Digital Whiplash, and the Importance of Analytic Philosophy

Digitalization has transformed human life in less than a generation. But our cognitive and emotional hardwiring – fine-tuned over millions of years – is honed for an analog world. One might think that our analog hardwiring is flexible, enabling easy adaptation. But I will argue that it is ill-suited to many aspects of digital life, with worrying consequences for individuals and society. I will clarify this problem of digital whiplash by focusing on the examples of online discourse, online trust, and digital surveillance. This discussion will also showcase the importance of the humanities, specifically of analytic philosophy, in tending to digital whiplash.