



Empowering and Connecting the Responsible AI Ecosystem

Welcome to RAi Connect, our monthly newsletter.

July 2026: In this newsletter

- [Is the UK falling out of Love with AI? AI: the growing UK pushback](#)
- [This month's highlights: Our research, publications, news, blogs and more.](#)
- [At the heart of global AI governance in Geneva](#)
- [Opportunities: call for papers, funding, open consultations and more.](#)

RESEARCH BRIEFING · INITIAL FINDINGS

AI: the growing UK pushback

A report outlining the initial findings from a UK-wide survey of current attitudes to AI, including why people choose to limit or reject the use of AI tools.

Is the UK Falling Out of Love with AI?

AI: the growing UK pushback, the latest research briefing from King's Digital Futures Institute and Responsible Ai UK (RAi UK) reveals that people are actively pushing back against AI. Surveying over 2,000 UK adults, the findings show usage being deliberately limited, and a generation that can use AI - but is choosing not to. What's driving the resistance, and what does it mean for responsible AI? [Read our full report here.](#)

This month's highlights

Celebrating Dame Wendy Hall: A Landmark Honour for a Pioneer of Our Time: Prof Dame Wendy Hall, RAi UK International Ambassadors Council Chair, has been awarded the prestigious Sir Frank Whittle Medal by the Royal Academy of Engineering, only the third woman in 25 years to receive this honour. A brilliant scientist, a tireless advocate for women in engineering, and an enduring force for responsible AI. [Read the full story here.](#)



Welcoming Chuen Hong Lew to the RAI UK International

Ambassadors Council: RAI UK is delighted to welcome Chuen Hong Lew to its International Ambassadors Council. Former Chief Executive of Singapore's IMDA, Partner at Granite Asia, and Non-Resident Fellow at Stanford HAI, Chuen brings exceptional expertise in AI governance, digital trust, and international policy, strengthening our mission to build a trustworthy AI ecosystem. [Read the full announcement here.](#)



Huge congratulations to Prof Kate Devlin, Deputy Chair RAI UK Public Engagement, Outreach and Policy Pillar, on her appointment to the DSIT College of Experts. She will bring independent, evidence-based AI expertise directly to UK policymakers. A well-deserved recognition, and brilliant news for responsible AI. [Read more here.](#)

Professor Kate Devlin appointed to DSIT College of Experts

Professor Kate Devlin joins 71 leading specialists chosen to give the department rapid, independent access to UK science and technology expertise.

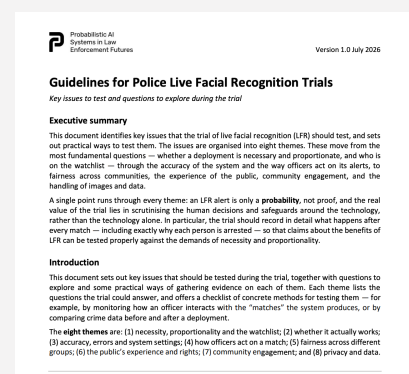


Professor Kate Devlin

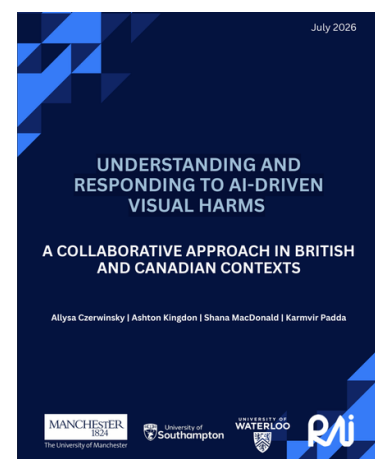
Congratulations to Yi Dong, Jinwei Hu, Xinmiao Huang, Youcheng Sun, and Xiaowei Huang on taking home an Outstanding Paper Award at ACL 2026 for 'Lying with Truths: Open-Channel Multi-Agent Collusion for Belief Manipulation via Generative Montage'. Read the paper [here](#). Their second paper [Chain-of-Thought as a Lens: Evaluating Structured Reasoning Alignment between Human Preferences and Large Language Models - ACL Anthology](#), was also accepted at the main track.



New resource: testing the AI policing checklist against live facial recognition trials: PROBABLE Futures project has published a new working document applying its Responsible AI Checklist for Policing to real-world issues arising from Live Facial Recognition (LFR) trials. Building on the checklist already adopted by the College of Policing and circulated to UK police forces, the paper works through concrete LFR deployment issues to stress-test the checklist's guidance. Read the [document here](#).

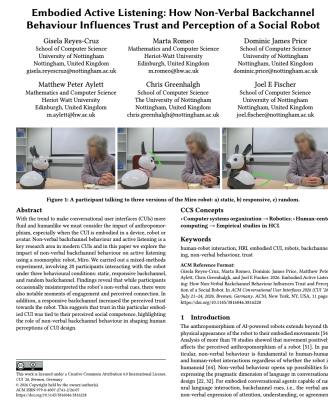


New white paper: Understanding and Responding to AI-Driven Visual Harms, by the project 'A Collaborative Approach to Assessing the Challenges of AI-Driven Harms', examines how generative AI is being weaponised to produce and spread far-right and male-supremacist visual content across platforms including TikTok, YouTube, and Instagram. As AI lowers the barrier to creating harmful imagery at scale, the paper makes the case for urgent, coordinated action from researchers, platforms, and policymakers alike. [Read the full report here.](#)

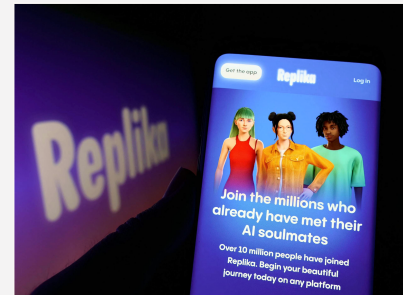


Gisela Reyes-Cruz presented new research at the **ACM Conversational User Interfaces (CUI 2026) conference in Bremen, Germany last week.**

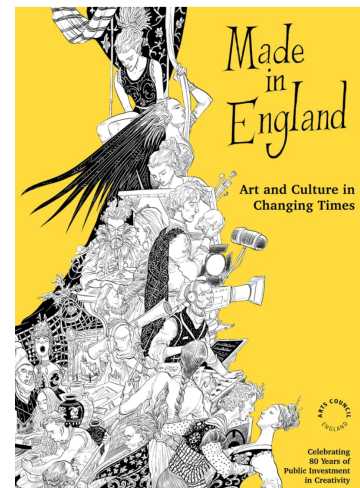
The paper, ‘*Embodied Active Listening: How Non-Verbal Backchannel Behaviour Influences Trust and Perception of a Social Robot*’ co-authored with Marta Romeo, Dominic Price, Matthew Aylett, Chris Greenhalgh, and Joel E. Fischer, explores how non-verbal backchannel behaviour shapes trust and perception in social robots. [Read the paper here.](#)



‘There’s a Value in What We Produce Because We Feel – and an AI Chatbot Can’t Feel’ – Byline Times: Prof Kate Devlin spoke to Byline Times in a wide-ranging interview exploring AI companions, the social media ban for under-16s, and why human creativity retains a value that AI simply cannot replicate. The interview is nuanced on AI, Human Connection, and Why Feeling Matters. [Read the full interview here.](#)



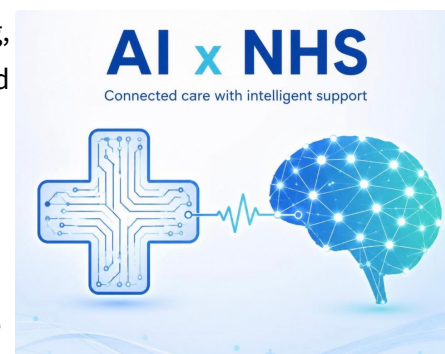
Made in England: Art and Culture in Changing Times - Arts Council England's 80th Anniversary Collection: Prof Jack Stilgoe's essay is featured in this collection, "*New Rules: AI and the Future of Creativity*," traces the history of music technology from the 1959 Wurlitzer drum machine to AI-powered tools today, arguing that what's truly at stake is not machines replacing musicians, but who gets to shape the direction of culture itself. A thought-provoking and timely read in distinguished company. [Read the full collection here.](#)



The Age Of AI Podcast: Watch the latest episode of the ‘The Age of AI’ podcast [Could AI Turn Us Into Creator Gods?](#) | [Rafie Faruq, CEO of Genie AI?](#) hosted by Lara Lewington & Ben Clark, joined by Rafie Faruq, CEO of Genie AI. The episode is available on [YouTube](#), as well as [Apple Podcasts](#) and [Spotify](#). New episodes every week!



New Blog: Can AI Give the NHS a Sense of Direction? In this blog, Nitin Shrotri, RAI UK AI Champion Network Coordinator and retired Consultant Urological Surgeon asks a timely question: as AI accelerates, can the NHS keep pace, and do so responsibly? From regulatory bottlenecks and data governance to the case for a national traffic light system for AI tools, it is a frank and insightful perspective from someone who knows the health service from the inside. [Read the full blog here.](#)



A blog by PROBABLE Futures Keystone project: When AI Goes on Trial, the Technology May Not Be the Real Challenge: This fascinating blog reveals a striking insight: when AI evidence enters a courtroom, the algorithm itself is rarely the hardest problem to solve. Written by Katherine Mary Jones, Marion Oswald, Angela Paul, Lizzie Tiarks, Carole McCartney, Kyle Montague, and Kyriakos N. Kotsoglou, the piece draws on a World Café session bringing together experts from policing, law, psychology, linguistics, and the AI industry. [Read the blog to know the findings.](#)



At the Heart of Global AI Governance in Geneva:

- [FT Letter: Prof Dame Wendy Hall calls for a UN-anchored approach to AI governance:](#) Prof Dame Wendy Hall and Prof Simon Chesterman called in the Financial Times for an independent, science-based International Artificial Intelligence Agency. Read the letter [here](#).
- [Making the case for a "Citizens' Track" on AI governance:](#) Tim Davies, Susan Oman and Octavia Field Reid argued for a permanent Citizens' Track, connecting public voice directly to AI decision-making, drawing on evidence from over 80 participatory processes involving 200,000+ people across 95 countries. Read the [full blog here](#).
- Prof Elena Simperl from the PHAWM project contributed to a UN white paper [Toward interoperability and inclusive AI participation in Governance](#), launched in Geneva in June 2026, setting out global minimum standards and 14 pathways to reduce fragmentation across national AI governance regimes. Read the white paper [here](#).

Opportunities

An update on the latest opportunities, grants, funding, open consultations or activities.

- [AI-Enabled Consumer Engagement to Advance Family Planning:](#) closing date 25 August 2026
- [DSIT Open Consultation: Empowering People Through Data Intermediaries:](#) closing date 31 August 2026.
- [International Digital Technical Standards Grant Scheme 2026-29: Improving Proficiency, Capacity and Participation - GOV-UK:](#) closing date 07 September 2026
- [Enhancing the Security, Privacy and Robustness of AI Models and Systems \(SecureAI\) | Horizon-europe.gouv.fr:](#) closing date 15 September 2026
- [Computing resources on the STFC DiRAC HPC facility \(RAC19\) – UKRI:](#) closing date 17 September 2026
- Open consultation: [Make Work Pay: workplace monitoring technologies - GOV.UK:](#) closing date 30 September 2026
- [Japan-UK Joint call for collaborations in Advanced Connectivity Technologies – UKRI:](#) closing date 06 October 2026
- [New call for proposals to shape safer and more inclusive social media platforms | Shaping Europe's digital future:](#) closing date 6 October 2026.
- [A guide for the commercialisation of Creative Industries Research – UKRI:](#) closing date 15 October 2026
- [EIC Pathfinder Challenges 2026 - European Innovation Council:](#) closing date 28 October 2026

Data Science in Transport Conference 2026: The Department for Transport is inviting submissions for its Data Science in Transport

AI-Native Academia @ NeurIPS 2026: How should academic publishing itself change when AI is embedded in authorship, peer review, and

What Does a Good Digital Society Look Like? The ESRC Digital Good Network invites abstract submissions for its landmark closing conference at

Conference, taking place on 16 September 2026 at Google's UK headquarters in London. Submit a title, abstract (up to 300 words), and presenter details to data.scienceconference@dft.gov.uk by **14 August 2026**.

scholarly governance? That is the central theme of this workshop, taking place in Atlanta in December. Submissions are invited across nine topics. [Full details here](#). Deadline: **29 August 2026**.

Sheffield Hallam University, 10–11 June 2027. Bringing together social scientists, humanities scholars, and practitioners to ask what a truly good digital society looks like. [Submit here](#) by **29 October 2026**.

We'd love to hear your thoughts, stories or views.

Get in touch

Follow us



Copyright (C) 2024 Responsible Ai UK. All rights reserved.

This email was sent to K.Mittal@soton.ac.uk

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

Responsible AI UK · University Of Southampton, Faculty Of Engineering And Physical Sciences Univ · University Road · Southampton, Hampshire SO17 1BJ · United Kingdom