CS 4873 Computers, Society, and Professionalism

Spring 2021

**Section Discussion Guide**

Week 12

Topic: Work and Wealth, Technology and Pandemics

I.  Questions

* Remember each class to bring a question, observation or relevant news item for discussion

 II.  Automation and Jobs

* How do you think self-driving cars will change our economy?
* What kinds of jobs in the future will be more available?
* What kinds of jobs in the future will be less common/not needed?
* One argument often made is that automation will remove boring and poorly paid jobs and replace them with interesting and better paying jobs
  + In what ways is this true and not true?
  + Are the new jobs available to everyone?
* How should policy makers plan now for this future?

III. Telework

* What do we know about telework that we didn’t know before the pandemic?
* Do you miss face-to-face class?
* When we go back to all face-to-face, what will you miss about remote learning?

IV. Globalization

* Do you try to buy American products?
  + Why or why not?
* Why are shipping containers important to globalization?
* What are the advantages and disadvantages of globalization for American workers?
* What are the advantages and disadvantages of globalization for workers in the Global South?
* What can/should we do about globalization?

V. Pandemics

* In the lecture, the creator of the MIT Private Kit app was quoted as saying “*People give their stem cells for patients that need a stem cell transplantation. They give their blood. We hope that people think about the crisis, and are willing to give their data*.”
  + Is this a reasonable comparison? Why or why not?

III. Introduce the readings for next class