I chose to attend to PhD Candidate Emma Pierson’s guest lecture on data science to reduce inequality and improve healthcare because I am extremely committed to social justice. Furthermore, I have experienced first hand the bad logistics of American healthcare. Finally, data science is a field of study in which I am highly interested. Some of her research topics were to analyze data to understand human discrimination based on their ethnicity, gender, and sexual orientation. She expanded on police brutality because it is racially discriminatory.

I believe American Society needs to address this topic because it threats young mean health. Being a young Hispanic male, I have personally being racially profiled and intimidated by the police when I was walking with my dad on the street in Palo Alto, California. I was walking while holding two bikes when a policeman tried to intimidate me by grabbing his belt near his gun and pepper spray. He requested my identification. I asked him what was the reason he was asking for my identification if I was not doing anything wrong, I was complying, and I responded all of his previous answers, such as name, point of departure, and destination. The police officer then grabbed his belt and places his right hand near the gun and the left hand on top of the pepper spray even though my dad was standing three feet away from me. He looked at me in the eye and with a boastful smile he said it was strange to see a person walking with two bicycles. He said: “Bike theft is a big issue around the area and a person walking with two bikes looks suspicious.” I complied and showed him my driver’s license. After inspecting it, he let me go. Until this day, I do not understand how showing my driver’s license would help him detect if I was stealing two bicycles or not. Possibly he was checking if I was in the United States legally because some undocumented immigrants do not have official identification.

Thus, this presentation really impacted me due to all the statistics and analysis showed in openpolicing.stanford.edu. More research needs to be done, so that enough information is gathered to convince government officials to start implementing better policing protocols and have better training for police officers. Furthermore, I believe more guest lecturers who do research on social inequality should present their results, so that the student population and professors get educated on multiple problems minority communities encounter resulting in a better understanding of background and life experiences.

I am convinced racial discrimination does not end in police brutality because police brutality is an end result of society underestimating people’s skills based on skin color. Discrimination also affects academic performance, job searching, house loans, and job promotions. An interesting research project would be to analyze the statistics on how discrimination affects students on their overall academic performance and, as a result, how the academic performance hinders a professional career. Another cutting-edge research would be to investigate domestic violence and sexual harassment victims’ socioeconomic status and ethnicity. It would be interesting to see if low-income and lack of academic education impacts women’s security, well-being, and mental and physical health. The results from this research project would be able to shine a light on violence against women and help policy makers make educated decisions on how to handle education and wealth distribution among the population.

Emma Pierson’s research can be applied to multiple fields of study and will directly impact people’s lives. If government officials use this research, then minority groups and women’s quality of life would dramatically improve. Thus, more researchers need to be committed to perform this type of research. Pierson’s presentational skills were extraordinary. I was able to fully understand everything she talked about in her presentation. She explained all the theoretical concepts graphs and explained in detailed all the complicated equations. As a result, students who were not familiar with the topic were able to follow her presentation and ask multiple questions on social inequality and healthcare.