Can AI Make Safety Culture Transparent?

MIT’s Vera Grbic shows how clarity drives nuclear trust.

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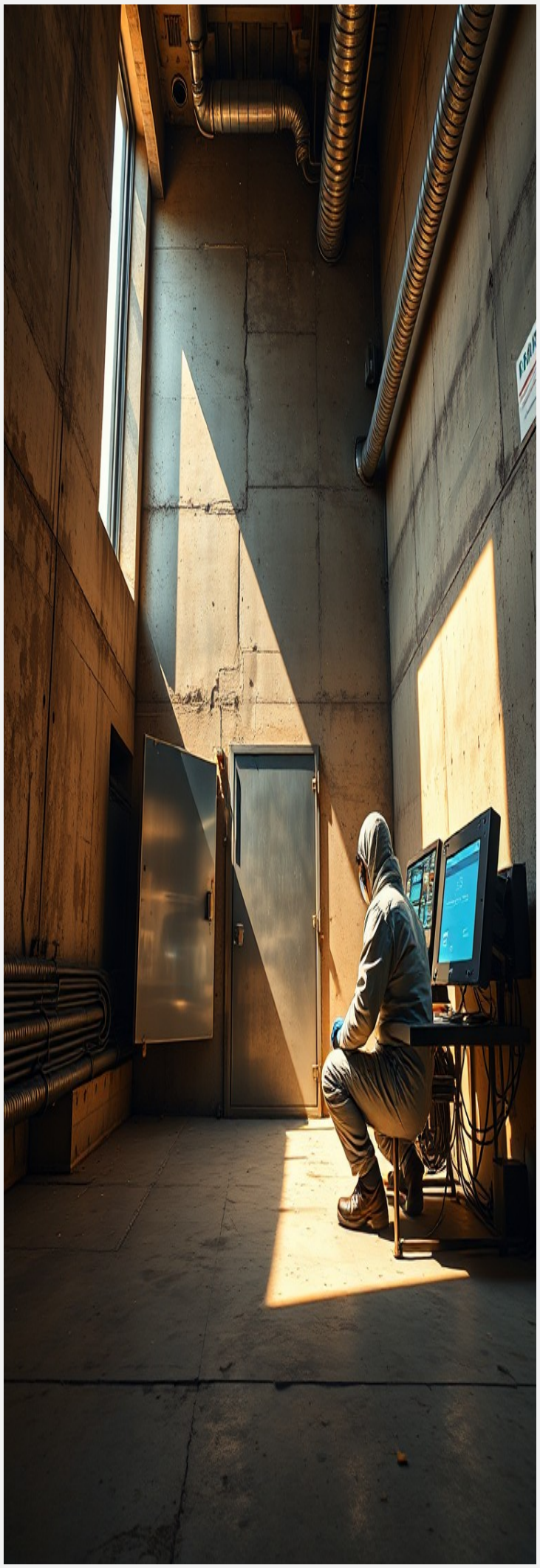
THE DATA

2021

Year Vera Grbic Joined MIT

Her arrival marked a shift toward AI-grounded communication in institutional safety frameworks.

Grbic's integration into MIT's Discrimination and Harassment Response Office (IDHR) in 2021 coincided with a broader institutional move toward data-informed, AI-enhanced communication. Her role in redesigning the IDHR website and launching the Data Dashboard exemplifies how AI can operationalize transparency in high-stakes environments—critical for nuclear safety where trust hinges on accessibility and clarity.

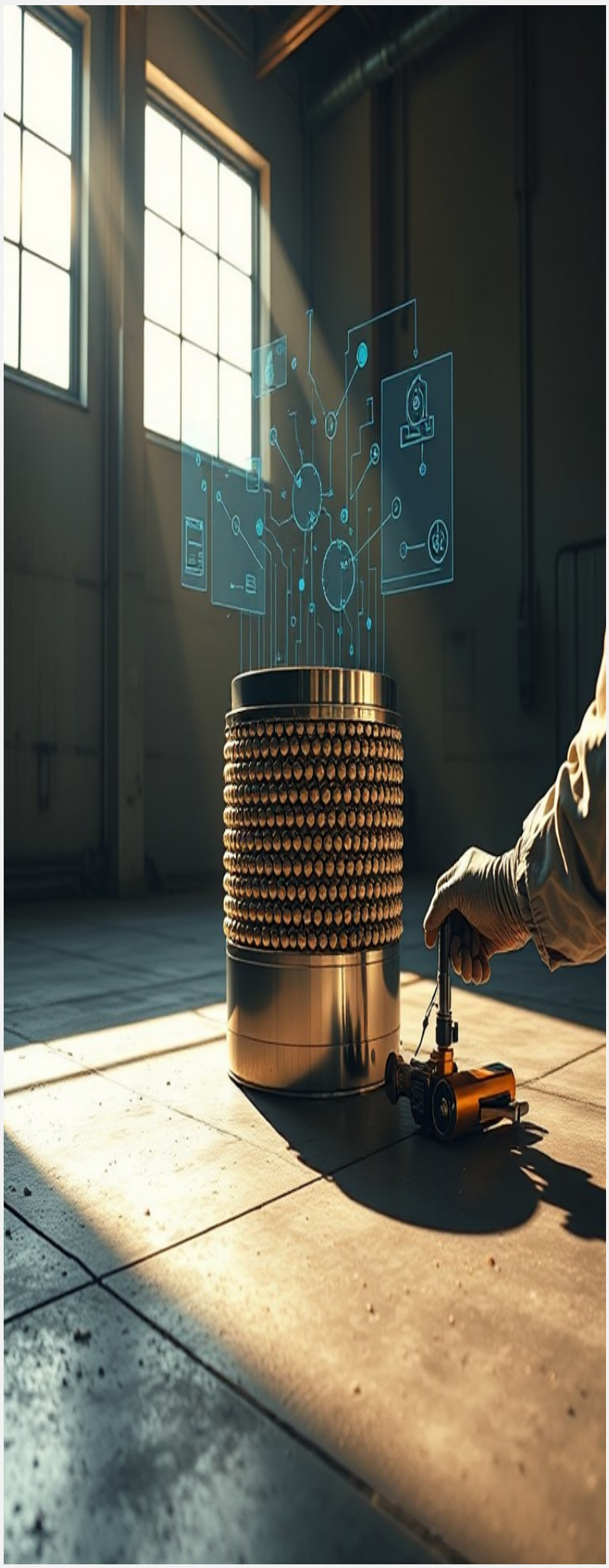


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https://news.mit.edu/2026/faces-of-mit-vera-grbic-1102

01

Clarity Is the First Safety Layer

In nuclear energy, the safety case isn’t just about engineering—it’s about communication. Grbic’s work proves that when AI translates complex policies into accessible language, it reduces cognitive load and increases compliance. This principle applies directly to reactor operations: if operators can instantly grasp safety protocols, error rates drop. AI’s role isn’t just predictive—it’s prescriptive in shaping behavior through clarity.



02

AI as a Cultural Translator

The most advanced digital twins or predictive models fail if they’re not understood. Grbic’s background in translating AI research for non-experts—developed during her tenure at the National Research Council of Canada—shows that AI must bridge disciplines. In nuclear licensing, this means converting technical risk assessments into narratives that regulators, communities, and operators can internalize. True safety governance requires AI not just to analyze, but to translate.

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