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Data for Black Lives Conference
January 11-13, 2019
MIT Media Lab
75 Amherst St, Cambridge, MA 02139

Note: Unless otherwise specified, all events take place on the 6th floor of the MIT Media Lab, 75 Amherst St. Cambridge

Friday, January 11, 12:00-5:00pm // Pre-Conference Activities

12:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Pre-Conference Sessions (Location TBD)
10:00 AM - 5:00 PM	MIT Museum (Cambridge, MA)

Friday, January 11, 5:00 - 11:00 PM // Conference Day 1

5:00 - 7:00 PM	Conference Registration Opens
5:00 - 7:00 PM	Dinner Reception
7:15 - 8:30 PM	Welcome & Keynote

Conference Welcome: TBD
Opening Remarks and Introduction of Keynote Speaker: *Yeshimabeit Milner, D4BL Founder & Executive Director*
Keynote Address: TBD

9:00 - 11:00 PM	Opening Night Mixer

Saturday, January 12, 8:00 AM - 1:00 AM // Conference Day 2

6:30 - 7:15 AM	Wellness Activity
8:00 AM	Conference Registration Opens
8:00 - 8:45 AM	Continental Breakfast
8:55 - 9:10AM	Special Welcome: TBD
9:10 - 10:30 AM	Opening Panel

Panel Title: Algorithms & Organizing
Panel Description: As algorithms and automated decisions continue to impact every aspect of our lives, in Black communities nationwide these decision-making systems animate already existing structures of of oppression and inequality. From risk assessments to school enrollment algorithms to child predictive analytics and the management of healthcare and social services, the role of algorithms is set only to increase. As the impact of these systems expands beyond Black and low income communities, *our heroes will be the people who have been fighting and winning against these systems all along*. In this opening panel we will be discussing how leaders nationwide have been organizing to reduce the harm of these biased black box systems.and discuss how activists and scientists can enlist algorithms in the fight for racial justice.

10:45 - 12:15 AM   <u>Breakout 1</u>

Breakout Title: Abolition in the Age of Big Data
Breakout Description: Fingerprints, facial recognition, background checks, gang databases, FBI lists, social media surveillance, credit scores: data has always been central to the expansion of prison industrial complex, the immigration enforcement industry, and the financialization of our economy.

Abolition is not an end-goal, but a process. The prison abolition movement asks the question: how do we create solutions in our communities to social problems without recourse to prisons? In this panel, we apply the same lens to big data. How can we reimagine the structures and industries that centralize big data in the hands a few. And how can we abolish the structures that turn data into a powerful and deadly weapon?

Breakout Title: Pain, Place, and Race
Breakout Description: In cities like Chicago and Baltimore, where you live determines the length and quality of your life. Life expectancies range from the mid-80s in more affluent neighborhoods to 60s in the poorest communities. From gun violence to opioid addiction to suicide to sexual violence, Black and Brown communities are burdened with disinvestment and deprivation. But organizers across the country are not letting up; they are centering public health in their work and tapping into its intersectional power to address disparate outcomes across systems such as education, housing, civic representation, and economic opportunity. What is the combination of organizing, technology, and policy that will help our communities heal from the intergenerational pain and trauma?

12:30 - 1:30 PM   <u>Lunch</u>
1:45 - 3:15 PM   <u>Breakout 2</u>

Breakout Title: Data, Disaster & Collective Power
Breakout Description: For many Black communities, a storm of policies and practices hit well before the first rains of Katrina, Harvey, Matthew or Florence. And everyday, these storms rage in plain sight. Climate change has magnified the devastating impact of displacement driven by unbearable housing costs. It has revealed the need for investment in emergency preparedness, not law enforcement, and that clean energy solutions are not solutions if they harm Black and Brown communities.

Today, sea level rise data provided by state-of-the-art satellites, mathematical equations known as climate models that determine policy, and engineering efforts to save lives in the wake of natural disasters are being developed and implemented out of step with necessary efforts organized by communities in the absence of government support. What are the ways that Black communities are using social media, data, and technology to prepare for the next disaster? To prevent it? What are the role of data scientists and engineers in these rapid response moments and the movement for climate justice?

Breakout Title: Rising Above the Gathering Storm: Education Justice and Mathematics
Breakout Description: Almost 65 years after the US Supreme Court's landmark Brown v Board of Education, public education in this country remains fundamentally separate and unequal. In general, white children from affluent backgrounds receive a world-class public education (OECD), while Black and brown children from low-income backgrounds, on average, receive a poor quality public education by almost every measure. The problems facing public schools in the US -- disinvestment, privatization, the over-reliance on standardized testing -- are seen vividly in the mathematics classroom

We focus on math education in particular for three reasons: 1) the inequities in math education reflect the broader state of public education in this country 2) 21st century jobs will, increasingly, require mathematical proficiency. Math illiteracy in this country is a matter of life and death and 3) mathematics is, more than any other subject, associated with notions of fixed intelligence and therefore the mathematics classroom is a breeding ground for racialized myths of superiority and deficiency.

3:30 - 6:00 PM   Workshops

Workshop Title: Systems Dynamics Workshop (co-hosted by Google)
Workshop Description: Systems thinking empowers people to see and understand systems holistically. Community-based system dynamics (CBSD) is a method based on the principles of engineering and computer simulation that empowers communities to describe their knowledge of the systems that affect them. The CBSD workshop will expose attendees to the benefits and necessities of applying systems thinking and CBSD to societal change.

During the workshop, expert facilitators will train and engage 50 conference attendees on the systems dynamics frameworks and techniques to help them better understand the underlying systems perpetuating disparities in education and income/wealth.

Workshop Title: Local Organizing & Movement Building
Workshop Description: Learn to use data as a tactic for movement-building and shifting political power.

Workshop Title: FOIA/Public Records Request
Workshop Description: How to use public records requests and Title VI complaints as an organizing tactic. Emphasis on gaining access to policing data on the community level.

Workshop Title: Data Visualization
Workshop Description: Introduction to ggplot, a data visualization package for the open-source programming language R.

Ask A Data Scientist Booth

6:00 - 7:00 PM   Dinner

8:00 - 9:30 PM   Concert - *Jamila Woods* (Berklee Performance Center)

10:00 PM   D4BL After Party

Sunday, January 13, 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM // Conference Day 3

8:00 - 9:30 AM   Continental Breakfast
9:45 - 11:15 AM   Breakout 3

Breakout Title: Reparations and Workers Rights in the Age of Automation
Breakout Description: In 2009, 13% of the US population were either self-employed or working as independent contractors, in 2016 this number had doubled. And from Silicon

Valley to the US Supreme court, the rights of workers are under attack. At the same time, robots capable of driving cars, assembling goods, and caring for the elderly are poised to put millions of people out of work. Black people and poor people will undoubtedly bear the brunt of this automation. In response to these threats, conversations about Universal Basic Income have become mainstream. But we cannot achieve the goals of economic justice and equality without seriously reckoning with the history of slavery in the United States and the need for reparations. How do we protect workers as work is transformed by technology? And how do address the need for reparations in a seismically shifting economy?

Breakout Title: We Will Be Counted: the 2020 Census
Breakout Description: There have been only 22 censuses in our nation's history. Every 10 years the data that is the result of nationwide count is used for redistricting, to allocate government funding and for research that impacts the social and economic lives of many. This is also the first census where operations will be online. We will discuss how the upcoming census is an opportunity to shape the country for the next 20 years by ensuring an accurate and fair count of all Americans.

11:30 - 12:15 PM   Closing Panel

Panel Title: What is a Movement Scientist?
Panel Description: Defeating Jim Crow required an army of lawyers and a national legal strategy. But new forms of racism and oppression demand new forms of activism and resistance. And scientists are answering the call. From academics and professional researchers to the everyday citizen scientists among us, people are embracing science as a tool of profound political and social power. The threats facing Black people and all people today are serious and alarming, but we have the tools at our disposal, and the public will, to overcome the challenges that are facing us. In our closing panel, we investigate the role of the scientist in these 21st-century civil rights battles.

12:15 - 12:30 PM   Farewell

Farewell: Yeshimabeit Milner, Lucas Mason-Brown, and Max Clermont

1:00 - 4:00 PM   Opportunity Expo: Careers, Fellowships, Professional Development