety, AI Bot Scraping, User Experience Heuristics, Cultural Heritage AI

Impact Score: 24.0

Rubric Scores

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

This curated issue addresses the intersection of open access and AI bot scraping, highlighting the challenges posed by automated data collection. It also theorizes the emergence of AI bot accounts on social media platforms. Additionally, the issue proposes heuristics aimed at enhancing user experience (UX) best practices in digital humanities. Furthermore, it includes job announcements and resources related to AI applications in cultural heritage and crowdsourced data.

<https://digitalhumanitiesnow.org/2026/02/dhnow-newsletter-february-11-2026/>

4. Virtuous friendship, recognition, and subservience: the limits of chatbot friends

Category: Policy & Ethics
Departments: Computer Science, Psychology, Philosophy, Educational Leadership
Topics: Large Language Models, AI Companionship, Social Skills Development, Human-AI Relationship Dynamics

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

Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg has proposed that AI, particularly large language models (LLMs), can provide companionship for individuals who lack sufficient human friendships, with the average American reportedly desiring around 15 friends but having only three. This perspective suggests that LLMs could supplement rather than replace human friendships, aligning with arguments by Munn and Weijers that not all friendships need to be founded on equality to be valuable. They argue that friendships between individuals with intellectual disabilities and non-disabled individuals exemplify this, asserting that the inequality present in human-AI relationships is not fundamentally different. However, the article critiques this comparison, emphasizing that the status and nature of relationships with LLMs differ significantly from those between humans, and raises concerns that reliance on AI for companionship may hinder the development of essential social skills needed for forming genuine human connections.

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00146-026-02900-6>

5. Rhythmic recursion: AI and the temporal architecture of theoretical formation

Category: Research

Departments: Philosophy, Educational Leadership, Computer Science, Sociology & Anthropology

Topics: AI Ethics & Safety, Theoretical Formation, Cognitive Frameworks, Temporal Compression, Collective Cognitive Processes

Impact Score: 21.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 4

Educational Value: 3

Innovation / Novelty: 4

Practical Impact: 2

Interdisciplinary Potential: 5

Ethical / Policy Implications: 3

This article examines the role of recursion in theoretical formation, particularly in the context of AI-induced temporal compression. It distinguishes between internal recursion, which arises from experiential mismatches that challenge existing cognitive frameworks, and external recursion, which involves interactions with established academic structures. The analysis posits that both forms of recursion are interconnected and essential for a theory to gain recognition and integration within the academic community. Ultimately, the study emphasizes that effective theoretical development requires engagement with collective cognitive processes to avoid cognitive isolation and achieve broader intelligibility and durability.

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00146-026-02928-8>

6. Resource allocation by algorithms: people prefer almost any alternative

Category: Policy & Ethics

Departments: Philosophy, Political Science & Public Administration

Topics: AI Ethics & Safety, Folk Ethics, Moral Intuition Alignment, Cultural Influence on Ethics

Impact Score: 21.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 3

Educational Value: 4

Innovation / Novelty: 2

Practical Impact: 3

Interdisciplinary Potential: 4

Ethical / Policy Implications: 5

This study explores the concept of "folk ethics," which examines the moral beliefs of individuals without formal philosophical training, contrasting them with the views of professional ethicists. It discusses the implications of aligning moral theories with widely held intuitions, referencing the works of philosophers such as Brink, Rawls, and Singer. The authors argue that while folk ethics can inform moral theory, the relationship between intuitive judgments and ethical principles is complex and contentious, with critiques highlighting the influence of cultural upbringing on moral intuitions. Ultimately, the paper emphasizes the need for a balance between ethical theory and moral intuition in developing robust moral frameworks.

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00146-026-02886-1>

7. How MIT's 10th president shaped the Cold War

Category: Policy & Ethics

Departments: History, Political Science & Public Administration, Engineering Education & Leadership

Topics: AI Policy & Regulation, Military Technology Assessment, National Security AI Applications, Collaboration in AI Research

Impact Score: 13.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 1

Educational Value: 2

Innovation / Novelty: 1

Practical Impact: 2

Interdisciplinary Potential: 3

Ethical / Policy Implications: 4

The article discusses the historical significance of the Killian Report, produced by MIT under the leadership of James Killian in response to national security concerns raised by President Eisenhower in 1953. The report, which involved extensive collaboration among 42 engineers and scientists, assessed U.S. military capabilities and vulnerabilities, ultimately shaping military technology and intelligence policy during the Cold War. Delivered to Eisenhower in 1955, the 190-page document outlined the shifting balance of power between the U.S. and the USSR, predicting future trends in offensive capabilities and vulnerabilities. The report's influence extended beyond military strategy, impacting the relationship between the federal government and higher education institutions.

<https://news.mit.edu/2026/how-mits-10th-president-shaped-cold-war-0209>