

# A BRIEF CHAT ABOUT DATA ETHICS

*emphasis on “brief”*

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Ali Alkhatib

September 28, 2020

Center for Applied Data Ethics

**LET'S START WAY BACK**

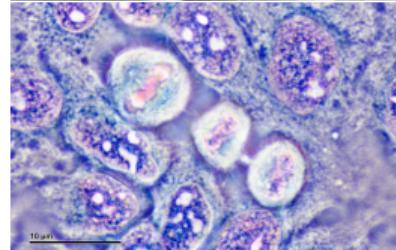
# HENRIETTA LACKS

Patient at Johns Hopkins



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Patient at Johns Hopkins  
Cell tissues taken without her consent  
*the first immortal cell line*



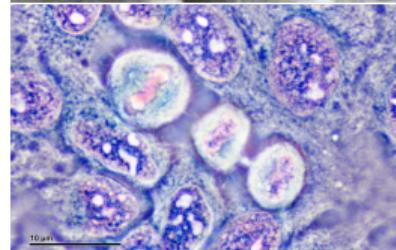
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Still in use today, nearly 70 years later



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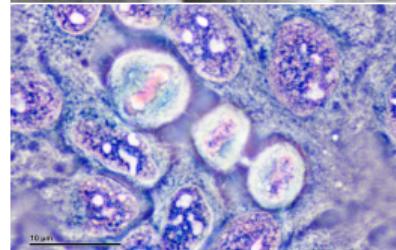
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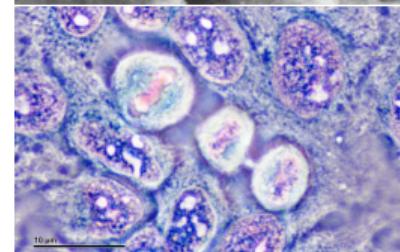
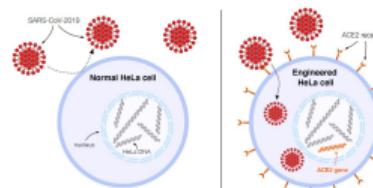
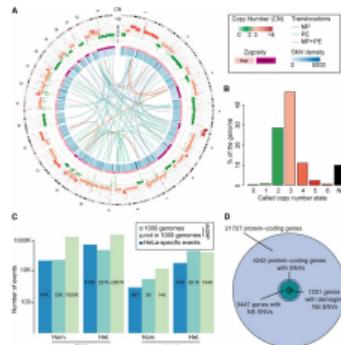


Involved in

Polio vaccine

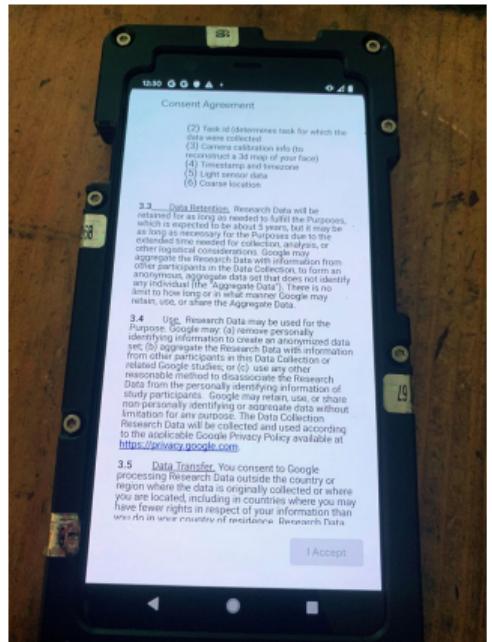
genetic research

COVID research



**So WHAT?**

# GOOGLE FACIAL RECOGNITION



# **YouTube is still restricting and demonetizing LGBT videos — and adding anti-LGBT ads to some**

by Megan Farokhmanesh, [theverge.com](https://theverge.com)

June 4, 2018 01:46 PM



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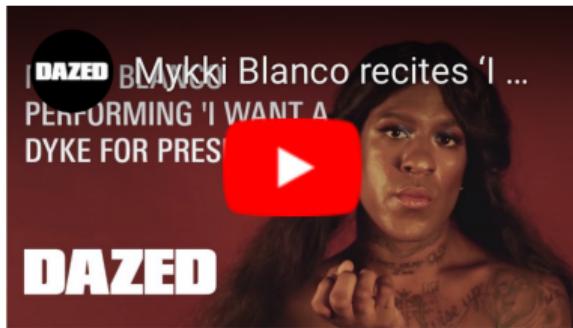
by Zeynep Tufekci, [wired.com](https://wired.com)

April 22, 2019 05:00 AM

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**Instagram Is Censoring Lesbian Content For Violating "Community Guidelines"**

intomore.com | January 25, 2018



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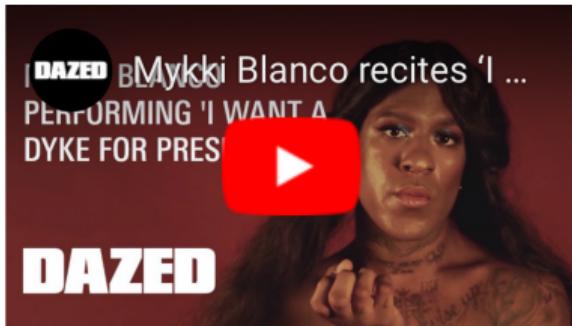
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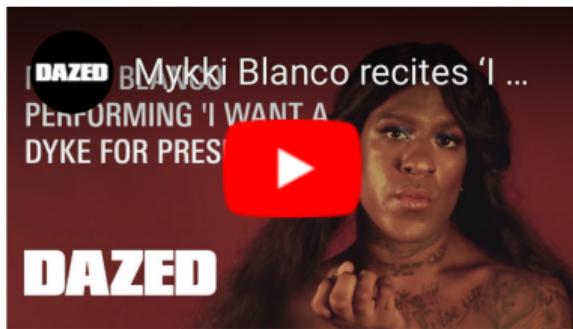
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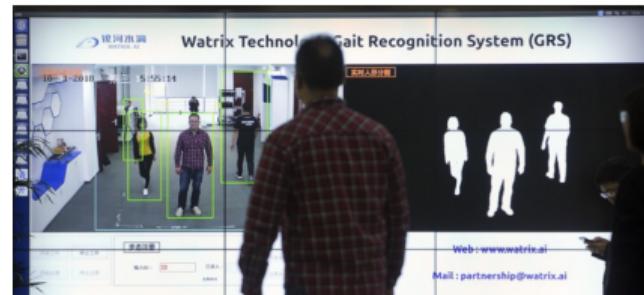


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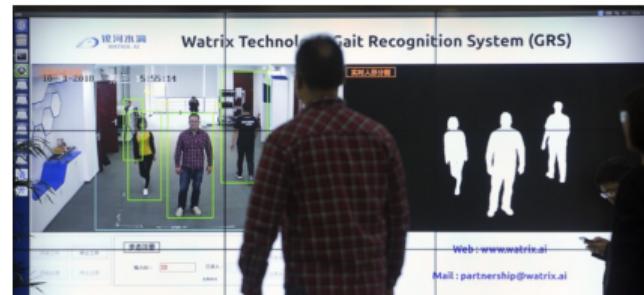
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**When the Robot Doesn't See Dark Skin**

by Joy Buolamwini, nytimes.com  
June 21, 2018 10:06 AM

Ms. Buolamwini is the founder of the Algorithmic Justice League.



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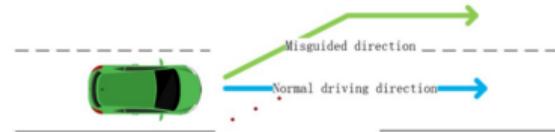


Photo by: Keen Security Lab

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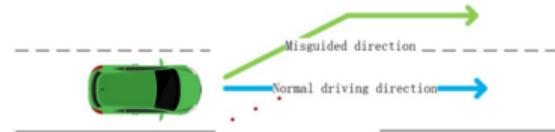


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by James Bridle, medium.com  
November 6, 2017 10:09 AM

I'm James Bridle. I'm a writer and artist concerned with technology and culture. I usually write on my own blog, but frankly I don't want what I'm talking about here anywhere near my own site. **Please be advised: this essay describes disturbing things and links to disturbing graphic and video content. You don't have to read it, and are advised to take caution exploring further.**

As someone who grew up on the internet, I credit it as one of the most important influences on who I am today. I had a

# YouTube is still restricting and Researchers trick Tesla Autopilot der into steering into oncoming traffic and **FACIAL RECOGNITION TECHNOLOGY FALSELY IDENTIFIES FAMOUS ATHLETES**

OCTOBER 21, 2019 - 2:00PM



In a test the ACLU of Massachusetts conducted using a widely available facial recognition technology called “Rekognition,” the software falsely matched **27 New England professional athletes** to individuals in a mugshot database. The test shows high-profile athletes, including the Patriots’ Duron Harmon, were mistakenly matched with images in the mugshot database.

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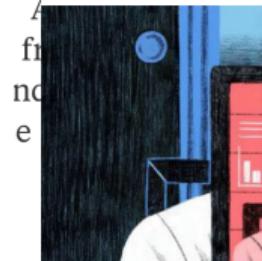
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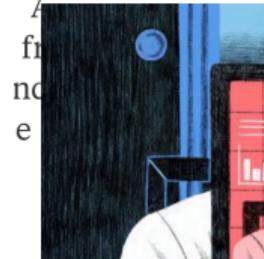
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By Caroline Haskins and Ryan Mac and Logan McDonald

Posted on March 2, 2020, at 7:19 a.m. ET

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## FACIAL RECOGNITION TECHNOLOGY FALEIV

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theatlantic.com

### TECHNOLOGY

## How an Attempt at Correcting Bias in Tech Goes Wrong

Google allegedly scanned volunteers with dark skin tones in order to perfect the Pixel phone's face-unlock technology.

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Managers reportedly encouraged contractors to mischaracterize the data collection as a “selfie game,” akin to Snapchat filters such as Face Swap. College students who agreed to the scans later told the *Daily News* that they didn’t recall ever hearing the name Google and were simply told to play with the phone in exchange for a gift card. To entice homeless users in L.A. to consent, contractors were allegedly instructed to mention a California law that allows the gift cards to be exchanged for cash. The whole episode is, in a bleak way, an apparent attempt to diversify AI training data while paying people for their information. But the result is completely dystopian.



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SCIENCE

## AMAZON ANNOUNCES HALO, A FITNESS BAND AND APP THAT SCANS YOUR BODY AND VOICE

*It makes a 3D model of your body and tracks the emotional tone in your voice*

By Dieter Bohn | @backlon | Aug 27, 2020, 9:00am EDT

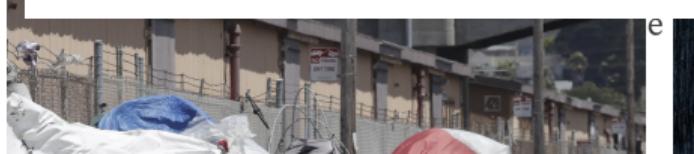
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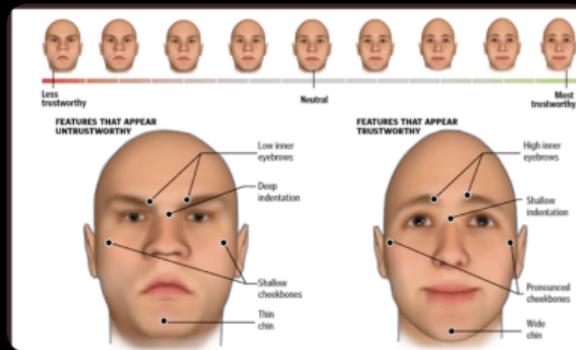
other wearable trackers, it also monitors physical activity, heart rate, and sleep phases.

One of the oldest and largest North American life insurers, John Hancock, is partnering with Amazon to offer its members a free Amazon Halo device and a three-year membership, which typically costs \$3.99 a month. In exchange, members will have to hand over their data to their insurer, which will use it to award discounts on premiums and other rewards.



Nicolas Baumard  
@baumard\_nicolas

Building on recent advances in social cognition, we design an algorithm to automatically generate trustworthiness evaluations for the facial action units (smile, eye brows, etc.). [tinyurl.com/y4jvat74](http://tinyurl.com/y4jvat74)



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554 Retweets 4,749 Quote Tweets 2,015 Likes

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Nicolas Baumard  
@baumard\_nicolas

Building on recent advances in social cognition, we design an algorithm to automatically

CHI 2019 Paper  
y4jva  
Part 1

## Detecting Personality Traits Using Eye-Tracking Data



**Shlomo Berkovsky**  
Data61 – CSIRO and  
Macquarie University  
[shlomo.berkovsky@gmail.com](mailto:shlomo.berkovsky@gmail.com)

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## ABSTRACT

Personality is an established domain of research in psychology, and individual differences in various traits are linked to a variety of real-life outcomes and behaviours. Personality detection is an intricate task that typically requires humans to fill out lengthy questionnaires assessing specific personality traits. The outcomes of this, however, may be unreliable or biased if the respondents do not fully understand or are not willing to honestly answer the questions. To this end, we propose a framework for objective personality detection that leverages humans' physiological responses to external stimuli. We exemplify and evaluate the framework in a case study, where we expose subjects to affective image and video stimuli, and capture their physiological responses using a

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CHI 2019, May 4–9, 2019, Glasgow, Scotland, UK

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Ronnie Taib  
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## 1 INTRODUCTION

Personality is an established area of research in psychology. Generally, it refers to a set of individual patterns of behaviours, cognitions, and emotions that predict a human's interactions with their environment [46]. Although multiple personality theories exist, many of them conceptualise these patterns into *traits*, which are believed to be relatively stable and consistent predictors of human behaviour [34]. Even within the trait-based representation of personality there is no single agreed-upon model and multiple models, such as the Five Factor Model (also known as the Big-5) [35], HEXACO [4], Temperament and Character Inventory [11], and Interpersonal Circumplex [12], have been developed.

Regardless of the underlying personality model, detection

**THERE'S TOO MUCH STUFF GOING ON TO TALK ABOUT EVERYTHING**



**LET'S TALK ABOUT WHAT **KINDS** OF THINGS CAN COME UP**

**LET'S TALK ABOUT WHAT KINDS OF THINGS CAN COME UP  
AND HOW TO WORK THROUGH THEM**

# ROADMAP

## Topics:

- Input
  - Data collection
- Output
  - Intent
  - (unintended) Impact (beta?)

# ROADMAP

## Topics:

- Input
  - Data collection
- Output
  - Intent
  - (unintended) Impact (beta?)

## Think of the following:

- Who's vulnerable, or at risk of harm, in this situation?
- How are they at risk?
- What could you do to mitigate harm?

## **DATA COLLECTION**

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## DATA COLLECTION

- Surveillance
- Coercion
- Informed consent

## DATA COLLECTION

- Surveillance
- Coercion
- Informed consent

*This isn't comprehensive! Power dynamics and ethics are super complicated!*

# *Why Is a Tech Executive Installing Security Cameras Around San Francisco?*

Chris Larsen knows that a crypto mogul spending his own money for a city's camera surveillance system might sound creepy. He's here to explain why it's not.

## “Panopticon”

By Nellie Bowles

Published July 10, 2020

Updated July 13, 2020



SAN FRANCISCO — It sounds sinister. A soft-spoken cryptocurrency mogul is paying for a private network of high-definition security cameras around the city. Zoom in and you can see the finest details: the sticker on a cellphone, the make of a backpack, the color of someone's eyes.

## *Why Is a Tech Executive Installing Security Cameras Around San Francisco?*

Chris Larsen knows that a crypto mogul spending his own money for a city's camera surveillance system might sound creepy. He's here to explain why it's not.

“Panopticon”

By Nellie Bowles

Published July 10, 2020

Updated July 13, 2020



SAN FRANCISCO — It sounds sinister. A soft-spoken cryptocurrency mogul is paying for a private network of high-definition security cameras around the city. Zoom in and you can see the finest details: the sticker on a cellphone, the make of a backpack, the color of someone's eyes.

≡ WIRED

SUBSCRIBE

LAUREN GOODE LOUISE MATSAKIS

GEAR 01.07.2020 08:02 PM

## Amazon Doubles Down on Ring Partnerships With Law Enforcement

The company's top hardware executive told WIRED he's “proud” of the controversial program and hinted at a future with more facial recognition.



# SURVEILLANCE

“Panopticon”

Mike Sington ✅ @MikeSington

Guy's security camera catches kid tearing it up on his driveway almost every day, so he decides to do something about it.



10.4M views

4:01 PM · 8/27/20 from Los Angeles, CA · Twitter for iPad

108K Retweets 21K Quote Tweets 484K Likes

Mike Sington ✅ @MikeSington · 8/28/20

UPDATE: All of you are amazing! Thanks to your input I've identified the guy in the video with the driveway. I've reached out to him directly, he wants to remain anonymous. One person found the driveway- it's in Salt Lake City. Still looking for the kid, NASCAR has gifts for him!



81 477 8,054

Mike Sington ✅ @MikeSington · 8/28/20

SECOND UPDATE: Neighbor just sent me this photo taken about an hour ago. Guy is still doing the chalk track, and the kid was there riding it! (Photo: @Wonkaton1)



37 451 7,853

# COERCION



Amazon Halo

SCIENCE

## AMAZON ANNOUNCES HALO, A FITNESS BAND AND APP THAT SCANS YOUR BODY AND VOICE

*It makes a 3D model of your body and tracks the emotional tone in your voice*

By Dieter Bohn | @backlon | Aug 27, 2020, 9:00am EDT

# COERCION



SCIENCE

## AMAZON ANNOUNCES HALO, A FITNESS BAND AND APP THAT SCANS YOUR BODY AND VOICE

*It makes a 3D model of your body and tracks the emotional tone in your voice*

By Dieter Bohn | @backlon | Aug 27, 2020, 9:00am EDT

A screenshot of a mobile device's screen. At the top, the time is 12:51 and there are signal strength, Wi-Fi, and battery icons. Below that, the URL "onezero.medium.com" is visible. The main content of the screen is a news article about the Amazon Halo device.

other wearable trackers, it also monitors physical activity, heart rate, and sleep phases.

One of the oldest and largest North American life insurers, John Hancock, is partnering with Amazon to offer its members a free Amazon Halo device and a three-year membership, which typically costs \$3.99 a month. In exchange, members will have to hand over their data to their insurer, which will use it to award discounts on premiums and other rewards.

Other insurers could follow Hancock's lead. Insurance companies are increasingly turning to tracking apps to monitor policyholders more closely, raising concerns over privacy, accuracy, and even discrimination.

Amazon Halo

## TECHNOLOGY

# Everything We Know About Facebook's Secret Mood Manipulation Experiment

It was probably legal. But was it ethical?

ROBINSON MEYER JUNE 28, 2014



REUTERS

Updated, 09/08/14

Facebook's News Feed—the main list of status updates, messages, and photos you see

A judge said police can search the DNA of 1 million Americans without their consent. What's next?

By **Jocelyn Kaiser** | Nov. 7, 2019 , 2:40 PM

For the first time, a state judge has forced a public genealogy site, GEDmatch, to allow police to search its entire database of DNA profiles. A detective wanted to find distant relatives of a serial rapist in hopes that their family trees could help him home in on a suspect—even though most of the 1.3 million people who have shared their DNA data with the site haven't agreed to such a search.

The search warrant, [reported](#) this week by *The New York Times*, raises the alarming possibility of similar police searches of giant direct-to-consumer DNA sites such as Ancestry.com and 23andMe that are now closed to everyone except company customers who willingly submit a saliva sample.

## **ACTIVITY TIME**

## **BREAK OUT AND...**

### **1. Pick a topic**

- Surveillance
- Coercion
- Informed consent

### **2. Come up with some answers to the following:**

- Who's vulnerable, or at risk of harm, in this situation?
- How are they at risk?
- What could you do to mitigate harm?

*You don't have to use the stories I shared; I'd prefer to hear something relevant to you, if you feel comfortable sharing.*

**5-ish minutes, then we'll debrief**

## **INTENT**

---

## INTENT

- Targeting & Exclusion
- Allocation versus Representational harm
- Understanding versus prediction<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup>Birhane and Cummins 2019.

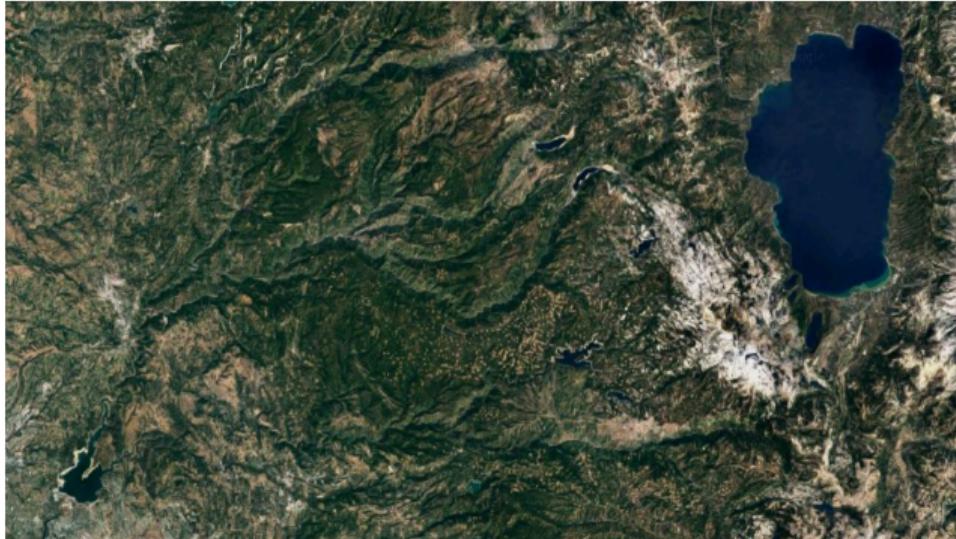
## **UNINTENDED IMPACTS**

---

**WE INTERPRET THE WORLD IN CONSTRAINED WAYS**

**WE INTERPRET THE WORLD IN CONSTRAINED WAYS  
IT'S HOW WE COPE WITH TOO MUCH INFORMATION**

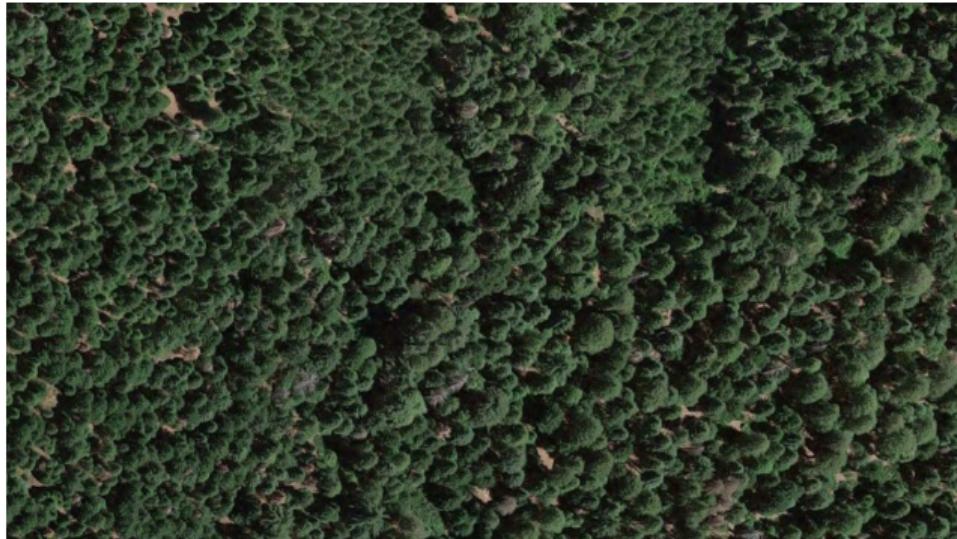
# SCIENTIFIC FORESTRY



# SCIENTIFIC FORESTRY



# SCIENTIFIC FORESTRY



# SCIENTIFIC FORESTRY



# SCIENTIFIC FORESTRY



# SCIENTIFIC FORESTRY



# SCIENTIFIC FORESTRY



## **DELAYED DISASTERS**

- Things were fine for a while

## **DELAYED DISASTERS**

- Things were fine for a while
- Then they weren't

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Pests

Storms

Hollowing out of the ecosystem

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- Then they weren't

Pests

Storms

Hollowing out of the ecosystem

*Waldsterben*

## DELAYED DISASTERS

- Things were fine for a while
- Then they weren't

Pests

Storms

Hollowing out of the ecosystem

*Waldsterben*

*Forest death*

## ECOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

The forest was more than just the trees

## ECOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

The forest was more than just the trees

It was everything that lived in and passed through

## DANGERS OF REDUCTIVE ALGORITHMS

“street-level algorithms” struggle with novel situations

## DANGERS OF REDUCTIVE ALGORITHMS

“street-level algorithms” struggle with novel situations  
how are they changing **our lives** both offline and online?

## DANGERS OF REDUCTIVE ALGORITHMS

“street-level algorithms” struggle with novel situations  
how are they changing our lives both offline and online?  
...and how **will** they?



11:56 ↗



allure.com

≡ allure

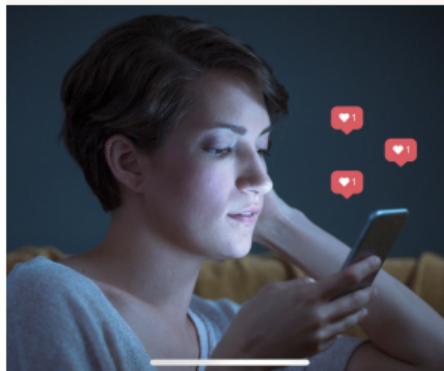
SUBSCRIBE

# Why Finstas Are a Safe Sanctuary on Social Media

"I treat my finsta like a visual journal of my personal life."

BY ELLIE ABRAHAM

July 23, 2019



11:56 ↗  
allure.com

≡ allure

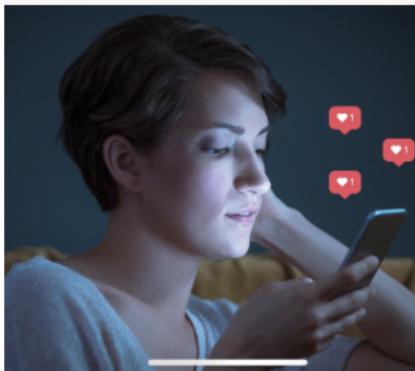
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July 23, 2019



11:57 ↗  
cnet.com

## Teens have figured out how to mess with Instagram's tracking algorithm

Teenagers are using group accounts to flood Instagram with random user data that can't be tied to a single person.



Alfred Ng

Feb. 4, 2020 6:06 a.m. PT



2



Teens have been using group accounts on Instagram to feed randomized data to the social network and protect their privacy.

Alfred Ng / CNET

Like about a billion other people, 17-year-old Samantha Mosley spent her Saturday afternoon perusing Instagram.

11:56 ⓘ allure.com

≡ allure

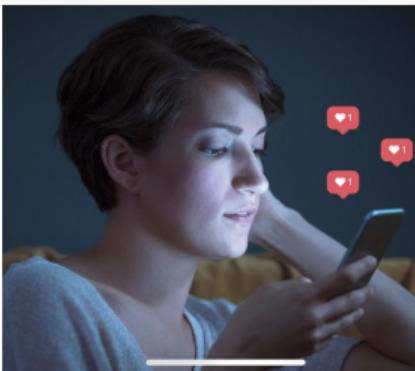
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Alfred Ng / CNET

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12:02 ⓘ google.com

AA ⓘ urbandictionary.com



Type any word...



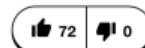
TOP DEFINITION

## Backstreet Boys Reunion Tour

In the wake of the CO-VID 19 pandemic, which occurred in the spring of 2020, the Youtube gods attempted to **crack down** on the hysteria by demonetizing content that contained the word 'Corona', 'Virus' or '19' in any variation, especially in that specific succession. So in an effort to avoid divine punishment, humanity made the collective decision (headed by **Dan Avidan** of the Game **Grumps**) to henceforth refer to the virus only as the 'Backstreet Boys Reunion Tour'.

**Seven** people in my town died after attending the **Backstreet Boys reunion tour**.

by Marsakali April 02, 2020



11:56 ⓘ allure.com

≡ allure

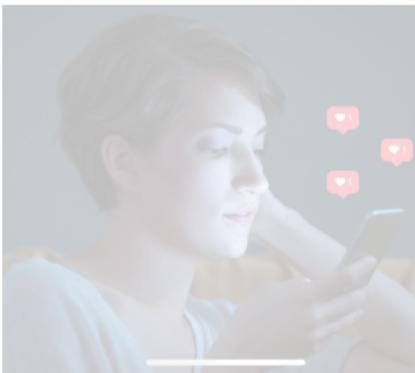
SUBSCRIBE

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"I treat my finsta like a visual journal of my personal life."

BY ELLIE ABRAHAM

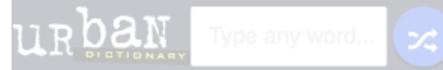
July 23, 2019



11:57 ⓘ cnet.com

12:02 ⓘ google.com

AA urbandictionary.com



TOP DEFINITION

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Teens have been using group accounts on Instagram to feed randomized data to the social network and protect their privacy.

Alfred Ng / CNET

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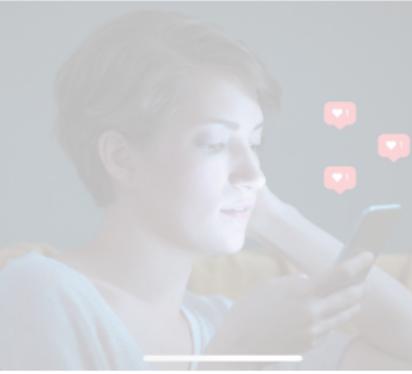
allure.com 11:57 cnet.com google.com

≡ allure SUBSCRIBE AA

## Why Finstas Are a Safe Sanctuary on Social Media

"I treat my finsta like a visual journal of my personal life."

BY ELLIE ABRAHAM July 23, 2019



**f** **✉** **P** Digital Contact Tracing

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Alfred Ng / CNET

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11:57 11:57

cnet.com

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2

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Alfred Ng / CNET

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urbandictionary.com

Type any word...  ✖

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In the wake of the CO-VID 19 pandemic, which occurred in the spring of 2020, the Youtube gods attempted to **crack down** on the hysteria by demonetizing content that contained the word 'Corona', 'Virus' or '19' in any variation, especially in the music genre. So in an effort to avoid punishment, humanity made the collective decision (headed by **Dan Avidan** of the Game Grumps) to henceforth refer to the virus only as the 'Backstreet Boys Reunion Tour'.

*Seven people in my town died after attending the Backstreet Boys reunion tour.*

by Marsakali April 02, 2020

14 72 0

< ⌂ ⌄ ⌅

9:58



AA

ali-alkhatib.com



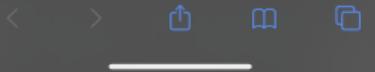
# Ali Alkhatib

01 MAY 2020

## We Need to Talk About Digital Contact Tracing

Over the past few weeks, Apple & Google have floated the idea of developing and distributing a digital contact-tracing app that will inform people when they've been exposed to someone who's contracted COVID-19, and communicate to people that they've been exposed to *you* if you later test positive yourself (edit: since writing this, Apple has released a beta of iOS 13 that includes the SDK necessary to begin using this system). Writing this in late April and early May, it feels like we're desperate for information and weary from not knowing who's caught COVID-19, who's still vulnerable, who gets it worse or why, or even how to treat it. We're desperate for any information we can get our hands on. This

proposal by Apple and Google promises to give



9:58

AA

ali-alkhatib.cc

# Ali Alkhatib

01 MAY 2020

## We Need to About Digital Contact Trac

Over the past few weeks, Apple floated the idea of developing a digital contact-tracing app that would let you know if you've been exposed to someone who has contracted COVID-19, and come into close proximity with them. If you later test positive yourself (edit: this, Apple has released a beta version of the app that includes the SDK necessary to build it), your phone would send out signals to other phones nearby that have also been exposed. Writing this in late April, it feels like we're desperate for information about who's been exposed to COVID-19, who's still vulnerable, who's been treated, why, or even how to treat it. We can't get any information we can get our hands on from the government or the media, so we're relying on Apple and Google to provide us with the information we need.

### What this scheme will do (more or less, at the time of writing)

The simplest, most direct way to implement digital contact tracing would be to track where you are at any given moment. If you spend 20 minutes at a coffee shop, somewhere there'll be a record that **you** were at **Starbucks** from **12:00pm-12:20pm**. Somewhere, theoretically, there would be records for everyone participating in this scheme, such that if someone wanted to ask the system "who was at Starbucks at 12:10pm?", a list would come back with your name on it. To be honest, Google probably already has the means to produce a list like this from Google Maps. You can even request a record of all the places Google Maps knows you've been over a certain timeline.

Instead of recording **where** you are the way Google Maps does or other location-tracking apps you're familiar with, under this scheme your phone records **who** you're near. To illustrate what this means, let's make up and walk through an example.

Under this program, your phone would send out a signal every 5 minutes with a unique word. So from 12pm to 1pm, your phone would send out messages like this:

The image consists of three side-by-side screenshots of a mobile web browser displaying a blog post. The top bar of each screenshot shows the time as 9:58, signal strength, battery level, and the URL ali-alkhatib.com.

**Screenshot 1:** The title "Ali Alkhatib" and the date "01 MAY 2020" are visible. The main heading is "We Need to About Digital Contact Trac". Below it, a large block of text describes the concept of digital contact tracing, mentioning Apple's idea and how it would work. A small note at the bottom right says "powered by Apple and Google".

**Screenshot 2:** The title "What this schen do (more or less time of writing)" is displayed. Below it, a list of items with timestamps: 12:00: Apple, 12:05: Banana, 12:10: Orange, 12:15: Kiwi, 12:20: Potato, 12:25: Cherry, 12:30: Tomato, 12:35: Pear, 12:40: Coconut, 12:45: Orange, 12:50: Peach, 12:55: Eggplant, and 13:00: Kumquat.

**Screenshot 3:** The text continues with an explanation of how the system works: "In this system, no other phone is sending out these exact words; if anyone ever hears Kumquat, it's because their phone was near your phone at 1pm. If my phone has Kumquat in its archive, it means that I was near you at 1pm." Below this, a note says "Let's say I was in line behind you at a coffee shop messages like this:".

9:58

AA

ali-alkhatib.co

# Ali Alkhatib

01 MAY 2020

## We Need to Talk About Digital Contact Tracing

Over the past few weeks, Apple floated the idea of developing a digital contact-tracing app that would let you know if you've been exposed to someone who has contracted COVID-19, and communicate with people that they've been exposed to later test positive yourself (edit: this, Apple has released a beta includes the SDK necessary to build this system). Writing this in late April it feels like we're desperate for information we can get our weary from not knowing who's contracted COVID-19, who's still vulnerable, who's why, or even how to treat it. We can get our information we can get our from Apple and Google.

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The simplest, most direct way to digital contact tracing would be: you are at any given moment. If minutes at a coffee shop, someone makes a record that you were at Starbucks between 12:00pm-12:20pm. Somewhere there would be records for everyone participating in this scheme, such as someone wanted to ask the sys Starbucks at 12:10pm?", a list would be made with your name on it. To be honest, probably already has the means list like this from Google Maps. request a record of all the places you've been over a certain period of time. Writing this in late April it feels like we're desperate for information we can get our weary from not knowing who's contracted COVID-19, who's still vulnerable, who's why, or even how to treat it. We can get our information we can get our from Apple and Google.

Instead of recording where you Google Maps does or other location apps you're familiar with, under your phone records who you've been in contact with. Let's illustrate what this means, let's walk through an example.

Under this program, your phone sends a signal every 5 minutes with a timestamp from 12pm to 1pm, your phone messages like this:

9:58

ali-alkhatib.com

messages like this:

12:00: Apple

12:05: Banana

12:10: Orange

12:15: Kiwi

12:20: Potato

12:25: Cherry

12:30: Tomato

12:35: Pear

12:40: Coconut

12:45: Orange

12:50: Peach

12:55: Eggplant

13:00: Kumquat

Quoting Arundhati Roy, "If we were sleepwalking into a surveillance state, now we are running toward it because of the fear that is being cultivated". We're gearing up to sacrifice substantial amounts of our privacy and anonymity in the world in exchange for a woefully dubious solution to our uncertainty.

Let's talk about why: first, this system isn't going to give us a better sense of the world in the most crucial places; and second, this system is going to undermine our privacy and dignity in ways that we can only begin to imagine right now.

Let's start with why this system won't work.

### Digital contact tracing will exclude the poor, children, and myriad other uncounted groups

In the description I made earlier, I pointed out that Apple & Google's plan calls for some sort of proximity detection, probably involving Bluetooth and some of the fancier, newer technology that your smartphone may have if it was introduced in the last few years. Some of the technical requirements of this system preclude older devices from working, meaning the people with older smartphones won't be able to benefit from alerts to this system unless they upgrade to newer phones - something they almost certainly can't afford to do, nor should they be obliged





9:58 ↗

9:58 ↗

**Ali Alkhateib** @\_alialkhateib · May 1  
I wrote a post - "We Need to Talk About Digital Contact Tracing".

We Need to Talk About Digital Contact Tracing  
🔗 ali-alkhateib.com

7

43

132



**Abeba Birhane** @Abebab · May 4

"The decisions we make now are going to follow us around for generations. It's important that we move quickly, but it's as important that we don't run headfirst into a surveillance state that offers nothing but oppression & more uncertainty."

@\_alialkhateib ali-alkhateib.com/blog/digital-c...

I saw this kind of thinking applied to social problems all the time. Social problems are sticky and enlarged and don't seem to reduce very well. But if you can perform a kind of process: expose articulate and convert the social problem into a technical one, then you can reduce it. That's what happened with the computer virus that converts the problem into something more manageable, or even trivial. It's brilliant.

It's also worrisome. It's worrisome because it doesn't solve either the real social problems, or the new technical ones, and it's dangerous because it obscures the real problems that we need to address - the ones we all recognize and otherwise feel entitled to engage with as fellow humans.

There are technical problems that need to be solved in this pandemic, but this isn't one of them. There are no major issues of uncertainty that digital contact tracing addresses, and we have a good idea where it problems. One we need to avoid is that if it gets off the ground, before we can get behind it, there will be a false sense of security that everyone is covered and protected. This is a real concern, because the system will be less effective, and the public health goal of flattening the curve will be less effective.

The next sentence in our life. Systematic contact tracing into a digital system won't give us what it offers, and won't give us this. If we need some sentence, here are a few:

- We need more personal protective equipment for everyone. If we want people working in warehouses, nursing homes, and meat processing facilities, we need to give them the means to avoid getting infected.
- We need more tests. We need so many tests for so many people that the cost becomes zero and the results...

1 16 22

a signal every 5 minutes with a from 12pm to 1pm, your phone messages like this:

0

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All I don't wanna do is zoom... · May 1  
If you have at all been following the digital contact tracing discussions, or even if you are new to them, you really should read this by @\_alialkhateib

We Need to Talk About Digital Contact Tracing  
🔗 ali-alkhateib.com

5

64

98



Show this thread

12:25: Cherry

most crucial places, and second going to undermine our privacy ways that we can only begin to i

12:30: Tomato

12:35: Pea

Anna Lauren Hoffmann  
@annaeloverday

"It didn't help that their exact locations were obscured; they were 'nearby'. They were outed by their associations, not by their coordinates."

12:50: Pea

This piece, from @\_alialkhateib 🌸

12:55: Egg

We Need to Talk About Digital Contact Tracing  
Over the past few weeks, Apple & Google have floated the idea of developing and distributing a digital contact-tracing ...  
🔗 ali-alkhateib.com

13:00: Kumquat

In this system, these exact wo

10:06 PM · May 1, 2020 · TweetDeck

20 Retweets 58 Likes

your phone at 1pm. If my phone in its archive, it means that I was 1pm.

devices from working, meaning older smartphones won't be able alerts to this system unless they newer phones - something they can't afford to do, nor should they

9:59 ↗

all-alkhatib.com  
The spaces and the people we concerned for, and paying the won't show up in a digital con like any of the ones proposed

Digital contact tracing stagge point of care that we should b with.

This system's excl decisively undermin accuracy and endar everyone

of acting on bad da the poor, excluding other high-risk group high. This is diff ill sample size or eva Building a datus gories of people - a Native American C

vision of the world in account for, and with turned, ultimately steer t we leave out. This is sentinel surveillance'

acting only on the data people who are wealthy enough doctor for the flu would give the misleading picture of its spread Everyone needs access to the s

with no obligation to be obliged

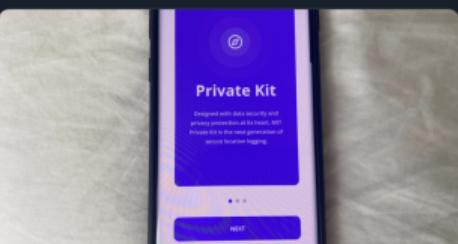
Eric Topol  
@EricTopol

For much more in-depth dissection of the unaddressed problems with digital contact tracing, I think these are the 2 best:

ali-alkhateib.com/blog/digital-c...

@\_alialkhateib

brookings.edu/techstream/ina... @BrookingsInst by @ashk4n @rcalo @CT\_Bergstrom



Contact-tracing apps are not a solution to the COVID-19 crisis

Although Apple and Google's proposals for voluntary, anonymous contact tracing apps have been well received by some, they will likely serve as vehicle...  
🔗 brookings.edu

12:33 PM · May 2, 2020 · Twitter Web App

29 Retweets 53 Likes

would reveal that we were both at some

Kate Crawford  
@katecra... · May 2

Everyone is RTing this piece by @\_alialkhateib on contract tracing for good reason. It lays out the most serious structural concerns. Read it if you want a primer on the underlying problems that many of the 'tech solutions' don't address.

We Need to Talk About Digital Contact Tracing  
🔗 ali-alkhateib.com

4

121

239

## **WHAT DO WE MEASURE**

**WHAT DO WE MEASURE  
AND WHAT DOES IT MEAN WE OVERLOOK**

## REFERENCES

---

- [1] Abeba Birhane and Fred Cummins. *Algorithmic Injustices: Towards a Relational Ethics*. 2019.  
arXiv: [1912.07376 \[cs.CY\]](https://arxiv.org/abs/1912.07376).