CS 4873 Computers, Society, and Professionalism

Spring 2021

**Section Discussion Guide**

Week 13

Topic: AI, Bias, and Fairness; Deep Fakes and Fake News

I.  Questions

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

II. What factors lead to bias in algorithms?

* List different kinds of factors that lead to algorithm bias
* Are these biases intentional politics or unintentional (in Langdon Winner’s terms)?
* What can be done to lessen biases and their impact?
* Do companies have sufficient incentives to reduce bias?
  + Is more regulation needed?
  + If so, what would that regulation look like?

III. Ethical use of Deep Fakes

* Deep Fakes have a lot of uses in business and entertainment but can also be used to inflict real harm on people and sow distrust and discord in our information systems. Beyond political fakes, we’ve seen examples in the world of pornography (putting someone’s face on a person in a pornographic image or movie) and slander (having someone doing or saying something that causes lasting harm to their reputation or employment).
* Should we have stronger laws about the creation and distribution of Deep Fakes?
  + Do existing laws cover these? Why or why not?
  + How do we balance freedom of expression and free speech against negative impacts?
* What other actions can we take to reduce the negative impacts without stifling creative or business uses? For example, should all faked videos or pictures be required to have watermarks or visible imprints? Can fake-detection software ameliorate the effects?
  + Is this feasible? Can the negative effects be mitigated after fakes are distributed?

III. Introduce the readings for next week.