

# MD4SG

## Mechanism Design for Social Good

Dear MD4SG Members,

The past year has been both fruitful and challenging for many of us across the world. It is our pleasure to share with you recent news from the MD4SG community and we thank you all for your support and involvement!

Over this past year, our community has grown in both size and the ways we work together. Our listserv has gone from 800 to over 2,000 subscribers. We have begun hosting regular community socials; started a presence on Medium, YouTube, and Twitter; and now have over 50 members in leadership positions. We have expanded to nine active working groups including new groups on civic participation; algorithms, law, and policy; discrimination; and Latin America and the Caribbean. Aside from these regular activities, our community has taken on a number of additional endeavors, which we highlight below.

The impact and successes we have had so far would not have been possible without consistent work, thought, and support from all of you. We sincerely thank you all for your support of MD4SG!

We hope you enjoy this first edition of the MD4SG Newsletter!

# EVENTS

We are excited to announce the inaugural

## ACM Conference on Equity and Access in Algorithms, Mechanisms, and Optimization (EAAMO'21)

taking place virtually on 5–9 October 2021!

The conference stems from the Mechanism Design for Social Good (MD4SG) initiative, and aims to highlight work where techniques from algorithms, optimization, and mechanism design, along with insights from the social sciences and humanistic studies, can help improve equity and access to opportunity for historically disadvantaged and underserved communities. EAAMO'21 will provide an international forum for presenting research papers, problem pitches, survey and position papers, new datasets, and software demonstrations towards the goal of bridging research and practice.

We would greatly appreciate it if you could forward the information to other colleagues who may be interested in submitting proposals for participation, especially to those who are working on the use of quantitative methods to improve the wellbeing of marginalized communities.

EAAMO'21 is organized by the Mechanism Design for Social Good (MD4SG) initiative. The conference will feature keynote talks, panels, and contributed presentations across numerous fields. In line with the MD4SG core values of bridging research and practice, the conference will bring together researchers, policy-makers, and practitioners in various government and non-government organizations, community organizations, and industry to build multi-disciplinary pipelines. EAAMO'21 is proudly supported by ACM [SIGecom](#) and [SIGAI](#).

For more information, please visit website: [EAAMO 2021](#)



# EVENTS

## ACM Conference on Equity and Access in Algorithms, Mechanisms, and Optimization (EAAMO'21)

Program Co-Chairs:

- Rediet Abebe, University of California Berkeley & Harvard Society of Fellows
- Irene Lo, Stanford University
- Ana-Andreea Stoica, Columbia University

Executive Committee:

- Rediet Abebe, University of California Berkeley & Harvard Society of Fellows
- Kira Goldner, Columbia University
- Maximilian Kasy, University of Oxford
- Jon Kleinberg, Cornell University
- Illenin Kondo, the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis
- Sera Linardi, University of Pittsburgh
- Irene Lo, Stanford University
- Ana-Andreea Stoica, Columbia University

General Chair:

- Illenin Kondo, the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis
- Francisco Marmolejo-Cossio, University of Oxford



**SELECTED**

**MD4SG**

**RESEARCH**

# FACCT TUTORIAL

## ACM FACCT CONFERENCE DATA EXTERNALITIES TUTORIAL

Presented by Yuan Cui (Northwestern), Mihaela Curmei (U of California, Berkeley), Andreas Haupt (MIT), and Yixin Wang (U of California, Berkeley)

Externalities shape the data economy as we experience it. Besides uneven market shares, power asymmetries, and high levels of data sharing, little to no reimbursement to data subjects for their contributions are characteristics of this new market. Data externalities, recently theorized in Microeconomics, offer an explanation for the absence of significant reimbursements for data. In this tutorial, we will introduce models in which data externalities arise. Through a series of case studies, we will expose crucial aspects of the contracting environment that aggravate data externalities and allow participants to develop potential interventions. We aim to both translate insights from Microeconomics for the FAccT community and highlight opportunities for further research directions at the interface of market design, fairness, and accountability.

[READ MORE](#)



# FACCT CRAFT SESSION

## ACM FACCT CONFERENCE CRAFT SESSION NARRATIVES AND COUNTERNARRATIVES ON DATA PRACTICES IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH

Presented by Abeba Birhane (University College Dublin), George Obaido (University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg), and Roya Pakzad (Stanford University)

FAccT 2021 CRAFT session, "Narratives and Counternarratives on Data Practices in the Global South", was an interactive workshop that uses storytelling as a method to question common assumptions around data practices in countries and communities that are often grouped as "the Global South". Building on our current project around data sharing in Africa, -- and our own autoethnographic observations in other countries -- we will provide various theme-based stories that are informed by common narratives around data practices and invite participants to challenge these narratives from various angles including historical contexts and cultures, legal limitations, accessibility, impact assessments, accountability mechanism, and more.

Our post-conference plan is to create "Narratives and Counternarratives on Data Practices in the Global South" story cards. Our hope is that these cards then will be used by data science educators, civil society groups, philanthropic groups, inter-governmental organizations such as the UN agencies to expose them to narratives and counternarratives of data practices in the Global South and inform them about challenges before they embark on any new initiatives or partnerships.

[READ MORE](#)



# SELECTED PROJECT

## DATA AND THE GLOBAL SOUTH

As machine learning and data science applications grow ever more prevalent, the search for quality data has also increased. The Global South plays a central role in the global data landscape -- from being the target for “untapped” data mining, to contributing to the bulk of data labelling (ghost work) labour, to driving data sharing practices across the globe. And yet, the relationship between data science researchers, practitioners, NGO’s, and communities in the Global South and the rest of the global data science ecosystem is often marked with significant power asymmetries, histories and legacies of colonialism, lack of trust, and deficit narratives which frequently portrays the Global South in a negative light. There is insufficient understanding of the data practices of this hemisphere by those in the Global North, and in the process research for and by researchers in the Global South is also overlooked.

This project aims to critically examine and shed light on the complex data ecosystem in the Global South -- and to do so in a manner that centers the stories, research, and practices of those from the region. We do so with an especial focus on the African continent and the Middle East and North African (MENA) region. We examine questions such as “Who benefits from data sharing?”, “Who are the omitted stakeholders in the data ecology?”, and “How can data practices be carried out in a manner that pays back to communities where data is extracted from?”. Our work is conducted by researchers and practitioners across the globe and done in collaboration with researchers, data scientists, non-profit organizations, and government organizations focussed on improving our understanding of the data landscape and removing data inequities in their many forms.

[READ MORE](#)



# DEVELOPMENT WG PROJECTS

## DATA MARKETS

To supplement existing work that has sought to monitor poultry health from images of poultry feces, we are looking to see whether satellite imagery could play a role in improving predictive performance. Our approach is to gather satellite imagery data at the locations of the poultry fecal image collections that affect poultry farms -- e.g., weather (including temperature, soil moisture, etc.), population density, forest cover, general landcover, presence of water, and elevation. While we believe these data will improve predictive capabilities, we must respect the privacy of farmers who participate in this work.

## EDUCATION

The Dev-Education team has been busy exploring an interesting dataset from Ecuador that provides labour and educational data on its population. They hope to develop and model a new perspective to understand educational outcomes in the Latin American country of Ecuador. They want to integrate economic, social, and psychological inputs into the way they model Educational outcomes, and hopefully generate new insights for the development of social and educational policies in the country.

## HEALTHCARE

The vaccine equality project focuses on understanding the consequences of unequal vaccine distributions around the globe and developing policy recommendations for more effective and equitable global vaccination strategies. Faced with a highly unbalanced vaccine supply, understanding individuals' attitudes and behaviours towards sharing is a crucial first step in designing redistribution policies. To this end, we are planning an experiment that establishes the willingness of people in resource-rich countries to share vaccine resources with their resource-poor counterparts. Building on this work, we are currently also constructing epidemiological models that will assist in elucidating ideal vaccine distribution strategies and comparing these with strategies currently in effect.



# PROJECT STORY

## HOW DID WE START WORKING ON THIS PROJECT?

BRIDGING MECHANISM DESIGN AND MACHINE LEARNING  
TOWARDS ALGORITHMIC FAIRNESS



JESSICA FINOCCHIARO  
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO - BOULDER



FAIDRA MONACHOU  
STANFORD UNIVERSITY

In March 2020, the MD4SG working group on Fairness, Bias, and Discrimination got together to launch a series of research projects. Besides ourselves, Roland Maio, Gourab Patro, Manish Raghavan, Ana-Andreea Stoica, and Stratis Tsiritsis were interested in Equitable Mechanism Design. We were from different backgrounds not only by education but also from different parts of the World. In our first meetings, we quickly realized that while the mechanism design (MD) and machine learning (ML) communities both think about fairness, it is often modeled in different ways. One of the most interesting parts about working on this project was learning from collaborators who sit in different departments and fields. Often, we get very comfortable thinking about research with the lens we are calibrated to and comfortable with; working across institutions and global viewpoints empowered us to learn from each other to bridge some of the language and lessons across the fields of machine learning and mechanism design.

After a few meetings of discussions, the Harvard CRCS AI for Social Good workshop (2020) put out a call for papers that included position papers, and this motivated us to start writing down what we had learned as a group. As we started writing a position paper, we realized how much there was to explore, and we continued to flesh out these ideas, submitting a full version of the paper to FAccT.

This paper attempts to (a) review and contrast meanings of “fairness” in the fields of ML and MD, (b) enumerate some of the lessons that have been learned across fields as well as some future lessons we anticipate being applied, and (c) consider examples where ML and MD can be and have been bridged across a handful of domains.



# **COMMUNITY BUILDING**

# PERSONAL STORIES



MICHELLE GONZÁLEZ AMADOR  
UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY - MERIT

“

My superpower? Giving hugs to those who need it. I want to do research that generates a positive impact on vulnerable populations, especially in adolescents.

”

How did you get involved in MD4SG?

I found out about MD4SG thanks to Francisco Marmolejo. We had many interests in common and he invited me to participate. MD4SG is a space where you interact with people who are very willing to support their immediate society or society in general and that come from various disciplines. I have learned a lot from other participants and little by little I have encouraged myself to start projects with members of the community.

What I like about this group is that you always feel welcome. Some time ago I went through a difficult mental health period and the MD4SG community was very supportive in my recovery process. It also allowed me to start a research project with a person that I admired a lot and who is super interesting and intelligent. Clearly, all projects have a social welfare focus, in one way or another.

[READ THE WHOLE STORY](#)



# PERSONAL STORIES

“

Economics is my way of leaving a better world, I can help thousands of families by influencing public and economic policy decisions.

”



TILSA ORÉ

LIMA SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS  
UNIVERSIDAD DE PIURA

Please tell us about your experience as part of the MD4SG community

I found out about the organization through an email from the department where I work. I am very happy to be part of this community. MD4SG manages to make many minds from different disciplines come together with the same goal and dialog in a very passionate way, exchanging ideas and improving our perspective on a problem. In some of our countries in Latin America, there is a lot of isolation and we do not usually interact with other disciplines, MD4SG helps to prevent this from happening.

READ THE WHOLE STORY



# SOCIAL EVENTS

The MD4SG Community Team organizes events not just to talk about MD4SG related research, but also to connect new MD4SG members and to spark conversations around topics like navigating graduate school.

Recently, our social events have been held on a new medium, Discord, for the community to explore how to make MD4SG events more accessible. Discord provided free access to audio channels and the platform allowed for speech-to-text bot integrations, opening up avenues for deaf, blind and low-vision members to participate.

We welcome and encourage additional feedback from the MD4SG community about additional steps we can take to make social events accessible to persons living with disabilities (PWD). Please email [community@md4sg.com](mailto:community@md4sg.com) with any questions and recommendations. We hope to have you join us at our next event!

We will also be active over the summer! We will be hosting summer reading groups and Discord hangouts. Please feel free to suggest other events you'd like to see this summer by filling out this [form](#).

Upcoming social! Join us for an MD4SG book club discussion on '[Redesigning AI](#)' by Daron Acemoglu, with writing by many others in the field, including MD4SG co-founder Rediet Abebe! Join us Monday, June 28 at 1pm EDT / 6pm London / 8pm East Africa / 10:30pm India ([convert to your time zone](#)). We encourage all to join, whether you are a veteran working group member or you are new to the MD4SG community.



# **MD4SG EVENTS**

## **IN SPRING SEMESTER 2021**

# COLLOQUIUM TALK

## BRIDGING RESEARCH AND PRACTICE IN THE POST-PANDEMIC WORLD: CHALLENGES FOR HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS



FRANCISCO MARMOLEJO  
THE QATAR FOUNDATION

Colleges and universities are among those that have been most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Even with a potential end to the ongoing global restrictions in sight, the manner in which these institutions operate is likely to be permanently altered as a result of the significant impact of the virus. Most notably, a more traditional, siloed approach to research will play a key role in effectively meeting the needs of local communities. Additionally, the existing teaching-learning paradigm will need to be reimagined, keeping in mind the transformation of the educational landscape. This session will address key global trends in the education sector, as well as propose some ideas on how universities can adopt a more proactive approach to cope with these changes.

CHECK OUT THE TALK



# COLLOQUIUM TALK

## WHAT CAN SCIENCE DO FOR DEMOCRACY?

We will discuss the following questions. What is democratic backsliding? What makes a democracy stable? Which processes potentially lead to instability of a democratic system? How can complexity science help us understand and mitigate democratic backsliding? The talk is based on this paper and this paper.



TINA ELIASSI-RAD  
NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY



# COLLOQUIUM TALK

THE DESIGN OF UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE EXAMS AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR GENDER GAPS (JOINT WITH ANDREU ARENAS)



CATERINA CALSAMIGLIA  
INSTITUTE OF POLITICAL ECONOMY  
AND GOVERNANCE, BARCELONA

This talk study the effects of a reform that increased the stakes of the national exam at the end of high school for university enrolment in Spain. We find a negative effect of the reform on female test scores, driven by a worse performance in the exams for which the stakes increase the most, and driven by students expected to be top performers. The effect on test scores translates into significant changes in students' allocation to college: female enrolment in the most selective degrees declines, together with expected earnings.

[CHECK OUT THE TALK](#)



# COLLOQUIUM TALK

COMING TO GRIPS WITH THE REALITY OF DATA SCIENCE  
- IT'S PEOPLE ALL THE WAY DOWN



VUKOSI MARIVATE  
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA

As practising Data Science researchers and practitioners, the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted both the need for data driven decision making and the reality of what it really takes to get to that point. It is not only about throwing data + model at a problem. It is about understanding the environment that one is in and then strategising on what might best work for that environment. In this talk I look back at some of the work we have done within responding to different challenges within both Data Science and Natural Language Processing. I place at the center people and how they are the important piece in our practice.

CHECK OUT THE TALK



# COLLOQUIUM TALK

THE LIMITS OF MORAL PHILOSOPHY IN DEALING WITH  
ALGORITHMIC BIAS



MARIA RODRIGUEZ  
UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO

A great number of academic and industry initiatives seek to mitigate what are increasingly understood as ethical concerns in the development, implementation, and evaluation of algorithms in social contexts. Often, when confronted with questions of ethics within these socio-technical systems, engineers, data scientists, and others turn to the field of Philosophy for help in trying to decide the balance between the right thing to do and what we can do. In this talk, Dr. Rodriguez presents her arguments for why most strands of moral philosophy are ill equipped to help us deal with the realities of algorithmic bias.

CHECK OUT THE TALK



# COLLOQUIUM TALKS

The Colloquium Series serves to highlight exemplary work on improving access to opportunity for disadvantaged and marginalized groups through a monthly online talk series.

Stay tuned for our next talks in 2021-2022 academic year!

We would like to hear your interests: please contact us at [organizers@md4sg.com](mailto:organizers@md4sg.com) if you have any questions or suggestions for future colloquium speakers.

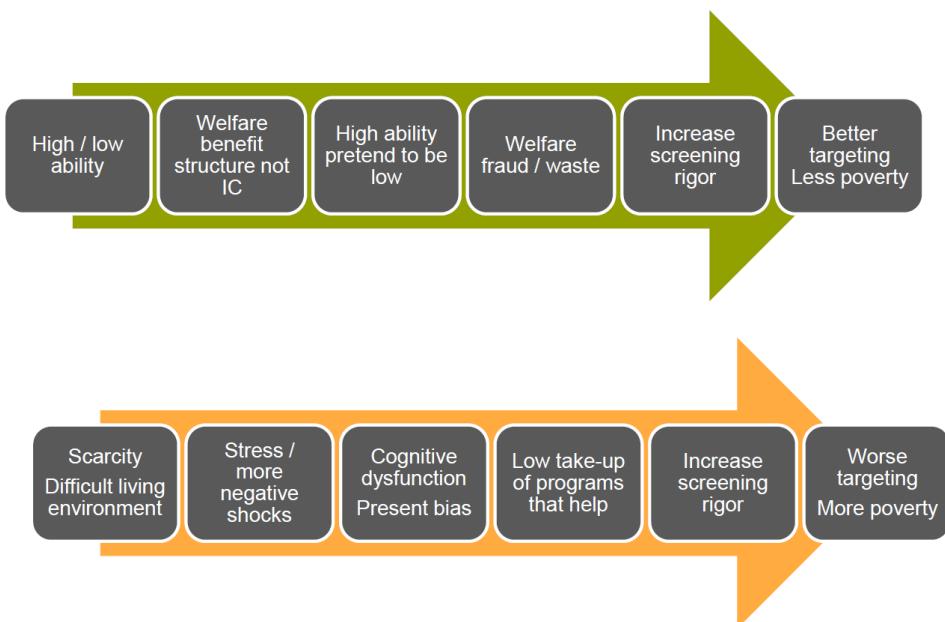


# MEDIUM PUBLICATION

NICOLAS PASTRIAN CONTADOR

## MODELS AND OBSTACLES FOR TARGETING VULNERABLE GROUPS – AN ECONOMICS AND COMPUTER SCIENCE PERSPECTIVE

Nicolas Pastrian Contador wrote a brief (biased) summary of the provision and targeting for vulnerable populations tutorial, presented by prof. Sera Linardi and prof. Sam Taggart at the Economics and Computation conference in 2020.



A SUMMARY OF THE TRADITIONAL AND BEHAVIORAL APPROACHES TO SELF-TARGETING

[CHECK OUT THE MEDIUM POST](#)

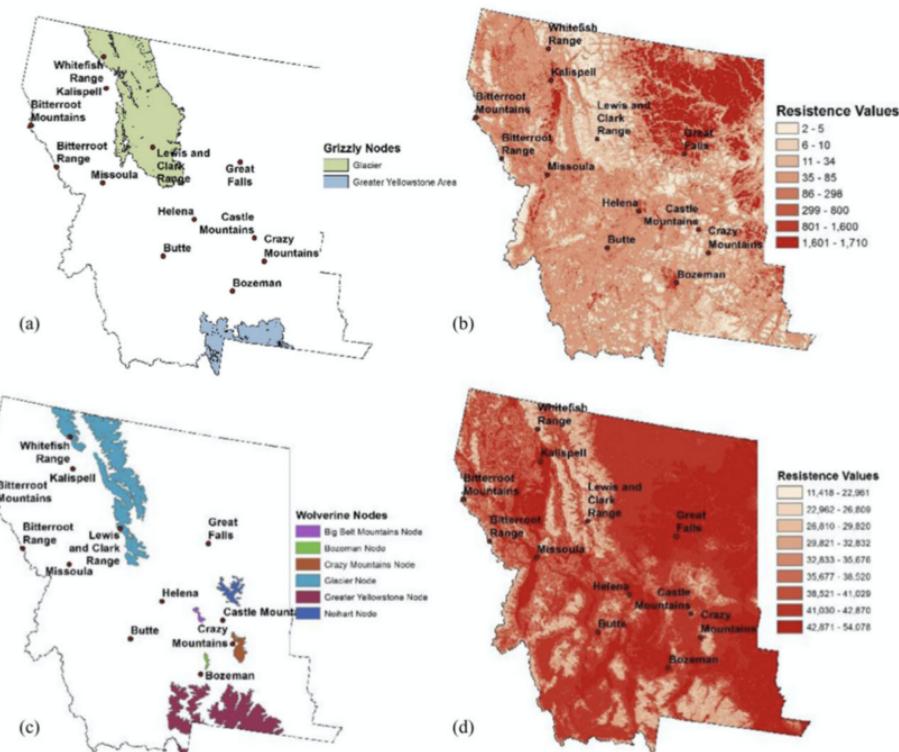


# MEDIUM PUBLICATION

HARMAN JAGGI

## REFLECTIONS ON PROFESSOR BISTRA DILKINA'S MD4SG TALK: COMBINATORIAL OPTIMIZATION FOR WILDLIFE PLANNING

This post is a summary of a recent MD4SG talk by professor Bistra Dilkina, Associate Professor of Computer Science at the University of Southern California and Co-Director of the Center for AI in Society (CAIS).



CASE STUDY OF CORRIDOR DESIGN FOR 2 SPECIES IN THE WESTERN PORTION OF MONTANA (U.S.A.): CORE AREAS OF (A) GRIZZLY BEARS AND (C) WOLVERINES INCLUDED IN THE CORRIDOR DESIGN AND RESISTANCE VALUES FOR (B) GRIZZLY BEARS AND (D) WOLVERINES BUILT BASED ON HABITAT-SELECTION MODELS (THE DARKER THE SHADING, THE HIGHER THE RESISTANCE)

[CHECK OUT THE MEDIUM POST](#)



# MEDIUM PUBLICATION

AMITA SHUKLA

## THE GEOGRAPHY OF LETHAL FORCE

As MD4SG members are aware, the arguments and evidence created in academic research have direct consequences for how activists, pundits, and policymakers make their points. This talk covers the controversial contact hypothesis, proposed by two Harvard professors, suggesting that equal amounts of lethal force are actually used on white and black people in the United States. Their arguments have often been weaponized against the black lives matter movement and against race relations reform laws. In this talk, professor Sethi both challenges the methodology used to form the contact hypothesis, and proposes a better way to test it.

### The Race IAT

In this test, you will see items that represent **African American children**, **European American children**, **pleasant words**, and **unpleasant words**. As each item appears, you will be asked to make responses on the left or right side as quickly as possible. For touch devices, responses are made by tapping colored areas on the left and right. For keyboards, key presses are used to make responses.

**African American Children**



**European American Children**



**pleasant words**

smile honest sincere lucky diamond peace sweet

**unpleasant words**

disaster agony hatred grief rotten crash tragedy

Speed is important; work as quickly as you can. Your results will not be accurate if you go too slow. If you make a mistake, you will see a red X and should rapidly make the other response to correct the error.

I am ready to begin the test

SCREENSHOT OF THE HARVARD IMPLICIT ASSOCIATION TEST ON RACE

CHECK OUT THE MEDIUM POST



# MD4SG'20

The fourth workshop on Mechanism Design for Social Good (MD4SG '20) was held online on August 17-19, 2020.

The goal of the workshop was to highlight work where techniques from algorithms, optimization, and mechanism design, along with insights from other disciplines have the potential to improve access to opportunity for historically underserved and marginalized communities.

The Workshop had the following keynote speakers and panelist:

- Natalia Airza Ramirez, National University of Columbia and former Vice Minister of Education in Columbia
- Jose R. Correa, Professor at Universidad de Chile
- Stephanie Dinkins, Artist Fellow at the Berggruen Institute
- Deborah Estrin, Associate Dean for Impact at Cornell Tech
- Nicole Immorlica, Senior Researcher at Microsoft Research
- Rafael Obregon, UNICEF Paraguay
- Anjana Rajan, Chief Technology Officer at Polaris

Discussants:

- Jon Kleinberg, Tisch University Professor at Cornell University
- Illenin Kondo, Assistant Professor of Economics at the University of Notre Dame
- Sera Linardi, Associate Professor of Economics at University of Pittsburgh
- Roya Pakzad, Founder and Director of Taraaz
- Juan Felipe Penagos, Universidad De Los Andes
- Manuel Sabin, Postdoctoral Researcher at Radboud University

Organizers: Faidra Monachou and Francisco Marmolejo-Cossío

[READ MORE](#)

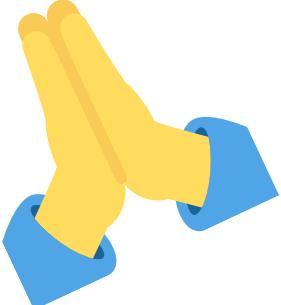


**MD4SG**

**ORGANIZERS**

**2020-2021**

# ORGANIZERS



THANK  
YOU

IRENE LO

AFTER 3 YEARS AS A CO-ORGANIZER IRENE LO  
WILL STEP DOWN FROM THIS ROLE. THANK YOU  
IRENE!



REDIET ABEBE



WANYI LI



FRANCISCO  
MARMOLEJO-COSSÍO



GEORGE OBAIDO

\*NEW MD4SG ORGANIZER\*



ANA-ANDREEA  
STOICA



LILY XU

\*NEW MD4SG ORGANIZER\*



# MD4SG LEADERSHIP



NIKHIL GARG

Nikhil Garg is a postdoc at University of California, Berkeley. His research interest is the application of algorithms, data science, and mechanism design to the study of democracy, markets, and societal systems at large. He received his PhD from Stanford University in 2020. He has been serving as the co-lead of the MD4SG working groups since November 2020.



LOGAN STAPLETON

Logan Stapleton is a PhD student in computer science at University of Minnesota. His research applies machine learning and HCI methods to problems of algorithmic discrimination. He served as the social co-chair for the workshop MD4SG'20 and has served as the community engagement co-lead since October 2020.



BRYAN WILDER

Bryan Wilder is a PhD student in computer science at Harvard University. His research focuses on optimization and machine learning for social good, with an emphasis on applications in public health. He has been serving as a co-lead of the MD4SG working groups since September 2019 and was previously organizer of the MD4SG Inequality working group.



# WORKING GROUPS

## ASIA-PACIFIC

Our group caters for the MD4SG community in the Asia Pacific region. Because we are on the opposite side of the globe to the United States, our timezone is not a good match for many MD4SG events. We focus on a variety of topics, much like the very first MD4SG working group, such as Facility Location Problems and Explaining Machine Learning.

WORKING GROUP ORGANIZER

MATTHEW OLCKERS

Civic Participation is a key issue in the Social and Community Context domain. Civic participation encompasses a wide range of formal and informal activities. Examples include voting, volunteering, participating in group activities, and community gardening.

WORKING GROUP ORGANIZERS

PAUL GÖLZ

ANSON KAHNG

## CIVIC PARTICIPATION

## DATA ECONOMIES

The data economies and data governance working group aims to better understand the challenges that arise across the data pipeline from creation, ownership, accessibility, and sharing to data analysis and use. We are especially interested in understanding how access and sharing affect the benefits of the global data economy, and whether benefits are distributed evenly among communities in the Global North and South.

WORKING GROUP ORGANIZERS

ALI ALKATIB

LUCY QIN

ABEBA BIRHANE

GEORGE OBAIDO

ROYA PAKZAD



# WORKING GROUPS

## DEVELOPMENT

The MD4SG Development working group fosters collaboration and discussion amongst practitioners and academics to understand and tackle issues pertaining to the role and application of technology in addressing challenges in emerging nations and under-resourced settings. We study how techniques from algorithm and mechanism design, computational social science, and optimization can inform and help advance existing development policies and practices.

WORKING GROUP ORGANIZERS

TEJÚMÁDÉ ÀFÒNJÁ  
CHINASA OKOLO

Algorithms are often used to supplement or make decisions in a way that “optimizes” some objective; often, these decisions are made under limited resource constraints specific to the given domain. The MD4SG group on Discrimination and Equity in Algorithmic Decision-making focuses on understanding how these optimization choices, constraints, and mechanisms impact different stakeholders of algorithmic systems.

WORKING GROUP  
ORGANIZERS

FAIDRA MONACHOU  
JESSICA FINOCCHIARO

## DISCRIMINATION

## ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE

The environment and climate working group aims to address environmental challenges, particularly those that exacerbate the climate crisis, through the lens of computational and economic lenses. We are a diverse group of researchers from a variety of academic disciplines and geographic locations

WORKING GROUP  
ORGANIZERS

WANYI LI  
CRISTINA CRESPO MONTAÑÉS  
LILY XU  
STEVEN YIN



# WORKING GROUPS

## INEQUALITY

The MD4SG inequality working group studies how optimization, incentive design, and machine learning can mitigate or magnify social and economic inequality. We are especially focused on provision and targeting of social programs: when and how should resources be directed specifically to the most vulnerable members of the population? How should these individuals be selected?

WORKING GROUP  
ORGANIZERS

SERA LINARDI  
SAMUEL TAGGART  
CHIKA OKAFOR

The MD4SG Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) group aims to develop a new topical focus on issues relevant to the region. This semester's focus will be on addressing challenges through a social cohesion and integration lens. Major themes include: migration (especially the Venezuelan diaspora), crime (with a focus on youth crime), and education.

## LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

WORKING GROUP  
ORGANIZERS

FRANCISCO MARMOLEJO-COSSIÓ  
MICHELLE GONZÁLEZ AMADOR  
MARIAJOSE SILVA-VARGAS  
JUAN FELIPE PENAGOS

## ALGORITHMS, LAW, AND POLICY

WORKING GROUP  
ORGANIZERS

DOAA ABU-ELYOUNES  
DUNCAN MCSELFRESH

The MD4SG Working Group focuses on this complex relationship between algorithms and mechanisms on the one hand and law and policy on the other hand. Some of the topics the group will work on include but are not limited to free speech, content moderation, antitrust, the use of "black box" machine learning models, data-driven algorithms, and decision-support tools.



## GIVE US FEEDBACK!

In our second-ever MD4SG community survey, we are asking for anonymous feedback on all MD4SG programs, including colloquia, working groups and potential future programs. Please complete our [2021 Community Survey](#) by Monday, July 12.

## JOIN OUR TEAM!

We have two opportunities to get more involved with MD4SG by joining our leadership team. We are hoping to welcome a new Social Media lead and Community Engagement lead to MD4SG! This is an amazing opportunity if you are passionate about MD4SG, love participating in our events, have ideas on how to strengthen our social media presence or build community, and enjoy bringing people together. We also welcome nominations for other individuals that you think will be a great fit for the roles. Please [fill out the application/nomination](#) form by Monday, July 12.



IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN THIS  
MISSION

JOIN US

(MAYBE THIS PODCAST WILL MOTIVATE YOU)

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR MAILING LIST

AND  
FOLLOW US



*Designed by:*

*Christian and Sandro*