

Week 7 Readings

- “Big Data: A Tool for Inclusion or Exclusion?” Federal Trade Commission Report (January 2016)
 - Big Data Analytics is a powerful tool, but is difficult to regulate.
 - The government will make sure that big data practices do not violate existing laws and try to raise awareness of the dangers that big data practices can have.
 - The government also calls on the industry, and academics to help keep the dangers in check.
- John k. Higgins, “FTC Issues Regulatory Warning on Big Data Use,” Ecommerce Times (January 20, 2016)
 - The FTC is trying to protect consumers from the reckless use of big data through the use of new applications of old regulations, as well as creating new regulations specifically for the problems made by big data.
- Nicholas Diakopoulos, “How to Hold Governments Accountable for the Algorithms They Use,” Slate.com (February 11, 2016)
 - The article warns about the dangers of algorithms affect on democratic government, and suggests that legitimacy of governments should be kept by transparency and freedom of information.
- Metcalf, Jacob, Emily F. Keller, and Danah Boyd, “Perspectives o Big Data, Ethics, and Society.” Council for Big Data, Ethics, and Society. (May 23, 2016)
 - It’s an executive report from the Council of Big Data, Ethics, and Society to address the issues big data poses to the future.
- Omer Tene & Jules Polonetsky, “Beyond IRB’s: Ethical Guidelines for Data Research,” Washington and Lee Law Review Online (June 7, 2016)
 - The report talks about a proposed review system for big data research, what would be reviewed and how they would be implemented.
- Julia Angwin, “Make Algorithms Accountable”, New York Times (August 1, 2016)
 - The article as about the progress the government and judges are trying to make in auditing algorithms and the processes they’re used in.
- Joshua A. Kroll, Joanna Huey, Solon Barzas, Edward W. Felten, Joel R. Reidenberg, David G. Robinson & Harlan Yu, “Accountable Algorithms,” (March 31, 2016)
 - The governing of computers is difficult because they are so different from humans

- Solutions include transparency of code, but that is a security risk and can be difficult for non-technical people to understand.
 - The other idea is partial transparency, wherein the algorithms will function under a set of pre-announced rules.
- Cathy O’Neil, “The Ethical Data Scientist,” Slate (February 4, 2016)
 - The article suggests that we need to keep ethics in data science through human intervention and surveillance of processes.