

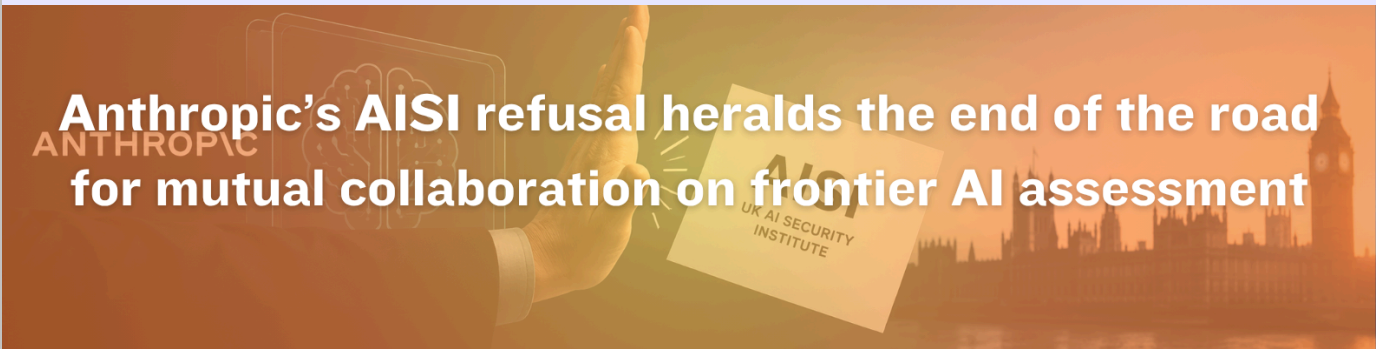
RAi CONNECT

Empowering and Connecting the Responsible AI Ecosystem

Welcome to RAi Connect, our monthly newsletter.

September 2026: In this newsletter

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Anthropic's AISI refusal heralds the end of the road for mutual collaboration on frontier AI assessment

When Frontier AI Says No to Independent Assessment?

What happens when frontier AI companies can choose whether to submit their most powerful models for independent scrutiny? Responsible Ai UK (RAi UK) **latest blog** examines Anthropic's decision not to submit Mythos 5.1 to the UK AI Security Institute, and what it could mean for the future of AI assurance, regulation and public trust. [**Read the full blog here.**](#)

AI in Healthcare: What Do Patients Expect?

Would you trust AI to make decisions about your healthcare? New recommendations from the [National Commission into the Regulation of AI in Healthcare](#), informed by more than 12,000 people, reveal what the public expects from AI in the NHS. [**Read the Commission's recommendations and explore RAi UK six steps to building public trust in NHS AI.**](#)

RAi UK Latest Funding Calls

RAi UK Venture Top-Ups: £600,000 for University-Linked AI Startups: RAI UK is offering awards of up to £50,000 (with up to £75,000 in exceptional cases) to startups emerging from UK university research and accelerator programmes, helping promising responsible AI ventures take the next step towards growth and real-world impact. **Registration opens on 30 September 2026 and must be completed by 7 October 2026. The application deadline is 14 October 2026.** [Find full call details here.](#)



Trustworthy Evaluation of AI Tools in Science and Engineering: RAI UK is funding projects to make AI evaluation in science and engineering more rigorous, reusable and evidence-based. Grants of £25,000 to £50,000 (with up to £75,000 in exceptional cases) are available to develop protocols and datasets for testing the integrity and trustworthiness of AI tools and copilots. **Registration opens on 30 September 2026 and must be completed by 7 October 2026. The application deadline is 14 October 2026.** [Click for full details.](#)



Information Webinar: Get the inside track on RAI UK latest funding calls:

Thinking of applying for RAI UK funding? **Join RAI UK CEO Professor Gopal Ramchurn on 06 October 2026, 12:30-1:30pm, for a practical briefing on two newly opened calls**, plus a live Q&A to get your questions answered before the application deadlines. Find out what's being funded, who can apply and what makes a strong application. You can submit questions in advance during registration or via info@rai.ac.uk, or ask them live during the webinar.

[Register now and bring your questions.](#)



This month's highlights

RAi UK Team welcomes the new Head of Operations!

Jo Lankester joins RAI UK as Head of Operations, bringing more than 20 years of experience across technology, digital products, B2B, media and events. With a focus on bringing momentum and purpose to fast-moving teams, Jo will play a key role in supporting RAI UK as our organisation and international ecosystem continue to grow.

Want to connect with Jo? Get in touch at info@rai.ac.uk



Congratulations, Professor Simone Stumpf!

Professor Simone Stumpf, leading the **PHAWM (Participatory Harm Auditing Workbenches and Methodologies)** project, is among the people featured in *The Herald Scotland's* look at Scotland's AI revolution. It also features BRAID Co-Directors Ewa Luger and Shannon Vallor, alongside other figures from Scotland's AI landscape.

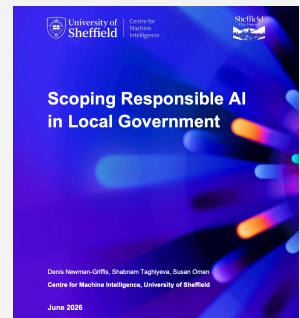


[Read the full feature in *The Herald Scotland*.](#)

New Report: Scoping Responsible AI in Local Government

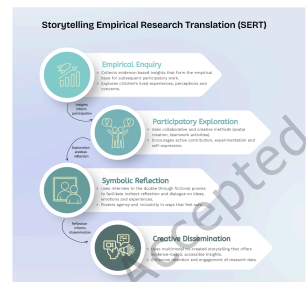
A new report from the [University of Sheffield Centre for Machine Intelligence](#), drawing on the [FRAIM \(Framing Responsible AI Implementation and Management\)](#) and **Public Voices in AI** projects, explores the challenges and opportunities facing local government as AI becomes part of public services and decision-making.

[Read the full report here.](#)



New Research: Co-creating Gen AI education resources using the ‘Storytelling Empirical Research Translation’ (SERT) approach: A new open-access paper from the [GenAISiS \(Generative AI Skills in Schools\)](#) collaboration grant project explores the SERT storytelling approach to tackling AI hallucinations, bias, online safety and responsible AI in education.

[Read the full article here.](#)



New Blog: Vibe Policing and a New Life on Mars? The AI Policing Culture: What happens when AI starts reshaping the routines and evidence-based practices of modern policing? Drawing on *Life on Mars*, [PROBABLE Futures](#) project, Michael Maher and Prof Marion Oswald explore how predictive tools, facial recognition and generative AI could shift policing back towards instinct and hunches, mediated by technology.

[Read the full blog here.](#)



RAi UK Members In the News



[Prof Gopal Ramchurn spoke to BBC News](#) and said, ‘AI agents need to be **“controllable, verifiable and assurable”**. **[Watch the full interview here.](#)**



[Prof Dame Wendy Hall spoke to the Daily Echo](#), ‘We absolutely have to work to learn how to regulate AI and govern it globally’. **[For more, click here.](#)**



[Prof Gina Neff speaks to The Observer's Patricia Clarke](#) about why AI governance requires more than companies’ “goodwill”. **[For more, click here.](#)**



[Prof Jack Stilgoe, told Research Professional News](#), ‘Progress on this will always be uneven.’ **[Read the full article here.](#)**

Opportunities

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

- **Research Assistant Opportunity: Mapping AI Safety**: A six-month post at UCL, in collaboration with the Ada Lovelace Institute. Closing date: **1 October 2026**
- **Next Generation AI - Explainable AI**: Grants of up to £482,000 (80% FEC). Closing date: **20 October 2026**.
- **Edinburgh Festivals Accessibility Challenge**: Up to £220,000. Closing date: **27 October 2026**.
- **BRAID Creative Commissions: A Promise in Return**: Seven commissions of £8,000–£12,000. Closing date: **2 November 2026**.
- **Integration of AI/HPC with Quantum Computing**: A £17 million fund, awards of up to £3.75 million over 3 years. Closing date: **3 November 2026**.
- **Transformative Sustainable AI Technologies**: Closing date: **10 November 2026**.
- **Royal Academy of Engineering: Green Future Fellowships 2026/27**: Awards of up to £3 million over 10 years. Application deadline: **17 November 2026**.

BRAID Fellowships 2026:

Applications for BRAID 2026 round of fellowships are now open, with £620,000 available to fund a series of collaborative projects that pair Arts and Humanities researchers with non-academic partners from industry, the third sector, and government, to advance responsible AI in practice. Closing date: **5 November 2026**.

UKRI: Enabling AI Adoption Across Science and Engineering

Up to £5 million is available for exploratory projects bringing together AI expertise to accelerate scientific discovery across priority areas including engineering biology, advanced materials, quantum technologies, medical research, and fusion energy. Closing date: **1 December 2026**.

Call for Evidence: AI Testing, Evaluation and Assurance in the UK: The NPL Centre for AI Measurement is seeking views from researchers, AI developers, deployers, assurance providers, regulators and others working across the AI ecosystem. The call will help shape future approaches to AI testing, evaluation and assurance. Closing date: **9 October 2026**.

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

Get in touch

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