Experiential Ethics 2024

Enacting Social Change and Living in Light of Your Values

Ethics at MIT

- Let's discuss around the following questions:

  - Are you complicit in MIT's wrongs? How?
  - Chomsky says he doesn't think that his presence at MIT does something to legitimize the "bad" things that MIT Does. Does yours, as an MIT student?
  - What are your role responsibilities as an MIT student?
  - What can you do in response to MIT's wrongs?

Enacting Social Change

- How do we address ethical challenges?
    - Lessons from this class: What do you take for your life?
    - Individual Level
    - Collective Level

- Examples from D'Ignazio and Klein

Design Justice

- We use design to sustain, heal, and empower our communities, as well as to seek liberation from exploitative and oppressive systems.
- We center the voices of those who are directly impacted by the outcomes of the design process.
- We prioritize design's impact on the community over the intentions of the designer.
- We view change as emergent from an accountable, accessible, and collaborative process, rather than as a point at the end of a process.
- We see the role of the designer as a facilitator rather than an expert.
- We believe that everyone is an expert based on their own lived experience, and that we all have unique and brilliant contributions to bring to a design process.
- We share design knowledge and tools with our communities.
- We work towards sustainable, community-led and controlled outcomes.
- We work towards non-exploitative solutions that reconnect us to the earth and to each other.
- Before seeking new design solutions, we look for what is already working at the community level. We honor and uplift traditional, indigenous, and local knowledge and practices.

Practical Activity 1

- In groups: discuss the following questions (10 minutes):

- How do these principles relate to material discussed in previous classes?
- How are they relevant to your own work - final projects for the class, summer internships, future work, etc.?
- Are there any principles you disagree with or would like to complicate or nuance?
- Are there principles you would add to this list?

Practical Activity 2

- In groups, discuss the following questions:

- What are the most significant contemporary ethical challenges/ethical dilemmas related to science and/or technology confronting society writ-large of people working in their fields?
- Have the course tools and topics been useful to you in addressing these challenges?