

SC: Truth & Epistemic Trust

PART I — FORESIGHT SNAPSHOT | SC: Truth & Epistemic Trust | Fixed Time-Stamped Synthesis

2026 SC: Truth & Epistemic Trust

Card Type	Societal Challenge
Series	Immersive Futures Guild — Vision 2035
Layer	1 — Atomic Foresight Object
Status	Active
Confidence	Medium
Workshop	Circle of Scholars — January 2026
Facilitator	Circle of Scholars Workshop Team
Tags	epistemic-trust misinformation media-literacy layer1 sc
Tally.so Form	https://tally.so/r/ilrn-if-sc-etrust-2026

The rise of synthetic media, AI-generated content, and high-fidelity simulation creates new challenges for epistemic trust — the foundational social agreement that shared reality is knowable and communicable. For immersive learning, this raises questions about the boundaries between authentic experience and simulation, the pedagogical implications of photorealistic synthetic environments, and the social responsibilities of immersive content creators working in an era of widespread epistemic uncertainty.

Key Drivers / Contributing Conditions:

- Synthetic media and deepfake technology at consumer scale
- Platform misinformation dynamics affecting educational authority
- Declining institutional trust in knowledge authorities
- XR's capacity to create experiences that feel indistinguishable from authentic events

Educational and Design Implications:

- Provenance standards for immersive educational content

- Media literacy — including spatial and immersive media literacy — as a prerequisite
- Research on epistemic effects of sustained engagement with high-fidelity simulation

Tensions Carried Forward to Part II:

- How should immersive educators navigate the boundary between productive simulation and epistemically harmful fabrication?
- Can provenance standards be technically enforced or do they require social and institutional mechanisms?

Linked Scenarios / Strands: See cross-links above

Ways of Knowing: Tree · Garden · Lantern

PART II — COMMUNITY EVIDENCE & DIALOGUE TRACK | SC: Truth & Epistemic Trust | H2 2026 — Living

T	<p>COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION FORM — SC: Truth & Epistemic Trust</p> <p>Submit case examples, methodological challenges, cultural perspectives, and proposed evidence criteria via: https://tally.so/r/ilrn-if-sc-etrust-2026</p>
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Part II — Scope and Instructions
This section collects community responses, case examples, and challenges to the Part I foresight snapshot above.
It opens July 1, 2026 and undergoes synthesis review in September 2026, November 2026, and January 2027.
Contributions are submitted via the Tally.so form above and appear in the registers below after editorial review.
The Part I text is not modified in response to Part II contributions; it is versioned at the Annual Handoff review.
Contribution categories: Case Example Methodological Challenge Cultural/Community Perspective Proposed Evidence Criterion
Ways of Knowing accepted: Tree (evidence) Garden (practice) Lantern (futures)

Tensions Open for Community Response:

- How should immersive educators navigate the boundary between productive simulation and epistemically harmful fabrication?

- Can provenance standards be technically enforced or do they require social and institutional mechanisms?

Contributor / Date	Category	Way of Knowing	Contribution Summary
[Awaiting contributions — form opens July 1, 2026]			

Revision #1

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