Ethics of Technology: Science, Technology, Injustice, and Inequality

Attendance Sheet

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I. Search Engines and Technological Bias

Recall the following article.

In breakout rooms, consider the problem of bias within search engines and other technological systems. Are there any other examples you can think of where there is bias within a technological system? What are some ways that we might address these issues? (For example, how might search engines combat or safeguard against the perpetuation of biases against minorities and women, their identity, and value?) Do developers of these tools have an obligation to address these problems? In cases such as the one discussed in the article, does the fault lie with the system design or with the way it is used by the community (e.g., by those that reinforce algorithm results by searching for specific materia, such as black pornographyl?) Was there anything else interesting that popped out at you when reading the article?

Group 1 (Names)
Group 2 (Names)

II. Debriefing

Q. Were there any other examples of technological bias that your group thought about?

Q. Do developers have an obligation to address these problems? What if the issue arises not intrinsically by the design of the system, but by the way it is used?

Q. How might developers address the issue of bias presented in the article (or other issues discussed in your group?)

III. "From Park Bench to Lab Bench"

Q. What did you think of the following [video](#)?

Q. What are some examples of "discriminatory design"?

 Q.Is the bias presented by Google's search engine an instance of discriminatory design?