EXPLORING

ALGORITHMIC DISCRIMINATION

TUESDAY, 24 APRIL 2018
14:00 – 16:30

FACULTY OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

The increasing use of artificial Intelligence and Big Data holds much promise – and peril. Algorithms are more than lines of neutral code: a 2016 New York Times op-ed highlighted some of the most egregious instances of algorithmic discrimination: recidivism risk assessments pick on black defendants; delivery services are unavailable in predominantly minority neighbourhoods; and women find themselves less likely to be shown advertisements for well-paid jobs on major online search engines. The rise of the on-demand economy will bring these problems into new areas, from work for algorithmic bosses to travel: an HBS study found clear evidence of discrimination on Airbnb.

It is unlikely that algorithms are designed to discriminate explicitly. Different mechanisms are at work: underlying data sets might suffer from historical biases, and software aggregating user ratings has the potential to aggregate and amplify individual users’ subconscious biases. This makes the ascription of (legal) responsibility to platforms a particularly challenging question: who is responsible for algorithmic discrimination? How could algorithms be policed and sanctioned?

This exploratory workshop, sponsored by the John Fell Fund, will bring together a range of disciplines to explore legal, economic, and technical aspects of algorithmic discrimination. Interested participants are asked to register at https://bit.ly/2vgzyv2 by Friday, 20 April.

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PROGRAMME

THE CUBE, OXFORD LAW FACULTY

A light lunch will be served from 1:15 for registered participants

14:00  
*Measuring and Mitigating Algorithmic Discrimination*
Krishna Gummadi  
Max Planck Institute for Software Systems
14:15  
Discussant: Barbara Havelkova, Oxford Law
14:20  
Discussion

14:35  
*Holding Online Platforms Liable for Discriminatory Advertising*
Katherine Strandburg  
NYU School of Law and Information Law Institute
14:50  
Discussant: Vili Lehdonvirta, Oxford Internet Institute
14:55  
Discussion

15:10  
*Antidiscriminatory Privacy*
Ignacio Cofone  
NYU Information Law Institute
15:25  
Discussant: Rebecca Williams, Oxford Law
15:30  
Discussion

15:45  
*Gender Pay Gaps in a "Gender Blind" Labour Market: The Cost of Caring*
Abi Adams  
Department of Economics and New College, Oxford
16:00  
Discussant: Denise Réaume, Toronto & Oxford Law
16:05  
Discussion