# February 20, 2017

## For the People, By the Robots? Democratic Governance in a Machine-Learning Era



Time: 4:30pm - 6:00pm

Location: Golkin 100, Michael A. Fitts Auditorium

Speakers: John Mikhail, Helen Nissenbaum & David Robinson (Optimizing Government Project)

**For the People, By the Robots? Democratic Governance in a Machine-Learning Era**

*A panel discussion featuring:*

**John Mikhail**
*Agnes N. Williams Research Professor and Professor of Law, Georgetown University*

**Helen Nissenbaum**
*Professor of Media, Culture, and Communication & Computer Science, and Director, Information Law Institute, New York University,*

**David Robinson**
*Principal, Upturn, and Adjunct Professor, Georgetown Law*

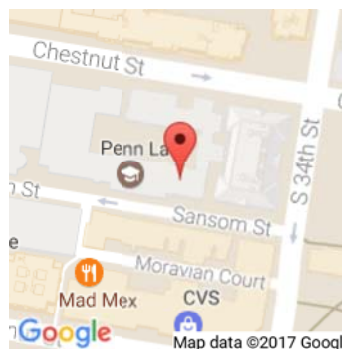

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Machine learning algorithms are being used to automate decision-making across a wide array of government functions, from financial regulation to criminal justice. Yet the very features that make machine learning so useful – speed, scalability, and automation – may also come into tension with democratic principles like transparency and accountability, especially if human decision-making by accountable public officials is replaced with automated decision-making by machine. This workshop will convene scholars from law and computer science to elaborate on the potential tensions between machine learning and democratic governance and to highlight possible legal and technical responses. The workshop is the first in a series of three taking place throughout the spring, dedicated to exploring challenges related to transparency and accountability in the government's use of machine learning.

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.

**This event will be streamed live via this URL.**

*This program has been approved for 1.5 substantive CLE credits for Pennsylvania lawyers. CLE credit may be available in other jurisdictions as well. Attendees seeking CLE credit should bring separate payment in the amount of $60.00 ($30.00 public interest/non-profit attorneys) cash or check made payable to* **The Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania**.

Register for this event