Weekly Reading Summaries- Week 7

Reading 1:

"Data is good at detecting correlations but not at identifying which correlations are meaningful." I like this statement because it succinctly describes what the advantages and disadvantages of Big Data are.

Reading 2:

The thing about this reading that stands out to me is that the FTC is specifically prohibiting the selling of Data to those who would commit fraud, if the selling company has any indication the customer might do so.

Reading 3:

This article made me very interested in seeing the different algorithms used by government agencies, who designs the algorithms, their use, and their weight in the decisions being made.

Reading 4:

The idea that the computer science field is ill-equipped ethically to deal with the ramifications of Big Data research is a fascinating one, as before Big Data most computer science research has affected only systems and machinery.

Also the idea that big data is not just more data than before, but constantly produced and gathered data along with a large amount of data from the past being added.

Reading 5:

This gave me a good understanding of the ethical guidelines around Human-Subject research and the inherent question of whether big data is human-subject research, or if it's even reasonable to consider it as such.

Also the linked cpbr act is very interesting.

Reading 6:

The Wisconsin supreme court decision is huge. The idea of informing a judge of the prediction that the algorithm makes while also informing him of the limits of the algorithm and informing him not to let it be the

Reading 7:

The concept that just seeing the actual inner workings of an algorithm is not enough, but actually understanding the design philosophy and purpose behind these algorithms are required to determine the impacts of input on decisions.

Reading 8:

"nobody can exactly explain why the answer is what it is—it's almost like it's being handed down by data gods. What typically happens, especially in a "big data" situation, is that there's no careful curating of inputs. Instead, the whole kit and caboodle is thrown into an algorithm and it's trusted to come up with an accurate, albeit inexplicable, prediction."

I like this, because if something makes these decisions, and even if the decisions are accurate, should they be utilized due to the possibility that there is biased/discriminatory decision making involved?