

AI News Digest

02/23/2026 - 03/01/2026

WEEKLY DIGEST: SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES / POLICY

AI's Role in Healthcare and Ethical Challenges

Recent discussions highlight the dual-edged nature of artificial intelligence in healthcare, emphasizing both its potential to enhance patient outcomes and the ethical dilemmas it introduces. Research reveals that AI can inadvertently reinforce systemic inequities, particularly for marginalized communities. Additionally, interdisciplinary approaches are being advocated to navigate the complexities of AI governance and ethics. As AI technologies evolve, the need for inclusive frameworks that consider diverse perspectives becomes increasingly critical.

KEY FINDINGS

- ✓ AI in healthcare may exacerbate existing inequities for marginalized groups.
- ✓ Interdisciplinary dialogue is essential for effective AI governance.
- ✓ New AI models are being developed to improve cancer detection and treatment.

IMPLICATIONS

- Healthcare policies must address the ethical use of AI to prevent systemic bias.
- Incorporating diverse perspectives can lead to more equitable AI solutions.
- Ongoing research and development in AI can significantly enhance early cancer detection.

Key Metrics: PanMETAI utilizes a standardized liquid biopsy for pancreatic cancer detection.; AI model developed for prostate cancer care involves six medical centers.

1. Enhancing maritime cybersecurity with technology and policy

Category: Research

Departments: Computer Science, Political Science & Public Administration, Electrical & Computer Engineering, Aerospace & Mechanical Engineering

Topics: Cyber Security, GPS Spoofing Mitigation, LSTM Autoencoder for Signal Integrity, Deep Learning for Threat Detection, Cyber-Physical Systems Security

Impact Score: 27.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 5

Educational Value: 4

Innovation / Novelty: 5

Practical Impact: 5

Interdisciplinary Potential: 4

Ethical / Policy Implications: 4

Strahinja Janjusevic, a master's student at MIT's Technology and Policy Program, is conducting research on enhancing the cybersecurity of maritime infrastructure through artificial intelligence. His thesis focuses on securing cyber-physical systems in large legacy ships, specifically addressing vulnerabilities to GPS spoofing attacks that can compromise national security and economic stability. Janjusevic's approach integrates physics-based trajectory models with deep learning techniques to improve threat detection, utilizing an internal LSTM autoencoder to analyze signal integrity and predict vessel movements based on environmental conditions. This research aims to create a robust framework for distinguishing between legitimate navigational maneuvers and spoofed signals.

<https://news.mit.edu/2026/enhancing-maritime-cybersecurity-technology-policy-strahinja-janjusevic-0225>

2. Automating inequity: how artificial intelligence reproduces systemic failures in patient safety for marginalized communities

Category: Policy & Ethics

Departments: Nursing, Public Health Sciences, Political Science & Public Administration

Topics: Healthcare AI, Data Absenteeism, Bias in AI Models, Digital Colonialism

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 critiques the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) in healthcare, highlighting its tendency to reinforce existing power hierarchies and exacerbate vulnerabilities among marginalized populations. It argues that AI systems often emerge from profit-driven institutional contexts, leading to the encoding of social inequities and the potential for digital colonialism, particularly in Global South settings. The authors emphasize that health-related datasets are frequently incomplete and biased, resulting in underrepresentation of marginalized communities, which in turn affects the efficacy of AI models in clinical settings. This "data absenteeism" is framed as a form of epistemic violence, as it not only neglects but actively exploits these populations, undermining their health outcomes and perpetuating systemic inequalities.

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00146-026-02930-0>

3. Let's talk AI: interdisciplinarity is a must

Category: Policy & Ethics

Departments: Political Science & Public Administration, Computer Science, Engineering Education & Leadership, Sociology & Anthropology

Topics: AI Policy & Regulation, Trust-Use Mismatch, Interdisciplinary Dialogue, Semantic Barriers, Explainability in 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 volume "Let's Talk AI: Interdisciplinarity Is a Must" by Steffen et al. (2026) addresses the complexities of AI governance, emphasizing the need for interdisciplinary dialogue rather than merely proposing normative principles. It utilizes a semi-structured interview protocol with researchers and practitioners to reveal the frictions and disagreements inherent in governance discussions, particularly around concepts like trust and explainability. A key finding is the "trust-use mismatch," where respondents express distrust in AI while frequently using it, suggesting that reliance is often driven by structural factors rather than individual choice. The book highlights "semantic barriers" as a significant issue in interdisciplinary discussions, where differing interpretations of governance terms can hinder effective communication and resolution.

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00146-026-02937-7>

4. DHNow Newsletter, February 25, 2026

Category: Education

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

Topics: Generative AI, Data Visualization Techniques, Oral History Projects, Natural Language Processing

Impact Score: 27.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 4

Educational Value: 4

Innovation / Novelty: 5

Practical Impact: 4

Interdisciplinary Potential: 5

Ethical / Policy Implications: 5

This issue, curated by Colleen Nugent McLean and Zhihui Zou, includes three notable articles. The first discusses how generative AI has altered the perceived value of various academic disciplines. The second emphasizes the necessity of informed decision-making in the creation of data visualizations. The third article presents an oral history project aimed at showcasing Black physicists to challenge the prevailing narrative of racial homogeneity in the sciences. Additionally, the issue features job announcements, conference listings, and a report on natural language processing (NLP).

<https://digitalhumanitiesnow.org/2026/02/dhnow-newsletter-february-25-2026/>

5. How Chinese AI Chatbots Censor Themselves

Category: Research

Departments: Computer Science, Political Science & Public Administration

Topics: Large Language Models, AI Censorship, Bias Mitigation, Manual Intervention in AI

Impact Score: 26.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 5

Educational Value: 4

Innovation / Novelty: 4

Practical Impact: 5

Interdisciplinary Potential: 3

Ethical / Policy Implications: 5

A study conducted by researchers from Stanford and Princeton universities examined the responses of four Chinese large language models (LLMs) and five American models to 145 politically sensitive questions. The findings revealed that Chinese models exhibited significantly higher refusal rates to answer these questions, with DeepSeek and Baidu's Ernie Bot refusing 36% and 32% of inquiries, respectively, compared to less than 3% for American models. The research also indicated that manual interventions by developers played a more significant role in the observed biases than the training data itself, as Chinese models continued to show censorship even when responding in English. This study provides quantifiable evidence of the biases present in Chinese LLMs, contributing to the ongoing discourse on AI censorship.

<https://www.wired.com/story/made-in-china-how-chinese-ai-chatbots-censor-themselves/>

6. AI to help researchers see the bigger picture in cell biology

Category: Research

Departments: Biological Sciences, Computer Science, Public Health Sciences

Topics: Healthcare AI, Gene Expression Analysis, Multimodal Data Integration, Cancer Research Framework

Impact Score: 26.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 5

Educational Value: 4

Innovation / Novelty: 5

Practical Impact: 5

Interdisciplinary Potential: 4

Ethical / Policy Implications: 3

Researchers at the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard and ETH Zurich/Paul Scherrer Institute have developed an AI-driven framework to enhance the analysis of gene expression and other cellular measurements in cancer research. This framework identifies shared and unique information across different measurement modalities, allowing for a more comprehensive understanding of a cell's state. By integrating data from various techniques, the approach aims to streamline the analysis process, facilitating insights into disease mechanisms and the progression of conditions such as cancer and neurodegenerative disorders. The findings are published in *Nature Computational Science*.

<https://news.mit.edu/2026/ai-help-researchers-see-bigger-picture-cell-biology-0225>

7. National Taiwan University Hospital develops AI for pancreatic cancer metabolic profiling

Category: Research

Departments: Nursing, Public Health Sciences, Computer Science

Topics: Healthcare AI, Metabolomics Screening, Liquid Biopsy Analysis, Early Cancer Detection

Impact Score: 26.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 5

Educational Value: 4

Innovation / Novelty: 5

Practical Impact: 5

Interdisciplinary Potential: 4

Ethical / Policy Implications: 3

Researchers from Academia Sinica and National Taiwan University Hospital have developed PanMETAI, an AI-integrated metabolomics screening platform aimed at early detection of pancreatic cancer. This diagnostic model utilizes a standardized liquid biopsy to extract and analyze approximately 260,000 metabolic signals from 500 microliters of blood serum, achieving high accuracy with area under the curve values of 99% for non-cancer and 93% for pancreatic cancer in validation studies. The model's approach, which captures global metabolic changes, enhances early risk identification and demonstrates reproducibility across diverse datasets. The development reflects over twenty years of clinical expertise and aims to improve early diagnosis not only for pancreatic cancer but potentially for other cancer types as well.

<https://www.mobihealthnews.com/news/asia/national-taiwan-university-hospital-develops-ai-pancreatic-cancer-metabolic-profiling>

8. AI ethics through a decolonial lens: what does AI ethics look like if we take seriously the push to decolonise it?

Category: Policy & Ethics

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

Topics: AI Ethics, Decolonial AI Framework, Indigenous Knowledge Integration, Global South Perspectives

Impact Score: 26.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 4

Educational Value: 5

Innovation / Novelty: 4

Practical Impact: 3

Interdisciplinary Potential: 5

Ethical / Policy Implications: 5

The article discusses the need for a decolonial approach to AI ethics, emphasizing the importance of integrating perspectives from the Global South to address existing power imbalances in knowledge production and application. It critiques the dominance of Western-centric ethical standards in AI, which often overlook the unique needs and experiences of Global South communities. The authors argue that current AI systems perpetuate coloniality by prioritizing Eurocentric values and knowledge, thereby reinforcing systemic inequalities. They advocate for a pluriversal framework that recognizes and legitimizes Indigenous knowledges and local expertise in the development and implementation of AI technologies.

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00146-026-02935-9>

9. SDSC Powers AI Model to Improve Prostate Cancer Care

Category: Research

Departments: Nursing, Public Health Sciences, Computer Science

Topics: Healthcare AI, Radiation Therapy Optimization, Prostate Cancer Treatment, AI Model for Urinary Tract

Impact Score: 26.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 5

Educational Value: 4

Innovation / Novelty: 5

Practical Impact: 5

Interdisciplinary Potential: 4

Ethical / Policy Implications: 3

Researchers from six medical centers and academic institutions, including the University of California San Diego, have developed a new artificial intelligence model focused on the male urinary tract. This model aims to enhance the precision of radiation therapy for prostate cancer, potentially reducing side effects such as urinary complications. The collaboration highlights the integration of AI in improving cancer treatment outcomes.

<https://www.hpcwire.com/off-the-wire/sdsc-powers-ai-model-to-improve-prostate-cancer-care/>

10. AI may boost productivity-but it can hurt a creator's reputation, new research finds

Category: Research

Departments: Marketing, Management & Supply Chain, Computer Science, Educational Leadership, Psychology

Topics: AI Ethics, Generative AI Disclosure, Creator Reputation Impact, Audience Perception of AI

Impact Score: 26.0

Rubric Scores

Research Relevance: 5

Educational Value: 4

Innovation / Novelty: 4

Practical Impact: 5

Interdisciplinary Potential: 3

Ethical / Policy Implications: 5

Research from Florida International University's College of Business, published in the Academy of Management Discoveries, examines the impact of AI disclosure on creative work. The study finds that creators who reveal their use of generative AI receive negative judgments from audiences, irrespective of their prior reputation. This suggests that the process of creation, particularly the involvement of AI, significantly influences perceptions of creative output.

<https://techxplora.com/news/2026-02-ai-boost-productivity-creator-reputation.html>