Workshop on the Ethics and Policy Implications of Algorithms and Big Data
February 15-16, 2019
UCSD

The workshop will bring together social and computer scientists, other academics, activists, and practitioners interested in the ethics and policy implications of algorithms and Big Data. The purpose of the workshop is to explore the state-of-the-art and immediate horizons of algorithms, Big Data, and automation and their interface with the social sciences and ethical issues. The panels are set up to facilitate lively and wide-ranging discussion.

The conference is sponsored by the Halıcıoğlu Data Science Institute, the Institute for Practical Ethics and the Dean of Social Sciences.

The conference will take place at UCSD on **February 15-16, 2019**, at UC San Diego. The event will be organized around four overlapping topics. The topics with some examples of the driving questions are:

Friday, February 15, 2019, The Forum at the Price Center

2:30-3:00 Welcome reception (light refreshments)

3:00-5:00
1. **Panel: Knowledge and Culture**
- How will human learning be altered and how should the education system respond to Big Data?
- How will art and the humanities be affected by Big Data?
- How will the social sciences change?
- How will natural science be done differently?
- What are the effects on popular culture?

Panelists
Cecilia Aragon, University of Washington-Seattle
Stuart Geiger, University of California, Berkeley
Johannes Himmelreich, Stanford University
William FitzGerald, The Worker Agency, and previously at Google
Molly Roberts, UCSD
Moderator:
Juan Pablo Pardo Guerra, Sociology, UCSD

Saturday, February 16, 2019, 15th floor Conference Room at The Village

8:30-9:00 Breakfast buffet

9:00-11:00
2. **Panel: Fairness and Inequality**
- What is algorithmic fairness? How are technical choices and substantive outcomes related?
- How do people make visible and contest the effects of data/algorithm regimes?
- To what extent are algorithmic predictions self-fulfilling prophecies?
- How does Big Data affect economic inequalities?
- Do algorithmic predictions lock the future into the past by overfitting on data from the past?
- Can Big Data help the disadvantaged?

Panelists:
Per-Erik Milam, University of Twente
Joan Donovan, Data and Society Institute, New York

Sumandro Chattapadhyay, Centre for Internet and Society, India
Moderator:
Akos Rona-Tas, Sociology, UCSD

11:00-11:15 Coffee break
11:15-1:15

    3. **Panel: Power and Privacy**
- Are there limits to algorithmic predictions?
- Do humans have any ultimate comparative advantage over AI, and if they do, what would that be?
- Can algorithms make decisions about humans?
- How does Big Data alter power relations and change the way societies are governed?
- How is the design of algorithms and Big Data structures distributed across actors, institutions, and locales? How does this distribution affect the resulting algorithms and their surrounding practices?
- Can algorithms help civic movements?
- Should we worry about profiling?
- How safe is Big Data in the face of hacking?
- Who benefits from loss of privacy?

Panelists:
Margaret Hu, Washington and Lee School of Law
Jack Poulson, Hodge Star Scientific Computing and previously at Google,
Reetika Khera, IIT, Delhi
Emory Roane, Privacy Rights Clearing House
Moderator:
Lily Irani, Communication, UCSD

1:15-2:15 Lunch break
2:15-4:30

    4. **Roundtable with the participation of all the panelists: Reigning in Big Data**
- What are the main legal issues raised by Big Data?
- Is it too late for ethics in Big Data?
- Is regulation of algorithms possible/desirable?
- What are the national differences in Big Data regulations?
- Is data/algorithmic transparency possible?
- Should the design of algorithms/data structures include relevant stakeholders?
- What forms of data privacy are possible/desirable? Can surveillance be kept benign?
- Where should human judgment and deliberation yield to algorithmic decision making and where should it not?
- How should algorithms and Big Data become subject to scrutiny or audit?
- Who should be responsible for what an algorithm does?
- What can civic movements and social actors do?

Moderator:
Dana Nelkin, Philosophy, UCSD