

Week 9 Summaries

**1. How Predictive Policing Software Works**

Many companies are trying to figure out where crime hotspots are by using past crime data as well as other environmental factors.

**2. Websites and Apps for Sharing Crime and Safety have Become Outlets for Racial Profiling**

Apps such as SketchFactor are designed to help people avoid bad parts of town but they suffer from people biases and as well as racial profiling that proliferate biases

**3. Is Predictive Policing the Law-Enforcement Tactic of the Future**

Arguments for predictive policing include placing people and delegating resources to the right spot in an analytics fashion, but detractors say that it hits spots that are already subject to over policing

**4. How Big Data is Helping the NYPD Solve Crimes Faster**

New York DAS allows officers to have a multitude of data which allows them to solve crimes much faster with greater accuracy. There are of course, privacy concerns, but this articles highlights the benefits of a multitude of data sources.

**5. Algorithms in the Criminal Justice System**

The COMPAS system that rates likeliness to reoffend has been show to label non-threatening blacks at higher rates than white offenders. Algorithms should be used cautiously for they might infringe on constitutional rights.

**6. Machine Bias – ProPublica**

Scores to rate likeliness to re-offend are pretty innacurate – ProPublica’s study found 20% effective for violent crime. Northpointe, the company that makes these algorithms, will not release the technology because it’s proprietary which makes it hard to judge the fairness of these algorithms.

**7. ProPublica stands by its conclusions that the algorithm was unfair**

Using logistical regression, ProPublica found that black people are still more than 45% more likely to be labeled “high risk” than whites at 23%

**8. ProPublica a rejoinder to developer’s response**

According to Northpointe, ProPublica did not focus on the base rates of recidivism for blacks and whites, and used improper statistical methods. In their view, their algorithm was not discriminatory against blacks.

**9. Interactive Predictive Policing Program in South Pasadena California**

The C.R.I.M.E. program allows police departments to allocate resources. This program will allow officers to be visible based on where and when the algorithm thinks a crime will be committed.