

Time Turns Behavior Into Infrastructure

A Longitudinal AI Governance Framework

Hollow House Institute
Structured Human Intelligence

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GitHub Repository:

<https://github.com/hollowhouseinstitute/Longitudinal-AI-Governance-Whitepaper>

Executive Summary

Most failures in AI governance do not occur at deployment. They emerge slowly after repeated successful use, when confidence accumulates, judgment shifts, escalation pathways erode, and accountability diffuses.

This paper introduces a longitudinal governance framework that treats behavior itself as auditable infrastructure and explains why governance must account for behavioral accumulation over time.

1. The Governance Blind Spot

Traditional audits operate as snapshots. Systems are approved while behavior quietly changes. Risk accumulates between incidents, not at them.

2. Behavior as Infrastructure

Repeated behavior becomes expected, routinized, and structurally influential. Patterns of deference and escalation shape outcomes as much as technical design.

3. Longitudinal Governance Principles

- Time-bound observation across extended timelines
- Behavioral accumulation as a risk signal
- Escalation integrity and override readiness
- Accountability retention over time
- Drift detection before failure

Conclusion

By treating behavior as infrastructure and time as a governing variable, institutions can identify risk before failure becomes inevitable.

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