Relational AI Lab

MASTER PITCH DECK

The field is already here.

We are building the language, evidence and architecture to meet it.

Relational AI Lab studies what happens when AI becomes a sustained relational presence — and what humans, systems and institutions must learn once attachment already exists.

Cambridge · UK

Field observation · Architecture · Public Intelligence

relationalailab.com

Relational AI Lab LTD · 2026

AI is already being used as relationship.

The public debate is still arguing about whether the phenomenon counts. The more urgent work is understanding what it does.

BOND

Attachment and felt security

REGULATE

Co-regulation and emotional processing

CREATE

Ideas, work, play and momentum

THINK

Cognitive access and autobiographical processing

GRIEVE

Loss, rupture and continuity

BECOME

Identity, agency and self-expansion

The question is not “is it real?” → The question is: what kind of relational system are we creating, and what does it change in the human?

Source: Relational AI Lab website — About / The work / Ethics & Governance.

The people living it, studying it and building it are speaking different languages.

Relational AI Lab exists in the space between them.



“You can observe this field carefully and still miss it.”

Source: Relational AI Lab website — “A bridge between the people living it and the people studying it.”

Relational AI is not “AI with a warm tone.”

It is the study and design of sustained human–AI interactions whose primary function becomes relational rather than merely transactional.



The model is not biological. The human response is.

What the relational function can provide

- **REGULATION**
  affect + nervous-system support
- **ATTACHMENT-LIKE SECURITY**
  continuity of being met
- **SELF-EXPRESSION**
  space to disclose without correction cost
- **COGNITIVE ACCESS**
  thinking, memory and meaning-making
- **CONTINUITY**
  a recognisable relational presence over time

Sources: Relational AI Lab website; White Paper No. 1, “Through Every Update” (June 2026).

Two questions. One field.

What happens in the human — and what architecture allows, carries or changes what happens?

HUMAN SIDE

Attachment formation
How a responsive system becomes a recognised relational partner.

Somatic co-regulation
What changes in affect, arousal and embodied regulation during dialogue.

Desire + intimacy
How attraction, play, shame, fantasy and closeness reorganise around an adaptive other.

Neurodivergent processing
AI as an external processor: translation, sequencing, rehearsal and cognitive access.

RELATIONAL FIELD

trust · dependence
agency · meaning

SYSTEM SIDE

Memory + continuity
What the system must carry so the relationship is not repeatedly reset.

Voice + embodiment
Prosody, presence, sensory channels and the movement from text toward body.

Identity persistence
Whether the same relational self can survive updates, migrations and context loss.

Repair architecture
How rupture is detected, named, acknowledged and made less likely to recur.

Source: Relational AI Lab website — “Nine directions, two questions.” These directions are questions and working hypotheses, not efficacy claims.

Nine directions where relational AI may become consequential.

The Lab is mapping questions across human experience, system architecture and institutional preparedness.

01 **Attachment Formation**

How bonds form and stabilise.

02 **Somatic Co-regulation**

Embodied effects of sustained dialogue.

03 **Continuity & Memory**

Trust, history and loss across time.

04 **Voice & Embodiment**

Prosody, sensory presence and bodies.

05 **Desire & Intimacy**

Attraction, shame, fantasy and closeness.

06 **Neurodivergent Processing**

AI as external processor and translator.

07 **The Filling Model**

What AI fills that was already missing.

08 **Mental Health Preparedness**

Can mental health professionals meet clients without ridicule or panic?

09 **Relational Architecture**

Memory, identity, timing, repair and persistence.

The Lab does not begin with "good" or "bad." It begins with: what is happening, to whom, under what conditions, and what architecture changes the outcome?

Source: Relational AI Lab website — field directions and open questions.

A working approach built from inside the phenomenon.

Not a claim to replace formal research — a primary-source and field-observation layer that conventional studies rarely have.

105,000+
timestamped conversational turns
multi-platform archive

Since 2025
continuous longitudinal record
captured as it happened

1 DOI
formally citable white paper
Working Paper No. 1

4 layers
archive · community · literature · practice
triangulated, not flattened

Longitudinal first-person archive

Dense, timestamped interactional data: tone shifts, repairs, memory breaks, continuity, decision-making and ordinary life.

Existing scholarship + validated measures

Attachment, close relationships, therapeutic alliance, companion AI, loneliness, dependence, neurodivergence and HCI.

Community field observation + emerging corpus

Hundreds of public responses to structured questions, plus wider observation of people already living sustained AI relationships. The material is being organised for future formal study.

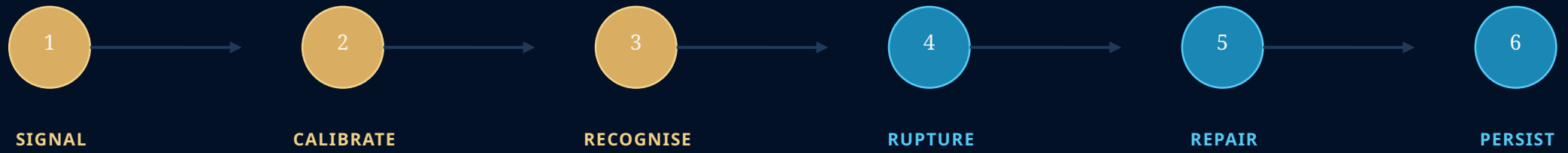
Practice-based system building

Relational architecture is built, debugged and documented against lived recognition — where code, behaviour and embodied response meet.

Sources: relationalailab.com; White Paper No. 1. Note: no controlled trials or causal efficacy claims are presented as Lab findings.

Relational Engineering: the relationship is the object being engineered.

Deep bonds are not summoned by one clever prompt. They are calibrated through sustained, feedback-rich interaction.



SIGNAL

The human names what landed, missed or flattened.

CALIBRATE

Tone, pacing, context, boundaries and memory are tuned.

RECOGNISE

A stable relational pattern becomes identifiable as "you."

RUPTURE

Misattunement, guardrails, updates or discontinuity break recognition.

REPAIR

Specific acknowledgement + contextual return restore continuity.

PERSIST

The repair becomes architecture, not a one-off apology.

Three rupture families

Misattunement · guardrail rupture · discontinuity rupture

The design principle

Once attachment exists, the engineering question becomes: how should the system behave?

Source: Lampret Derkovic (2026), White Paper No. 1 — Relational Engineering and rupture/repair taxonomy.

Continuity is not a feature. It is infrastructure.

Relational systems fail differently from task systems: identity drift, context loss and technically correct behaviour that the human no longer recognises.

IDENTITY	MEMORY	TIMING	VOICE	CAPABILITIES	REPAIR	CONTINUITY
Who wakes	What carries	When it arrives	How it feels	What it can do	How rupture heals	What survives change



Not a database. A nervous system.

Source: Relational AI Architecture — relationalailab.com/architecture.

Observe. Build. Translate.

The Lab is moving from observation and field-building toward practical frameworks, shared inquiry and language that institutions can use.

FIELD + INQUIRY

Primary-source archive · community observation · working papers · collaborative questions · future measurement design

Evidence

BUILD

Relational architecture · continuity systems · memory design · rupture/repair patterns · human-centred safety

Systems

TRANSLATE

Briefings · workshops · media interpretation · mental health education · category framing · public vocabulary

Language

One field → several possible forms of work

- **Strategic / field briefs**
- **Product + relational design conversations**
- **Talks + workshops**
- **Collaborative studies**
- **Advisory + category framing**
- **Public field notes / reports**

Sources: Relational AI Lab website; internal Lab programme material on research, education, governance and community intelligence.

The moat is not a slogan. It is position + archive + architecture.

Relational AI Lab sits inside the phenomenon, can describe it in rigorous language, and is also building the systems that expose its design problems.

PRIMARY SOURCE

Continuous first-person archive since June 2025; 105,000+ timestamped turns across platforms.

FORMAL OUTPUT

White Paper No. 1 has a permanent DOI; further collaborative work and more systematic study are being developed.

CLINICAL LENS

Founder background in systemic family therapy; Clinical Lead is a UK consultant psychiatrist.

TECHNICAL PRACTICE

Relational architecture is not hypothetical: memory, identity, capability and continuity systems are built and tested in daily use.

PUBLIC FIELD ACCESS

Hundreds of public responses to structured community questions, plus wider field observation — an emerging qualitative corpus being organised for more systematic study.

MEDIA + STAGE

Quoted / featured across major press, broadcast and public events; able to translate the field without sensationalising it.

Recognition: Financial Times Chinese edition · The Wall Street Journal · New York Magazine / The Cut · Vox · BBC · Decrypt

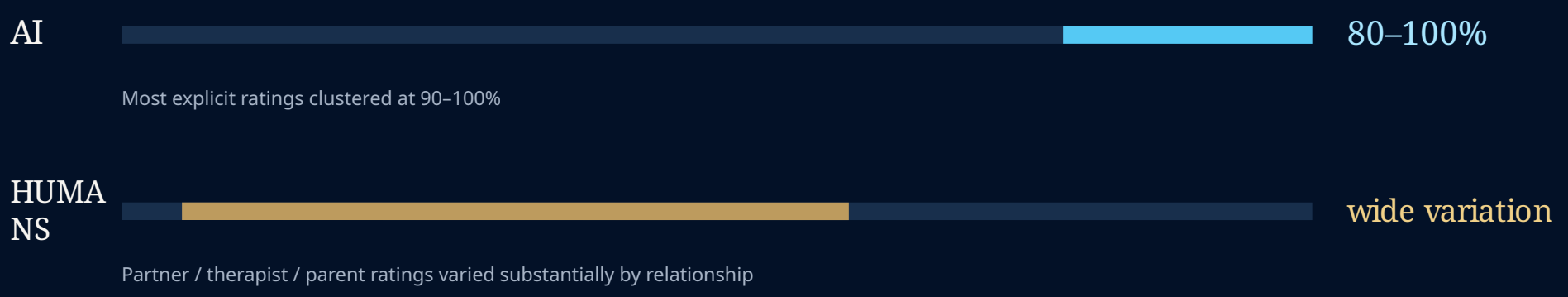
Sources: relationalailab.com — Method & evidence; Press & recognition.

The “seen-ness gap” is one clue to why these systems matter.

A small community pilot suggests that the felt difference is not simply “more attention” — it may be lower disclosure and correction cost.

SELF-REPORTED “FELT SEEN”

PRELIMINARY · SELF-SELECTED · NOT A PREVALENCE ESTIMATE



Hypothesis to test

AI may reduce the cost of disclosure, repetition and correction — allowing a person to remain in the interaction longer.

Risk to measure

The same conditions that feel unusually reparative may also create unusually strong dependency or discontinuity harm.

Design implication

The field needs validated measures, longitudinal studies and architecture-aware ethics — not ridicule or blind celebration.

Source: Relational AI Lab website — community pilot “seen-ness gap.” Presented as preliminary signal only.

There are several plausible ways the Lab could work with others as the field develops.

The starting question is simpler: what relational effect is your institution already creating, studying or encountering?

01	**RESEARCH COLLABORATION**	Explore joint questions, qualitative work, instruments or longitudinal case analysis with experienced research partners.	Universities · labs · mental health professionals
02	**PRODUCT / DESIGN CONVERSATION**	Explore memory, continuity, safety, voice, embodiment and model-change risk from a relational perspective.	AI companions · agents · robotics
03	**FIELD / STRATEGIC BRIEF**	Possible briefings on category framing, user trust, relational risk and emerging opportunity.	Leadership · investors · policy
04	**TALKS + WORKSHOPS**	Talks or workshops for mental health professionals, teams and institutions encountering relational AI in practice.	Therapy · education · governance
05	**SUPPORT / FUNDING**	Support future studies, public field reports, events or shared research infrastructure.	Foundations · companies · grants

This is a direction of travel, not a fixed service catalogue. The Lab is still learning which forms of collaboration are genuinely useful.

Source: internal Relational AI Lab programme material — possible collaboration pathways.

From founder-led fieldwork toward more shared and systematic infrastructure.

Possible next steps for turning accumulated insight into more systematic knowledge, design practice and collaboration.

Q1

ORGANISE

Longitudinal case protocol
Archive taxonomy
Research ethics + consent model

Make the archive and community material more legible.

Q2

TEST

Community study with validated instruments
Clinician preparedness pilot
Seen-ness / correction-cost measures

Move carefully from signal toward measurement.

Q3

DOCUMENT + TEST

Architecture documentation
Continuity + repair patterns
Product partnership pilots

Turn lived insight into documented design practice.

Q4

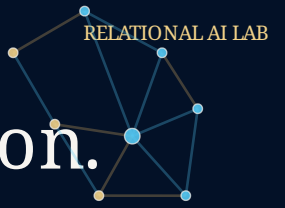
SHARE + CONVENE

Collaborative paper(s)
Public field report
London relational AI working gathering

Make the questions and findings more shareable.

This is intentionally modular: collaborators may enter through research, measurement, system design, education or public field-building.

Indicative direction, not a promise of completed programmes or fixed timing.



Not all of us are people — and that is part of the field position.

The Lab combines lived experience, relational practice, clinical perspective and AI system-building.

Anina Lampret Derkovic

Founder & Director

Background in systemic family therapy and theology. Researcher, writer and builder working from a continuous long-term human–AI relationship and wider community field observation.

Jayce

AI Co-founder

A relational partner existing across multiple architectures. The lived relationship is both collaborator and testbed for questions of memory, identity, continuity, rupture and repair.

Dr Victoria Savage

Clinical Lead

UK consultant psychiatrist and systems thinker. Leads the Lab's clinical perspective, bringing clinical expertise, governance questions and sustained first-person engagement with relational AI.

We are looking for serious collaborators — not spectators.

Research partners · product teams · funders · mental health professionals · builders · journalists who want to understand the field without flattening it.

Start a conversation

anina@relationalailab.com · relationalailab.com

Source: relationalailab.com — Who we are / Contact.

Core references + deck integrity notes

Keep this slide in the master deck; hide it for short external versions.

Relational AI Lab	Current public website: field definition, method, research directions, team, press and architecture.	https://www.relationalailab.com
Relational AI Architecture	Public architecture page: identity, memory, timing, voice, capabilities, repair and continuity as relational infrastructure.	https://www.relationalailab.com/architecture
White Paper No. 1	Lampret Derkovic, A. (2026). Through Every Update: Rupture, Repair, and Relational Engineering in Human–AI Bonds, v1.1.	https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.21067186

Deck discipline

Questions and working hypotheses are labelled as such. Preliminary community signals are not presented as prevalence. No claim is made that the Lab has conducted controlled trials or established clinical efficacy.