

Can Technology be Biased or Discriminatory?

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Technology throughout the years has advanced immensely since its creation. More recently, a new section of technology has been enhanced known as Artificial Intelligence. Artificial Intelligence has been a fear in peoples minds due to the belief that one day technology will make humans go extinct. However, Artificial Intelligence is really only what humans allow it to be. One of the largest uses for artificial intelligence is Facial Recognition Technology, which is a technology that scans peoples faces and identifies who they are. One of the main uses for this technology is being used by police to identify suspects using street cams, and other surveillance methods. The flaw with this technology is that it is not always right, and there have been many times where someone was wrongfully arrested due to this technology identifying someone wrongly. In July 2019, Michael Oliver was arrested wrongly due to facial recognition thinking he was the suspect behind a crime. During the hearing, the judge dismissed the trial after clearly seeing that the one picture of evidence against was not him. The issue with this technology is that it misidentifies people of colour almost 100% of the time compared to white people. The reason for this, is because the datasets the the A.I uses are biased towards white people. This has caused many issues in misidentification of people, either causing them trouble, or risking their security. Another use for this technology is seen in the hiring process of applicants to different companies. In 2018, an AI was used to recruit members to work for Amazon. Unfortunately, this AI was flawed into only hiring men. The AI would check for anything that hinted towards the applicant being a woman, and if one was found, it would instantly reject them. Again, the reason for this is because the data set that was used for the AI was biased towards men. This solution is

easily fixed by creating a new data set that will have a larger variety of data to read from. Given today's access to public images, it wouldn't be hard at all to get a non biased data set.

The movie coded biased includes a number of different examples of how artificial intelligence in today's society is biased towards white men. However, in my opinion a lot of the different examples used in the movie did not seem to be biased at all. For example, the part in the movie where the residents in the apartment were complaining about using biometric technology to make their building more secure made no sense. They're exact words were "this wouldn't be used in a white mans building in the city" but the only reason it's used in their neighborhood is because statistically there was more crime in that neighborhood. Another example was when they were complaining about being rejected a purchase by A.I due to their credit score but the only reason the A.I was rejecting them was because the A.I was using set data that knows how much credit score is needed to make this purchase. I agree with a lot of the biased things they showed in the movie, like the women being rejected from a job, or the A.I not picking up people of colour correctly, but a lot of the examples I did not agree with.

Amazon ditched AI recruiting tool that favored men for technical jobs. (2018, October 10). Retrieved December 17, 2020, from <https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2018/oct/10/amazon-hiring-ai-gender-bias-recruiting-engine>

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