Science Needs Anthropologists Now

Even neutrino physics can’t ignore culture and ethics.

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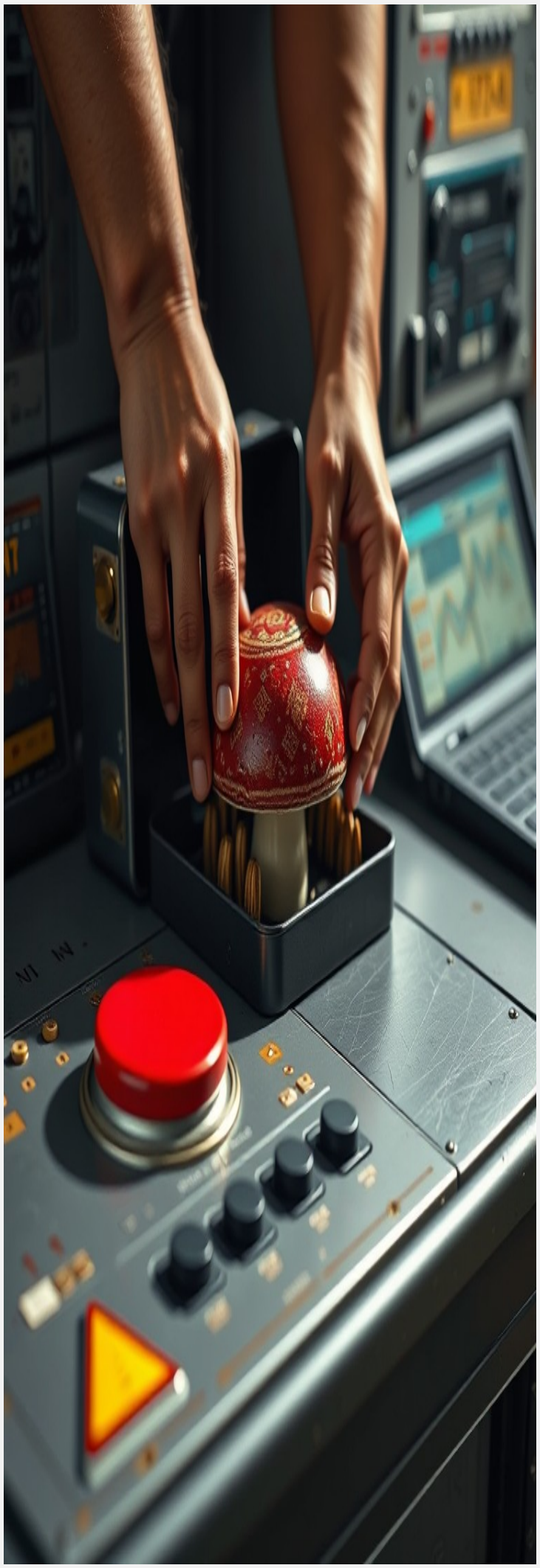
THE DATA

11

Peruvian Institutions Partnered

The TAMBO collaboration includes 11 Peruvian institutions in its design and development.

This marks a shift from purely technical planning to inclusive, responsible siting. The project's success hinges not just on physics, but on social legitimacy. By embedding humanities scholars early, TAMBO avoids the pitfalls of past projects like the Thirty Meter Telescope, which stalled due to cultural resistance.



Source: Nature · Published November 10, 2026
https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-026-03623-w

01

Ethics Is a Technical Requirement

AI safety and scientific governance are not optional add-ons. The TAMBO project shows that ethical integration must be embedded in the design phase, not bolted on later. Without it, even the most advanced research can be halted by social resistance. This mirrors AI governance: systems built without ethical foresight risk public rejection, regulatory backlash, or deployment failure.



02

Trust Is the New Infrastructure

The real barrier to large-scale scientific projects isn’t funding or technology—it’s trust. TAMBO’s success depends on relationships with Indigenous communities and local institutions. This parallels AI: no matter how advanced the model, public trust in its use will falter without transparent, culturally aware governance. Responsible innovation requires co-creation, not top-down imposition.

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