



March 21, 2017

Can Technology be Democratic? Transparency and Accountability in Machine Learning

Time: 4:30pm - 6:00pm

Location: Golkin 100, Michael A. Fitts Auditorium

Speakers: Solon Barocas, Sorelle Friedler & Andrew Selbst
(Optimizing Government Project)



Can Technology Be Democratic? Transparency and Accountability in Machine Learning

A panel discussion featuring:

Solon Barocas

Post-Doctoral Researcher, Society, Ethics, and A.I. Research Group,
Microsoft Research Group

Sorelle Friedler

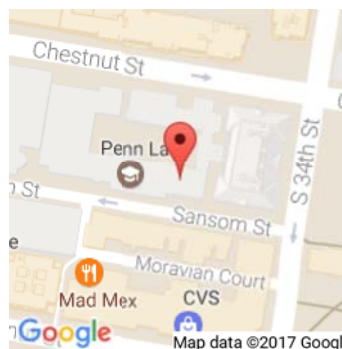
Assistant Professor of Computer Science, Haverford College

Andrew Selbst

Visiting Fellow, Yale Information Society Project

As governments turn to machine-learning algorithms to automate their decision-making, concerns arise about how those tools might affect transparency, accountability, and other core democratic values. Machine-learning algorithms pore through vast datasets to generate forecasts used to support government action. Although they can increase accuracy in decision-making, such algorithms substitute an opaque analytic process for the democratic vision of an informed and engaged citizenry. Some commentators further worry that an embrace of machine learning by governments could signal a new era of surveillance and social control. Despite these concerns, a growing body of research suggests that machine learning processes can be built to prioritize transparency and can be adapted to enhance, not dilute, democratic government. This workshop will bring together scholars at the intersection of computer science and public policy to discuss possible ways to translate democratic values into algorithmic processes. The workshop is the second in a series of three taking place throughout the spring dedicated to exploring policy and technical challenges raised by the use of artificial intelligence by governmental institutions.

The Optimizing Government Project is a [Fels Policy Research Initiative](#) and is open to the public. For questions about the event, please email optimizing@law.upenn.edu or visit the [Optimizing Government homepage](#).



Contact Info:

optimizing@law.upenn.edu