INTRODUCTION to the ETHICS of ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

SoSe 2020   Wed. 10 (c.t.) – 12h

Instructor: Dr. Catherine Stinson
Office hours: Fri. 12 (c.t.) – 13h on Slack

Outline:
This course looks at ethical issues surrounding artificial intelligence. Some of the questions examined are: Do we have to give up privacy to get technological innovation? Is technology value neutral? Are filter bubbles the fault of the individual or the algorithm? Can AI be effectively regulated? Should it be regulated? What can we do to make AI more ethical?

Students will develop fluency reading material drawn from a variety of fields, including computer science, philosophy, legal and media studies. Students will practice ethical and critical thinking skills, such as weighing the rights of different stakeholders, and thinking through the consequences of technological innovations.

Books:
Zuboff, *The Age of Surveillance Capitalism*
O'Neil, *Weapons of Math Destruction*
Benjamin, *Race After Technology*
Costanza-Chock, *Design Justice*
plus various online readings.

Assessment:
Engagement:
Class time will be split between Zoom video discussion, and discussion on Slack. Students will be expected to do the week's main reading before class, and participate in discussions (not necessarily during class time). Please post questions about the readings on Slack at least a few hours before class, to help guide the conversation. Students should also help each other by answering questions and providing feedback to Slack posts.

Reading Summary:
At least once during the course, post a summary of one of the **additional** readings for the coming week's class to Slack. The summary should outline the main ideas in the reading, with a focus on how it is relevant to the course. Raising unanswered questions and relating the reading to other texts are welcome additions. Summaries should be posted in pdf format, in the #summaries Slack channel, with a clear indication of which reading it is about.

Group Projects
In groups of 2-4 students, choose a question related to the course. Do additional research on the topic. The additional readings are suggested starting points for your research. Make a podcast or video that engages critically with the topic, and defends a specific thesis. Projects will be presented in the last week of class.

Accessibility:
If the course delivery, readings, or assessment methods aren't working for you because of linguistic, disability, health, financial or other barriers, please do consult with the instructor. Reasonable accommodations will be made wherever possible.

Schedule of Topics & Readings:
(plus bonus film and book suggestions to accompany each topic)

April 22	Introduction to AI	Optional Background Reading: https://wvvw.aaai.org/ojs/index.php/aimagazine/article/view/1848/1746 Film: *AlphaGo,* Book: *You Look Like a Thing and I Love You*
April 29, May 6, 13	Surveillance capitalism	Zuboff ch. 5, 7 O'Neil, ch. 7 https://protonmail.com/blog/zoom-privacy-issues/ Additional Reading: https://www.wired.com/story/google-sidewalk-labs-toronto-quayside/ https://www.wired.com/story/inside-chinas-massive-surveillance-operation/ Film: *Minority Report,* Book: *1984*
May 20, 27	Policing bodies	Benjamin, *Race After Technology*, Ch. 2-3 https://www.nytimes.com/2019/07/10/opinion/facial-recognition-race.html https://www.ft.com/content/19d90308-6858-11ea-a3c9-1fe6fedcca75 https://www.lgbtqnation.com/2019/08/tsa-pressuring-trans-people-showing-genitals-can-board-plane/ Additional Reading: https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/meghara/period-tracker-apps-facebook-maya-mia-fem http://gendershades.org/overview.html https://twitter.com/katecrawford/status/1173662048208728064 https://www.theverge.com/2019/10/2/20896181/google-contractor-reportedly-targeted-homeless-people-for-pixel-4-facial-recognition https://www.theverge.com/2019/7/25/8929793/emotion-recognition-analysis-ai-machine-learning-facial-expression-review Stark, "Facial recognition is the plutonium of AI" Hassein, "Against Black Inclusion in Facial Recognition" https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/pranavdixit/india-is-creating-a-national-facial-recognition-system-and https://www.scmp.com/news/china/politics/article/3027349/artificial-intelligence-watching-chinas-students-how-well-can Film: *Gattaca,* Book: *Parable of the Sower*

June 3, 10	Bias and Nudging	Stinson, Can an Algorithm be Biased? https://ainowinstitute.org/AI_Now_2017_Report.html ("Bias and Inclusion" section) https://www.nytimes.com/2018/03/10/opinion/sunday/youtube-politics-radical.html Additional Reading: https://ainowinstitute.org/litigatingalgorithms-2019-us.html Sunstein, "The Ethics of Nudging" https://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2017/07/the-internet-is-one-big-personality-test/531861/ https://www.nytimes.com/2019/08/11/world/americas/youtube-brazil.html https://www.huffpost.com/entry/what-to-know-about-8chan-the-extremist-forum-where-mass-killers-find-an-audience_n_5d476ff5e4b0acb57fce642b Film: *The Great Hack,* Book: *It Came from Something Awful*
June 17, 24	Tech culture	Hicks, "De-Brogramming the History of Computing" https://www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/how-an-elite-university-research-center-concealed-its-relationship-with-jeffrey-epstein https://qz.com/1598345/microsoft-staff-are-openly-questioning-the-value-of-diversity/ https://theconversation.com/why-ai-cant-solve-everything-97022 Additional Reading: Douglas, "The Moral Responsibilities of Scientists" The Hacker Manifesto Levy, *Hackers* https://www.theverge.com/2019/4/3/18293410/ai-artificial-intelligence-ethics-boards-charters-problem-big-tech https://medium.com/@selamjie/remove-richard-stallman-fec6ec210794 https://medium.com/@EthanZ/on-me-and-the-media-lab-715bfc707f6f https://newrepublic.com/article/154826/jeffrey-epsteins-intellectual-enabler https://www.technologyreview.com/s/614264/mit-media-lab-jeffrey-epstein-joi-ito-nicholas-negroponte-funding-sex-abuse/ https://www.dhillonlaw.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Damore-Google-Manifesto.pdf Film: *The Social Network,* Book: *Uncanny Valley*
July 1		No class

July 8	What we can do	Costanza-Chock, *Design Justice*, excerpt https://www.digitaltrends.com/web/ways-to-decentralize-the-web/ Additional Reading: Sauter, *The Coming Storm* Tufekci, *Twitter and Tear Gas* https://gizmodo.com/tech-workers-speak-out-in-support-of-amazon-warehouse-s-1842839301 Grosz et al. "Embedded EthiCS: Integrating Ethics Broadly Across Computer Science Education" https://knightcolumbia.org/content/protocols-not-platforms-a-technological-approach-to-free-speech https://www.technologyreview.com/f/613409/how-to-hide-from-the-ai-surveillance-state-with-a-color-printout/ https://www.techspot.com/news/80729-complete-list-alternatives-all-google-products.html https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2019/mar/28/tech-workers-silicon-valley-activism Film: *Snowden,* Book: *The Hunger Games*
July 15		Project Presentations