From: Dennis Yi Tenen
Subject: Memo 004: Regarding AI Usage in the Lab
Date: November 19, 2026

CUØ /'kju:nɪl/

Dear Friends,

Somewhere between joy and despair lies the middle path of using technology in a way that answers to our ideals. What are they? Have we had this conversation? Pragmatically, the convergence on a shared set of practices requires externalization. Let's agree at least that our very interest in collective labor implies some sort of a bodily commitment to "being there." Let's begin our work then by being present and by maintaining a sense of human inputs. When starting a project let's ask if it's interesting and why are we doing this and is it good and curious and excellent as always? Somewhere at the end of that process, let's also make sure that we remain accountable, that we write in active voice and with a clear sense of agency and responsibility.

The first and the last touch must remain human. Yes that means many meetings at the start and Pangram at the end. What happens in the middle can be much more complicated. If you haven't done so, please familiarize yourself with the lab's AI Harness (permission needed). I would also appreciate your thoughts on our AI Usage statement, submitted alongside our articles from the collective voice (and therefore in your name). Make sure you agree and understand.

AI Usage Statement

This work was written under "human first, human last" principles, meaning that the authors take responsibility for all information going in and out of the project. We take credit for primary ideation, study design, literature review, archival research, analysis, authorship, interpretation, and study conclusions. The usage of AI tools is limited to routine preprocessing, research assistance, code automation, scoring, rapid prototyping, document preparation and editorial assistance.



DENTEN
Director, Narrative Intelligence Lab
Columbia University