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Other - Colloquium on Artificial Intelligence Research and Optimization

Beyond Bias: Algorithmic Unfairness, Infrastructure, and Genealogies of Data**Alex Hanna, Google; UC Berkeley**

Senior Research Scientist; Lecturer

Virtual- REGISTRATION REQUIRED (SEE ABSTRACT) Zoom
December 01, 2021 - 03:00 pm**Abstract:**

Problems of algorithmic bias are often framed in terms of lack of representative data or formal fairness optimization constraints to be applied to automated decision-making systems. However, these discussions sidestep deeper issues with data used in AI, including problematic categorizations and the extractive logics of crowdwork and data mining. In this talk, I make two interventions: first by reframing of data as a form of infrastructure, and as such, implicating politics and power in the construction of datasets; and secondly discussing the development of a research program around the genealogy of datasets used in machine learning and AI systems. These genealogies should be attentive to the constellation of organizations and stakeholders involved in their creation, the intent, values, and assumptions of their authors and curators, and the adoption of datasets by subsequent researchers.

[REGISTRATION](#)**Speaker's Bio:**

I am a sociologist and senior research scientist on the Ethical AI team at Google. Before that, I was an Assistant Professor at the Institute of Communication, Culture, Information and Technology at the University of Toronto.

I received my PhD in sociology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. My dissertation was the [Machine-learning Protest Event Data System \(MPEDS\)](#), a system which uses machine learning and natural language processing to create protest event data.

My current research agenda is two-fold. One line of research centers on origins of the training data which form the informational infrastructure of machine learning, artificial intelligence, and algorithmic fairness frameworks. Another line of research (with [Ellen Berrey](#)) seeks to understand the interplay between student protest and university responses in US and Canada. My past work has focused on how new and social media has changed social movement mobilization and political participation.

I am as much as an educator as I am a researcher. I have taught [workshops and courses](#) on computational methods for social scientists, social movements, and the implications of information as infrastructure. I co-founded the [now defunct] computational social science blog [Bad Hessian](#).

