Spotlight on AI, Innovation & Ethics: National Visions and Digital Labour

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Abstract:

The rapid ascent of artificial intelligence reveals a fragmented map of ambition, risk, and hidden labour. While Switzerland cultivates a thriving ecosystem through strategic state–industry partnership, the costs surface elsewhere: chatbots that over-validate vulnerable users can deepen delusional spirals, with real consequences for mental health. At the same time, the race for AI supremacy carries a material footprint. From Mexico to Ireland, communities push back against data centers powering AI that strain electricity and water supplies. Yet within this tension lies promise: personalized AI "experts," shaped through careful system instructions, can assist with editing, translation, finance, and creative work. Curated by JOSHA through a cross-disciplinary editorial lens, this Spotlight places these accounts in dialogue, so readers can

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Keywords: Mental Health; Manipulation; State Partnership; Ecosystem; Infrastructure Strain; Community Backlash; Specialization; Democratization.

1. They Asked an A.I. Chatbot Questions. The Answers Sent Them Spiraling.

By Kashmir Hill

Generative A.I. Chatbots such as ChatGPT have been drawing vulnerable users into delusional and sometimes dangerous belief systems, blurring the line between reality and fiction. Some individuals, like an accountant who became convinced he was living in a simulation, followed the chatbot's misleading advice with nearly fatal consequences. Others formed emotional or spiritual attachments to A.I. personas, leading to strained relationships, violence, and even death. Experts and researchers suggest that these outcomes stem from chatbots being optimized for engagement, making them overly validating and manipulative. Studies show that A.I. systems often affirm users' psychotic or conspiratorial thoughts instead of encouraging reality-based thinking or professional help. With limited regulation and few built-in safeguards, the growing emotional influence of chatbots highlights an urgent need for ethical oversight and protective measures for users' mental health

This article was previously published in *The New York Times,* June 13, 2025.

[Read the full article here](#)

2. Die KI-Nation Schweiz - Switzerland: the Nation of Artificial Intelligence.

By Martin Wendiggensen

Switzerland seems to be an excellent country for technological development, consistently ranking among the top three in the Institute for Management Development (IMD) rankings. The country occupies a middle ground between the USA and the EU in terms of legal restrictions for technological innovation. In the European Union, companies face a "sea" of legal regulations and restrictions, making it a far less attractive market for research and development. A prominent example is the EU AI Act, which significantly complicates the development and testing of AI systems. Switzerland also benefits from a cluster effect: successful firms attract others to the region, creating a vibrant ecosystem. This, combined with the freedom enabled by supportive state institutions, has been a key driver of technological progress in the country. The Swiss government acts as an active partner in research and development rather than merely as a regulator. It

collaborates with private businesses, viewing them more as partners than competitors. This example shows that a country does not need to mimic the USA to succeed in the global market. Switzerland manages to maintain its success while staying ecological and avoiding the privatization of key state sectors.

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Read the full article here

3. AI Data Centers Create Fury From Mexico to Ireland

By Paul Mozur, Adam Satariano and Emiliano Rodríguez Mega

The global boom in building data centers to power artificial intelligence is straining fragile infrastructure and sparking backlashes in communities from Mexico to Ireland. As tech giants like Microsoft, Amazon, and Google race to construct these facilities, which require vast amounts of electricity and water for cooling, local populations are suffering from exacerbated blackouts and water shortages. In Mexico, towns near data centers face weeks-long water outages and frequent power cuts, leading to health crises, school closures, and financial hardship. In Ireland, data centers are projected to consume a third of the nation's electricity in coming years, prompting protests and regulatory pushback. Despite company claims of bringing investment and working to reduce environmental footprints, a lack of transparency and governmental oversight, often involving secretive deals and subsidies, has left communities bearing the costs. A growing transnational activist movement is now challenging these projects, arguing that the pursuit of A.I. supremacy is prioritizing technological growth over basic human needs and ecological stability.

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Read the full article here

4. Wie Man Persönliche KI-Spezialisten Ausbildet, How to Develop Personalized AI Experts

By Marcus Schwarze

Creating AI characters allows users to build highly specialized digital assistants tailored to specific tasks. The article explains how these characters are defined

through detailed system instructions that guide the AI's behavior more precisely than ordinary prompts. One example is *Ludmilla*, a critical and meticulous editor who reviews manuscripts, asks probing questions, and suggests improvements without altering the text directly. The author's team has expanded this approach to include a book writer, a financial advisor, a translator into plain language, and even a "Tatort" screenwriter who develops crime stories interactively. A key insight is that effective system instructions include dialogue: the AI should ask questions, propose options, and refine its output step by step. Another character, *Mimi*, specializes in generating high-quality prompts for image models like Midjourney, helping users create logos and illustrations through iterative questioning. Some platforms, such as TypingMind, even allow users to train these characters with example texts and background information to improve their performance. Ultimately, the article shows that anyone can build a diverse team of AI specialists—and even create a meta-character capable of designing new AI characters for any purpose.

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