



Editorial

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Dear Readers,

We are pleased to present this new issue of Preliminary Reports and Negative Results in Life Science and Humanities (PRNR). The contributions collected in the present volume explore the role of digital technologies across a remarkably diverse set of domains, including neurorehabilitation, digital health, cognitive geography, cultural heritage, tourism studies, and moral philosophy. Despite their disciplinary heterogeneity, these articles share a common concern: understanding how emerging technologies are transforming human experience, knowledge production, and social interaction.

In continuity with the editorial philosophy of PRNR, the studies presented in this issue do not approach technological innovation as a finalized achievement. Rather, they examine digital tools as evolving environments whose cognitive, clinical, cultural, and ethical implications remain only partially understood. By emphasizing preliminary findings, methodological innovation, and critical reflection, these contributions exemplify the importance of investigating technological change before definitive conclusions can be drawn.

A first contribution by Cardile and colleagues explores the implementation of VESPA 2.0, a tablet-based non-immersive virtual reality system designed for cognitive rehabilitation in patients with severe acquired brain injury. The study demonstrates the feasibility and safety of bedside virtual reality interventions while providing preliminary evidence of improvements in cognitive and functional outcomes. Beyond its clinical implications, this work highlights how digital technologies can be adapted to highly vulnerable populations, expanding opportunities for personalized rehabilitation and cognitive recovery.

A second contribution by Paratore addresses the growing phenomenon of digital cervical pathophysiology, including conditions such as Text Neck Syndrome and nomophobia. Rather than presenting new experimental data, the author proposes a conceptual framework for integrating virtual reality into rehabilitation pathways, emphasizing postural biofeedback, gamification, and digital health education as complementary strategies to improve adherence and long-term outcomes. By bridging existing clinical evidence with emerging technological possibilities, this work exemplifies

PRNR's commitment to methodological exploration and hypothesis-generating research in areas where empirical validation remains in its early stages.

The relationship between technology, territory, and human experience is addressed by Malvica, who introduces the concept of maptelling as an embodied protocol for tourism design. Combining storytelling and mapping within the theoretical framework of embodied cognition, the study proposes an innovative methodology for fostering meaningful interactions between visitors and local communities. The contribution illustrates how digital and participatory practices can support forms of tourism that are more attentive to local identity, tacit knowledge, and sustainable territorial development.

A complementary perspective is offered by La Foresta and colleagues, who investigate the role of virtual reality in cultural heritage and place branding. Through the analysis of the Pompeii Discovery project, the authors examine how immersive technologies contribute to the construction of identity narratives and influence perceptions of authenticity. Their discussion highlights both the opportunities and the limitations of virtual reality as a mediator between cultural heritage and contemporary audiences, raising important questions regarding representation, authenticity, and digital mediation.

Technological transformation is examined from a broader philosophical perspective in the contribution by Giacobello and Giunta. Reflecting on moral action within the digital era, the authors explore the ethical challenges posed by artificial intelligence and the increasing integration between human and digital systems. Their analysis reminds us that technological innovation is never merely technical; it inevitably raises questions concerning agency, responsibility, identity, and the future of human coexistence with increasingly autonomous computational systems.

Taken together, these contributions suggest that digital technologies are no longer external instruments simply used by individuals. Instead, they increasingly function as environments that shape cognition, behaviour, social relationships, cultural representation, and moral reflection. Whether applied to rehabilitation, digital health, tourism, cultural heritage, or ethical inquiry, technological systems actively participate in the construction of contemporary human experience.

This issue therefore reinforces a central conviction of PRNR: preliminary investigations, conceptual proposals, and critical analyses are essential components of scientific progress (Vicario, 2024; Massimino 2025). Understanding the consequences of technological innovation requires not only empirical validation but also theoretical reflection and methodological openness. By embracing this perspective, the studies presented here contribute to a more nuanced and responsible understanding of the opportunities and challenges emerging from the digital transformation of society.

We thank the authors, reviewers, and members of the editorial board for their valuable contributions to this issue, and we invite our readers to engage with these works as exploratory yet meaningful contributions to an evolving interdisciplinary dialogue on technology and human experience.

Warm regards,

Carmelo M. Vicario

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